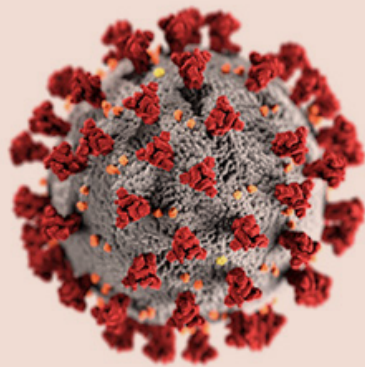


MNO's COVID-19  
Emergency Support  
Team reaches out to  
citizens amid pandemic

Page 3



MNO volunteers and  
Community Councils  
go above and beyond  
during COVID-19

Page 12 & 13

Issue NO. 104, August 2020

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO 2020 ELECTION

Margaret Froh Re-Elected  
as MNO President

Running on a platform of rights, results and community, Margaret Froh was re-elected as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) for a second term of office on June 1, 2020.

President Froh was elected along with provincial and regional leadership representing the rights and interests of communities and citizens throughout Ontario. This election boasted a very healthy display of democracy with almost all of the positions on the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) contested. At the same time elections were held for positions within the MNO Veterans' Council and Youth Council.

While the COVID-19 pandemic prompted the cancellation of in-person voting by the Chief Electoral Officer and required that candidates engage the electorate in innovative ways, there was still solid voter participation. Fortunately, the MNO had already been working to introduce new technologies including the use of telephone and online voting options for the 2020 MNO election. The Chief Electoral Officer worked with OneFeather, an Indigenous election services company that specializes in web-based and telephone voting, to ensure that MNO electors would have every opportunity to exercise their right

*I want to thank all the  
candidates, our electoral officials  
and staff, and the volunteers who  
assisted the various campaigns  
for their determination and  
unwavering belief in our  
democratic process*



to vote.

"The safety and security of MNO citizens, families, and communities in this difficult time is our single most important priority," stated President Froh. "So, I want to thank all the candidates, our electoral officials and staff, and the volunteers who assisted the various campaigns for their determination and unwavering belief in our democratic process."

During her first term, President Froh and the PCMNO secured the ground-breaking Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement that sets a new government-to-government relationship be-

tween Canada and MNO.

"I am deeply honoured and humbled to receive this second mandate. I extend my congratulations to the newly elected and returning members of the PCMNO and look forward to working with each and every one and indeed with all our communities and citizens to continue the momentum we have created together," stated President Froh.

"To those PCMNO members that will not be returning, the MNO thanks you for your years of service. You have helped us all along the path to self-government, a remarkable achievement – we would not be here without you!

And thank you to everyone who put their names forward as a candidate; discussing different points of view and debating the future is what our democracy is all about," declared President Froh.

"By working together, the MNO has been able to accomplish so much over the last 27 years, but our work is far from over. Now, is the time for all of us to stand together in order to continue our collective fight for rights, uphold and advance the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*, and keep moving forward for our future generations." ∞

More MNO 2020 Election news  
on pages 5 to 9.

2020-2024 PCMNO



Margaret  
Froh  
PRESIDENT



Hank  
Rowlinson  
CHAIR



Sharon  
Cadeau  
VICE-CHAIR



Jo Anne  
Young  
SECRETARY-  
TREASURER



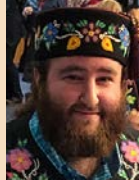
Theresa  
Stenlund  
COUNCILOR  
REG 1



Tim  
Sinclair  
COUNCILOR  
REG 2



Jacques  
Picotte  
COUNCILOR  
REG 3



Mitchell  
Case  
COUNCILOR  
REG 4



Roger  
Rose  
COUNCILOR  
REG 5



Andrew  
Dufrane  
COUNCILOR  
REG 6



David  
Dusome  
COUNCILOR  
REG 7



Karen  
Derocher  
COUNCILOR  
REG 8



Peter Rivers  
COUNCILOR  
REG 9



Hannah  
Bazinet  
POST-SECONDARY  
YOUTH REP



Jordyn  
Payne  
YOUTH REP

The PCMNO also includes three Senator positions (Verna Porter-Brunelle, Rene Gravelle, Ray Bergie) including an Executive Senator (Joseph Poitras). These position are elected by MNO Senators at the Annual General Assembly.

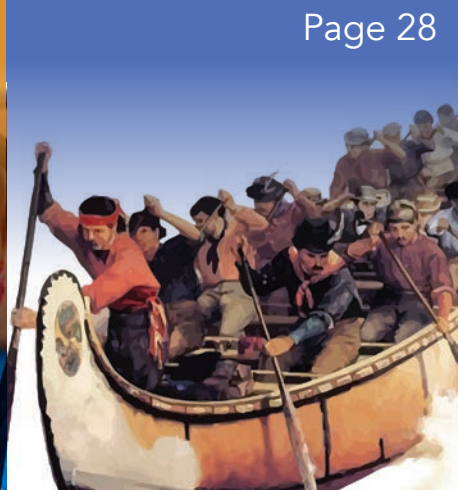
Return to  
Drummond  
Island  
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MNO  
COMMUNITY  
news & events  
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AGA 2020:  
One-day virtual  
AGA planned  
for Nov 7  
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# THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

SEPTEMBER 2020 - No. 104

Produced by the  
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#### RECENTLY MOVED OR MOVING SOON?

Don't miss an issue! Be sure  
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Call  
**1-855-798-1006**  
or send an email to  
**@metisnation.org**

#### 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, repetitiveness, 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.

## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# MNO moving forward for future Métis generations

I want to extend greetings to MNO staff, citizens, community and advisory council leadership, our Captains of the Hunt and to the entire Provisional Council of the MNO. I am deeply humbled and extremely enthused to be continuing to work with all of you to advance the MNO's *Statement of Prime Purpose* and its vision of Métis self-determination. There will be much to do during this second mandate, I am committed and thrilled to be rolling up my sleeves to help move us forward. I wish to extend my congratulations to the new PCMNO who bring so much experience and knowledge to this work. I look forward to working with each and every one of you -- and indeed with all our communities and citizens -- to continue the momentum we have created together.

I want to thank you everyone who put their names forward as candidates and those who exercised their democratic right to vote. The ability for us to discuss and debate key issues and share and work through our different points of view is what our democracy is all about. Our continued growth and development as a government requires that we continue to respectfully engage our citizens and make way for fresh ideas and the leaders of tomorrow to take their place within the MNO.

#### Thank you to departing PCMNO

To those PCMNO members that have not returned to office, the MNO extends sincere thanks for your years of service. You have helped us all along the path to self-government -- a remarkable achievement. We would not be here without you!

The MNO has been able to accomplish so much over the last 27 years by working together, but our work is far from over. Now is the time for all of us to stand together to continue our collective fight for rights, uphold and advance the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*, and keep moving forward for our future generations.

#### Transparency and accountability

The PCMNO has a very busy agenda ahead and has already held three weekend sessions to



*I am deeply humbled and extremely enthused to be continuing to work with all of you to advance the MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose and vision of Métis self-determination.*

provide orientation on the important business of MNO, and move forward on several key decisions. We will continue to host leadership telephone town halls after every PCMNO meeting to provide updates about those meetings and related decisions, as well as provide updates on the MNO website. We continue to look to technology to help create further transparency and accountability, and look forward to hosting a Citizens' Town Hall this fall in advance of our first-ever virtual Annual General Assembly on November 7, 2020.

#### Continuing on the Path to Self-Government

During the next 4 years and well into the future we will all be working together to advance our ancestors dream of self-government and self-determination. There are several steps we must take to move this work forward and it will require extensive discussions in communities, with families and youth in every area of the Province. We will need to stay focused and use all communication tools available in order to invite the diversity of Métis voices throughout Ontario. Expect to hear much more about this work in the coming months.

#### MNO in the time of COVID-19

This has not been a typical summer for any of us. As we have been managing our way through the COVID-19 pandemic we have had to re-envision our relationships and our way of coming together in community. I want to acknowledge the amazing strength and resilience that continues to be demonstrated, time and again, by the MNO's communities, citizens and employees.

Over the last many months, we have come together to support each other as we navigate these new realities.

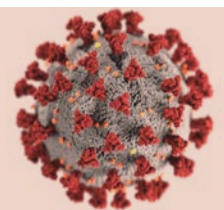
As the serious threat of COVID-19 emerged, MNO staff made swift, deliberate and informed decisions to mobilize all programs and move all staff to remote work. Our Métis government public service has not only continued to provide almost all of its existing services during COVID-19, it also developed and implemented timely new programs to support our families and communities through these challenging times.

The PCMNO and MNO's leadership at all levels have shown incredible foresight and commitment to prioritize and support the MNO's COVID-19 response, and the MNO will continue to evolve and adapt our support programs and services in response to the evolving needs of our citizens. At the community level we have witnessed the tireless dedication of so many Community Councils and citizens that have taken such initiative to reach out to families and citizens and provide the support where its needed. On behalf of the entire Provisional Council, we thank you.

The MNO's ongoing response to the pandemic has been truly impressive. We know that when times are difficult our Métis spirit shines bright and we will join together in the best interests of the health and well-being of our citizens, families and employees.

**Margaret Froh**, President  
Métis Nation of Ontario

## New MNO COVID-19 Emergency Support Programs



### New COVID-19 PROGRAM CHILD CARE SUPPORT

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to offer the COVID-19 Child Care Support Program to help Métis families access safe high-quality child care during the COVID-19 pandemic. All Métis families who meet the qualifications are encouraged to apply.

To learn more about check the MNO website:  
**[www.metisnation.org/covid-19](http://www.metisnation.org/covid-19)**

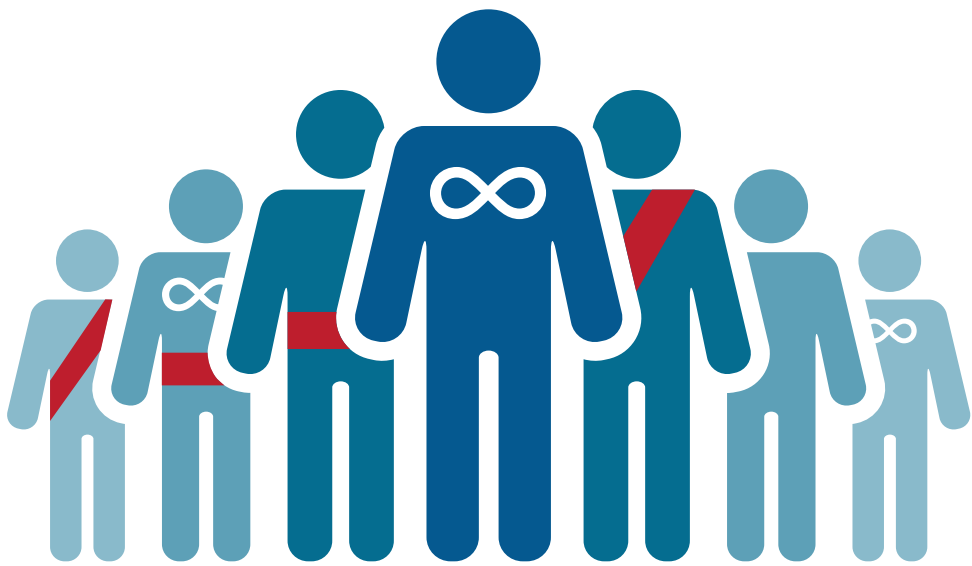
### New COVID-19 PROGRAM SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT

Through the Special Needs Support Program MNO Citizens with children aged 0-21 years with special needs can receive a one-time benefit of \$500 per child up to a maximum of \$2,000 per family to provide assistance during this time of physical distancing. Limited to one per household.

To learn more about check the MNO website:  
**[www.metisnation.org/covid-19](http://www.metisnation.org/covid-19)**



**Métis Voyageur submission deadlines**  
**NEXT ISSUE: October 7, 2020**



# MNO’s COVID Emergency Support Team reaches out to citizens amid pandemic

Efforts focused on MNO citizens most vulnerable to virus and isolation

The economic and health care uncertainty brought on by the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has seen many Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens finding themselves in need of additional support. The MNO has always maintained that the health, safety and wellbeing of its citizens is paramount and is working tirelessly to provide that assistance.

In just a few short weeks, the MNO created a series of new COVID-19 Emergency Financial Support programs and assembled a COVID-19 Emergency Response Team to provide assistance to over 1300 citizens with that number increasing every day.

The Emergency Response Team is made up of over 50 MNO staff members pulled from various branches across the MNO. This team, created in just four weeks, has developed a structured and speedy approach to applications received from MNO citizens in need.

While all of MNO offices remained closed, the MNO team is still hard at work reaching out to our most vulnerable citizens, asking how they are coping during the worldwide pandemic and assisting them with anything they may need — including how to apply for Emergency Support programs.

The Emergency Response Team has been processing applicants

and assessing their needs. This includes evaluating the types and levels of financial support needed, or if they can be helped by MNO’s existing supports such as housing, education support advocates, mental health and even business and self-employment support through the Métis Voyageur Development Fund.

This is all on top of their regular duties within the MNO.

“Our dedicated frontline staff have stepped up as they always do,” said MNO President Margaret Froh. “I’m very proud of their efficiency and willingness to get the job done, all while keeping the regular MNO programs and services running with minimal disruption.”

The COVID-19 Emergency Response Team has been successful due to its organized structure and mobilization of effective leaders. People Leaders were established across the MNO’s many branches to provide direction to their staff, while operating under the advice of COVID Team Leaders.

“When I was first assigned to do the work I felt overwhelmed with all the steps required,” said Jacqueline Bouchard, a member of the COVID Emergency Response Team.

“After a few meetings with my People Leader and the COVID Team Leader I realized I could rise up to the challenge after all I’m used to helping people, it’s what



## MNO’s COVID-19 Hotline

**WE ARE STILL HERE TO HELP!**

If you have COVID-19 related concerns, need help accessing supports, or have questions regarding the MNO’s response to the pandemic contact us:

Email  
**covidhelp@metisnation.org**

Phone (Toll Free)  
**1-800-263-4889**

Please select the applicable extension:

- Mental Health & Addictions: **275**
- All Other Health Concerns: **276**
- Education and Training: **169**
- Financial Support: **277**
- Housing: **278**

I do best and our citizens need help,” said Jacqueline. “The people I’ve called are happy to hear from me and are grateful for the assistance from the MNO. I have received many emails thanking the COVID-19 team for all of their help.”

At this time, the MNO has aided in the support of over 1400 Metis citizens and 736 children, including many with special needs. Over 1800 individual files have been received as of mid-summer, with more requests coming in daily.

Funds provided by the government of Canada and the Government of Ontario have been and will continue to be distributed through this program.

Canada provided \$3.75 million and Ontario provided \$100,000 respectively. A further \$26 million has been provided for Indigenous peoples and communities, including emergency assistance for urban Indigenous people in financial need.

“The spread of COVID-19 requires the focus and collaboration of all governments. The Métis Nation of Ontario is working bi-laterally with the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to collaborate on our collective response. We are appreciative of both governments’ commitment to work with the Métis Nation of Ontario during this challenging time, and the acknowledgment that more funds

will be needed as we continue to deliver support,” added the MNO President.

The MNO has also continued its close collaboration with the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) during this time, specifically working with MNA to secure Personal Protective Equipment and MN-S to collaborate on Mental Health Services.

While financial support has been an integral part of the MNO’s response to COVID-19, we have also provided help in other forms to our citizens in need. This includes but is not limited to: access to medical appointments; care-giving needs; dealing with food insecurity; housework; legal advice; and loss of income.

Nearly all of the regular MNO programs and services are still available and MNO citizens who are in need of assistance can still apply to the COVID-19 Emergency Financial Support Programs (<https://covid.mets-nation.org>).

Citizens are asked to contact our toll-free line at 1-800-263-4889 or email [covidhelp@metisnation.org](mailto:covidhelp@metisnation.org) or visit the website for updates at [www.metsnation.org/covid-19](http://www.metsnation.org/covid-19).

As of now, these supports are only available to our citizens who reside in Ontario, if you are an MNO who lives outside of the province, please contact the email and phone number above. ∞

## TESTIMONIALS FROM MNO CITIZENS

“Thanks for reaching out at this time when it is really needed for a lot of our citizens in the area.”  
---  
Rick, Steve, Mathew and Roly Blanchette, Elliot Lake

“Thank you for this gift card it is really appreciated in these trying times.”  
---  
Allen St. Pierre, Blind River

“The grocery delivery was very much appreciated as I am elderly and had difficulty leaving my home.”  
---  
MNO Citizen, St.Catharines

“Very happy to receive this gift card from the North Channel Métis Council. Funding was given by Cameco and I am not at all surprised they have been a big supporter from the start in our area. Again thank you.”  
---  
Marcel Jacques, Blind River

“Many thanks to the North Channel Métis Council for the PC gift cards, purchased from funding Cameco donated. In these difficult times, this thoughtful gesture goes a long way, and is much appreciated.”  
---  
Todd Showan, Sault Ste Marie

“It is so great that the MNO is able to help our people through trying times and what better way to support than by providing gift certificates from our local grocery stores!! Thanks so much!”  
---  
Kristy L., Atikokan

“I am writing to let you know how much I appreciate your kindness support and compassion. Thank you for the grocery card. Through you assistance I was able to feed my family.”  
---  
MNO Citizen, Port Colborne

“I just wanted to send our heartfelt thank you to all of the organizations that donated and supported MNO citizens during such unprecedented times. We could never put into words our sincere gratitude for the help we received during COVID. A little goes a long way, and these cards went a long, long way for our family! We are so appreciative.”  
---  
The Oltsher Family, Dryden



# Support for Ontario Métis businesses

Innovative new financing option for Ontario Métis businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) is announcing an innovative new financing option for Ontario Métis businesses managing the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now available to past and current clients of the MVDF, the Métis Emergency Business Financing (MEBF) program offers a combination of an interest-free loan and a grant to help with operating costs if revenues have been negatively affected by COVID-19.

The MVDF and the Métis Na-



tion of Ontario (MNO) have been consulting with the Government of Canada to seek support for Métis businesses through this time of unprecedented economic uncertainty. On April 18, 2020 the Prime Minister announced measures to support small and medium sized Indigenous businesses with funding flowing through Indigenous Capital Corpo-

rations including the MNO's Métis Voyageur Development Fund.

The Métis Emergency Business Financing program provides short-term, interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions up to \$40,000. The terms and process of the program are designed to be simple, timely and effective for affected Métis businesses in Ontario.

**Key details of the program:**

- Up to \$40,000 (\$30,000 repayable, \$10,000 non-repayable)

- No payments for 12 months
- 0% interest
- No fees or charges
- 5-year loan term over which to repay
- Prepayments can be made at any time without penalty
- Simplified application form and quick approval
- Funds deposited directly to your operating account

**Eligible businesses must:**

- Have not applied to the Canada Emergency Business Account

- (CEBA) program;
- Have between \$20,000 to \$1,500,000 in payroll expenses annually;
- Have been in business since March 1, 2020;
- Must not be in arrears for 90 days if currently has a loan with MVDF;
- If currently closed, must plan to re-open once conditions allow.

More information at:  
[www.mvdf.ca](http://www.mvdf.ca)

A decorative background featuring intricate beadwork patterns in various colors including red, orange, yellow, green, and blue, set against a dark brown background. The patterns include floral and geometric designs.

# Let Us Help!

## MNO's Mental Health and Addictions Services

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is offering access to Métis culturally specific mental health and addiction supports for adults, youth and families in Ontario.

Delivered in person where possible or via videoconference or telephone, this program connects Métis people to specialized mental health and addictions professionals in French and English:

- Individual counseling for crisis, trauma, stress, anxiety, depression, addictions and anger;
- Mental health and/or Addictions assessment;
- Psychoeducational/developmental assessment;
- Digital Dependency, Gaming and Gambling
- Speech and language
- Education consultation
- Family Therapy
- Tutoring
- Legal consultation
- Financial counseling

24hr MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS

### CRISIS LINE

## 1-877-767-7572

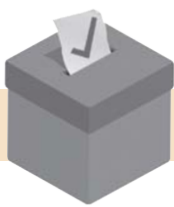
For non-urgent matters or help navigating mental health and addictions supports contact:

**613-549-1674 x.307 or 1-800-263-4889** (toll free)

or via email [video@metisnation.org](mailto:video@metisnation.org)

Métis Nation of Ontario





# Provisional Council OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO 2020 - 2024

In 1993, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was established through the will of Métis people and Métis communities coming together throughout Ontario to create a Métis-specific, democratic, province-wide governance structure. The MNO represents and advocates on behalf of its citizens who are rights-bearing members of Métis communities that collectively hold rights, interests, and outstanding claims protected by sections 25 and 35 of the

*Constitution Act, 1982*, including, but not limited to, the right of self-government. MNO is a Métis government with governance structures at the provincial, regional and local level and delivers a wide range of programs and services to citizens and communities throughout Ontario. The MNO is governed by the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) that are elected through a democratic province-wide ballot box election process every four years. The PCMNO is entrusted to make decisions and act in a manner consistent with upholding and advancing the MNO

*Statement of Prime Purpose.* The PCMNO brings forward the priorities and interests of its constituents and ultimately takes direction from and reports to Métis Citizens at the Annual General Assembly. The PCMNO consists of an executive including the president, chair, vice-chair, secretary/treasurer and executive senator. Nine regional Councilors, a provincial youth representative, a post-secondary representative and three senators also sit on the PCMNO.



Margaret  
Froh  
PRESIDENT

Margaret Froh has been re-elected to the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and returns to serve her second term as President. Margaret joined the staff of the MNO in 2013 as in-house legal counsel and Director of Strategic Policy, Law and Compliance. Prior to her election as President, she served as the MNO's Associate Chief Operating Officer. Highlights of her first term as President of the MNO include the signing of four key agreements. First, securing the April 2018 *Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting* and eliminating the cap on harvester certificates. In December 2017, she signed two framework agreements – one with Canada and Ontario on advancing reconciliation for the entirety of the MNO, and the other with the MNO's Northwestern Ontario Métis Community and Canada to advance reconciliation for outstanding historical grievances of that regional community regarding the broken Crown promises in the Half-Breed Adhesion to Treaty 3. And in June 2019, she signed the historic and ground-breaking core Métis Self-Government Agreement between the MNO and the federal government alongside Métis leadership from Alberta and Saskatchewan, making history and ushering in a new era for Métis rights and recognition. As President, she will continue

her mandate to advance Métis rights in Ontario, support strong MNO's communities, and yield tangible results on key priorities, including Métis Self-Government, to benefit MNO's Citizens and communities. Throughout her career, Margaret has used her legal skills to advocate on behalf of Indigenous communities and has demonstrated great success in building and maintaining productive relationships across all types of organizations and levels of government. Prior to joining the MNO, Margaret was part of the in-house legal counsel group with an Ontario First Nation government, and she also served as Aboriginal Issues Coordinator for the Law Society of Upper Canada and established a formal and lasting partnership between the Law Society and the MNO, which included the first joint MNO-LSO Louis Riel Day event—a tradition that continues to this day. Margaret has served on a variety of committees and advisory groups with a focus on access to justice for Indigenous peoples in Ontario. As a former President of the Indigenous Bar Association (IBA) in Canada, she chaired many of the IBA's internal committees and engaged her skills and legal experience to benefit the association's extensive network of Métis, First Nations, and Inuit lawyers, judges, professionals and students across Canada. With experience as faculty at both the Banff Centre and the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, Margaret has been a mentor to many Indigenous leaders and students over the years and is a strong advocate for youth mental health supports. Originally from the Qu'Appelle Valley in Saskatchewan, Margaret moved to Ontario in 1993 to attend law school at the University of Toronto and has since made Ontario her home. She and her spouse, Rachel Osborne, currently reside in Barrie, within the traditional territory of the Historic Georgian Bay Métis Community.

CONTACT:  
MargaretF@metisnation.org

continued on page 6

## Results 2020 Métis Nation of Ontario Election

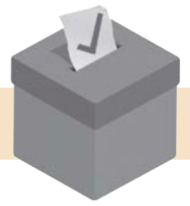
Declared May 20, 2020 (Acclamations) and June 5, 2020 (Vote results)  
**Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO)**

<b>President:</b>		<b>Regional Councilor, Region 4:</b>
Jennifer Parkinson	506	<b>Mitchell Case</b> 153
Tobias Clarke	1042	Dianne Beaudry 141
<b>Margaret Froh</b>	<b>1622</b>	
<b>Chair:</b>		<b>Region 5:</b>
France Picotte	1195	<b>Roger Rose</b> (Acclaimed)
<b>Hank Rowlinson</b>	<b>1952</b>	
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>		<b>Regional Councilor, Region 6:</b>
<b>Sharon Cadeau</b>	<b>1753</b>	Cora Bunn 134
Yvonne Jensen	1362	<b>Andrew Dufrane</b> 234
<b>Secretary-Treasurer:</b>		<b>Regional Councilor, Region 7:</b>
Michael Stranks	1365	Alden Barty 268
<b>Jo Anne Young</b>	<b>1752</b>	<b>David Dusome</b> 454
<b>Region 1:</b>		<b>Regional Councilor, Region 9:</b>
<b>Theresa Stenlund</b> (Acclaimed)		<b>Peter Rivers</b> 224
		Cassandra Wilhelm 206
<b>Region 2:</b>		<b>Region 8:</b>
<b>Tim Sinclair</b>	64	<b>Karen Derocher</b> (Acclaimed)
Robert Whiteside	38	
Brian Prairie	30	
<b>Region 3:</b>		<b>Post-Secondary Representative:</b>
<b>Jacques Picotte</b>	89	<b>Hannah Bazinet</b> (Acclaimed)
Marcel Lafrance	46	
Michel Dupuis	37	
		<b>Youth Representative:</b>
		<b>Jordyn Playne</b> (Acclaimed)

Chief Electoral Officer's release of MNO Election Results available at:  
**www.metisnation.org**



## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO ELECTION 2020



**Hank Rowlinson**  
CHAIR



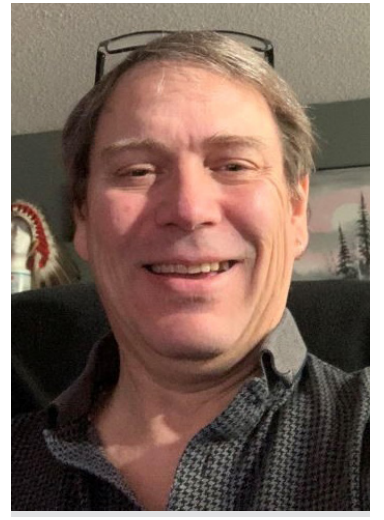
**Sharon Cadeau**  
VICE-CHAIR



**Jo Anne Young**  
SECRETARY-TREASURER



**Theresa Stenlund**  
COUNCILOR REGION 1



**Tim Sinclair**  
COUNCILOR REGION 2

Joining the PCMNO this term is Hank Rowlinson who will serve as Chair. Hank has 21 years of full-time experience working various roles within the MNO. Hank has chaired numerous local, provincial and national commissions, boards, and committees. Proficient in conflict resolution, mediation and negotiations, Hank is an effective communicator who encourages compromise and consensus building. He also brings expertise with governance, policy development, business management, contract negotiations, partnership and inter-governmental relationship building.

Hank has in-depth knowledge of past and current issues concerning MNO citizens, families, and communities. He has built strong and respectful relationships assisting and working with Métis community councils and citizens for over 20 years. Throughout his tenure he held senior management portfolios at the MNO including Senior Policy Analyst, Economic Development Officer, Manager of Lands and Resources, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer and Manager of Community Relations and has contributed to developing internal and external policies, securing government and partnership funding, and has built a solid reputation engaging politicians.

A steadfast advocate for the Métis, Hank brings commitment, experience and determination that is needed as we enter this new era of self-government. Respecting our *Statement of Prime Purpose* Hank believes that the way forward needs to be one of hope, optimism and vigilance and that we must be united to overcome barriers that may stand in our way.

Born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Hank is a dedicated husband and father of eight (ages 16-36). He and his wife Loma reside in Sudbury. They have also been foster-parents to many First Nations youth.

CONTACT:  
HankR@metisnation.org

Sharon Cadeau is returning to the PCMNO as Vice-Chair for a fourth term and had served as spokesperson for the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council (MNOWC)—formerly known as the Women's Secretariat—since 2008.

She first entered Métis politics in 1999 and in 2001 became the Regional Women's Representative for MNO Region 8. Sharon advocated for a Community Council in the western part of Region 8 and became the founding President of the Credit River Métis Council in 2003. In 2005 she was elected as PCMNO Regional Councillor for Region 8.

Sharon's work with the MNOWC focused on securing the funding required to carry out the important advocacy and public awareness role of the Women's Council. She has held the Portfolio for Women since 2006. In 2016 Sharon was able to secure three years of funding from the Status of Women from the Government of Canada – the first time in history that a Métis Women's project was funded. In 2020, Sharon and the MNOWC received the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Community Leadership for work done on the 2019 Women's Leadership Gathering in Collingwood. She was also a recipient of the Ontario Heritage Trust Award in recognition of her work with Mississauga Heritage and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.

Vice-chair Cadeau, whose Métis roots have been traced to Penetanguishene, was born to a proud military family in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and has lived in Germany, Nova Scotia and Ontario. Her contributions to the Métis community include work on several different boards and committees, and she is honoured to have been involved in the historic Self-Government Agreement with Canada.

A former municipal law enforcement officer of 32 years, Vice-Chair Cadeau is now committed to building the Métis Nation in Ontario and ensuring the voice of all its citizens are heard throughout the province.

CONTACT:  
SharonC@metisnation.org

Jo Anne has been involved with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) since 1998 serving as the Financial Controller and as Council member, Treasurer and President with the Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council – now known as the Clear Waters Métis Council.

Born in Alberta, raised in British Columbia, Jo Anne's traditional homeland is the Meadow Lake / Green Lake / Ile-à-la-Crosse area of Saskatchewan. As a child her family lived in logging camps moving throughout British Columbia. Life in "the bush" created a life-long love of the outdoors and respect for Mother Earth and all of her creatures.

Jo Anne learned aspects of Métis life including hunting, fishing and preserving, along with understanding the importance of education and life-long learning.

Jo Anne graduated as a Registered Nurse from the Ottawa General Hospital School of Nursing, completed a post-diploma course in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Royal Ottawa Hospital and has worked in nursing and children's services.

Jo Anne worked several years as a tax accountant, practising as both a Certified General Accountant (CGA) and Certified Professional Accountant (CPA - USA). When her son was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes she enrolled at George Brown College to become a Certified Nutrition Manager and Red Seal Chef, with diplomas in both Culinary Management and Food and Nutrition Management.

Jo Anne looks forward to applying her diverse work experience for the benefit of the PCMNO and Métis citizens.

CONTACT:  
JoanneY@metisnation.org

Theresa has been acclaimed to serve a fourth term as Region 1 Councilor. Theresa, who is also the Chair of the Region 1 Consultation Committee, first joined the PCMNO in 2008 and served as a Councilor on the MNO Kenora Métis Council from 2001 to 2008.

Theresa's PCMNO experience has made her a strong and successful advocate for advancing Métis rights on a national level. She was instrumental in the negotiations of the Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Reconciliation with the Government of Canada, and the historic Framework Agreement signed with Canada and Ontario in 2017. In addition to these main table discussions, Theresa was a signatory a Framework Agreement between the Northwestern Ontario Metis community and Canada to reconcile and address outstanding claims for the region, including those related to Treaty 3 Adhesion of 1875.

As Region 1 Councilor and Chair of the MNO Region 1 Consultation Committee, Theresa has been engaged and negotiated numerous MOU's and IBA's between the MNO and regional industry partners. Theresa was a member of MNO's Economic Development Negotiations team which successfully negotiated a multi-million-dollar investment from the Government of Ontario to support long-term economic growth, opportunities and self-sufficiency for Métis communities in Ontario through the New MNO Prosperity Trust.

Receiving a Social Services Diploma (Honour Roll) in 1996, Theresa has worked in Child and Family Services ever since. She also completed an Honours Bachelor of Social Work degree at Laurentian University, (Honour Roll) in June 2012.

Married with two children, Theresa believes it is very important that Métis children know their identity at an early age. She tries to make sure that her Métis children are immersed in their culture. Theresa has a strong interest in the MNO's work in child and family services, Métis culture and heritage, children with disabilities and Métis rights.

CONTACT:  
TheresaS2@metisnation.org

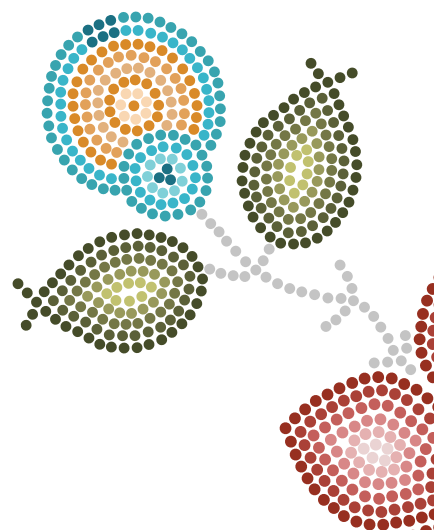
Elected as Regional Councilor for Region 2, Tim Sinclair is new to the PCMNO but has worked with the MNO since 2004 and has been a member of the Superior North Shore Métis Council since 2008. He has actively been involved in Métis consultations, and has served as a replacement representative on behalf of the Region 2 Consultation Committee since 2012. Through these roles, Tim has engaged with many different levels of government, proponents, special interest groups, prospectors, and other related organizations.

Tim has been involved in Heavy Industry and Mining for the past 35+ years, working in road construction to open pit mining. His background gives him unique insight and understanding into both sides of the environment and resource issues that concern MNO citizens.

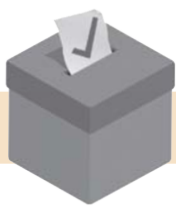
Tim has taken the time to really listen to the proponents and the special interest groups he has worked with over his career. He believes that his diversity of knowledge and his technological and computer skills will be a great asset in his current role on PCMNO. As a PCMNO Councilor Tim plans to share Métis ideas, values, beliefs and behaviors with communities, and will continue educating others on who the Métis people are and why we matter.

Tim is originally from Kenora, Ontario and hails from the Sinclair/Swain family line. His family moved from Southern Manitoba where their land script was to Kenora (Rat Portage) in the 1890s, to the Rideout area now being looked at as a Métis settlement.

CONTACT:  
TimS@metisnation.org







## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO ELECTION 2020



**Jacques Picotte**

COUNCILOR REGION 3



**Mitchell Case**

COUNCILOR REGION 4



**Roger Rose**

COUNCILOR REGION 5



**Andrew Dufrane**

COUNCILOR REGION 6



**David Dusome**

COUNCILOR REGION 7

Recently elected Councilor for Region 3, Jacques Picotte has been involved with the MNO since the late 1990s holding various roles ranging from Regional Youth Representative to Community Council President.

As Region 3 Councilor, Jacques believes comprehensive consultation with Region 3 communities is a priority. He places significant value on the relationship between communities and their traditional land, and will work with industry partners to ensure that both the environment and Métis rights are protected.

As the MNO continues down its path towards self-government and constitution building, Jacques believes we are at a critical point in Métis history and will work hard to ensure Métis rights are advanced and respected. The wellbeing of his community is paramount, and as Councilor he promises to use his voice to ensure that these communities are well served and have access to the necessary programs and services.

Jacques Picotte traces his ancestry to Rainy River/Lake of the Woods/Treaty 3 Historic Métis Community and the Abitibi Inland Historic Métis Community. He is a proud father of three children raised in Métis ways, culture, traditions, and language.

Much of his time is spent on the land living the way of life, trapping, harvesting and sharing traditional knowledge.

CONTACT:  
JacquesP@metisnation.org

Following two successful terms as and Youth Representative for the PCMNO and MNO Youth Council President (a dual role), Mitch Case returns to the PCMNO in a new role, Regional Councilor for Region 4. With 15 years of volunteer experience with Region 4 and eight with the PCMNO, Mitch is dedicated to advancing Métis rights at local, provincial and national levels.

A graduate of Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig and Algoma University, Mitch studied History and Anishinaabe studies and focused his research on Ontario Métis history. Mitch has served many committees including the Métis Nation Education Committee, MNO Resolutions Committee, Economic Development Committee, and more. His dedication has been recognized on numerous occasions, including the 2019 Annual General Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie, where he was awarded the Suzanne Rochon-Burnette Volunteer of the Year.

Mitch's years of experience with the PCMNO has equipped him with the knowledge and skills to effectively communicate and respond to the diverse needs of his region. Working alongside the other Regional Councilors, he has familiarized himself with processes impacting Métis communities, including the Duty to Consult and Accommodate, and intends to mobilize his years of experience to benefit Region 4 and MNO citizens.

As Regional Councilor, Mitch plans to address issues affecting Ontario Métis, including but not limited to addressing land claims and grievances, self-government, communication, culture, and increasing regional and local capacity.

Mitch is known across the Métis Nation as an extremely talented beadworker who practices a traditional Métis floral style. Mitch has taught beadwork all across the Métis Nation and is respected for his knowledge and understanding of Métis aesthetic and colour theory. Along with the MNO Youth Council, Mitch led the #beadworkrevolution an online movement to encourage Métis youth to learn to bead.

CONTACT:  
MitchC@metisnation.org

Having joined the PCMNO as the Councilor for Region 5 in 2019, Roger Rose has been acclaimed for a second term in the position. Roger first became a MNO citizen in 2001 and joined the Mattawa Métis Council as Councilor in 2004. In 2010, he served two terms as Chair of the MNO Mattawa Métis Council and continues to serve as Chair for the Regional Consultation Committee.

With a background in mining, Roger's experience makes him an ideal representative for the consultation work currently taking place with proponents. Roger has 30 years' experience in Sudbury's mining industry, has received numerous certifications in specialties like blasting and drilling, and served several years as Production Leader before retiring in 2004. He continues to leverage his industry knowledge and expertise in the ongoing consultation work with the MNO.

As Regional Councilor, Roger believes that advancing the self-government agreement with Canada is a priority for the next four years, and believes that open communication with Citizens throughout this process is paramount. He proposes an "open book" policy for dialogue taking place with Métis Councils in Region 5, so Citizens can be informed and engaged on each step of its development.

Roger currently resides in Rutherglen, ON with his wife Joyceline – Senator of the MNO Mattawa Métis Council. His daughter holds the position of Secretary Treasurer for the Mattawa Métis Council, and his granddaughter is the Council's Youth Representative.

Both the Rose family and the MNO Mattawa Métis Council are frequently involved in the annual MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camps.

CONTACT:  
RogerR@metisnation.org

Andy (Andrew) Dufrane is proud to take on the position of Region 6 Councilor on the PCMNO. Andy has held the position of President for the Peterborough & District Wapiti Métis Council since its inception in 2010.

After dedicating 40 years to the skilled trades, Andy recently retired from a local die casting company. He is an avid harvester, enjoys time in the great outdoors, and has a vast knowledge of the history of our Métis people. Andy holds positions on several advisory committees in his community including Trent University, Fleming College, and public and catholic school boards. He has contributed countless hours providing teachings, guidance and knowledge, and ensuring a strong Métis voice and presence within the schools. He has also contributed his knowledge to other organizations such as the Canadian Canoe Museum and the Peterborough Museum, as well as participated in numerous community events.

Andy is strongly supported by his community and he loves meeting new people. He believes that the Métis people have a great story in the building of Canada, and that it is now our time to live our Métis culture and be proud of our distinct heritage.

Andy is from a large family of 9 children, born all across Canada as his father was following work in the west and east provinces. His family settled in Ontario and has been here for several decades.

CONTACT:  
AndrewD@metisnation.org

David Dusome returns to the PCMNO as Regional Councilor, Region 7, a position he's held since January 2019.

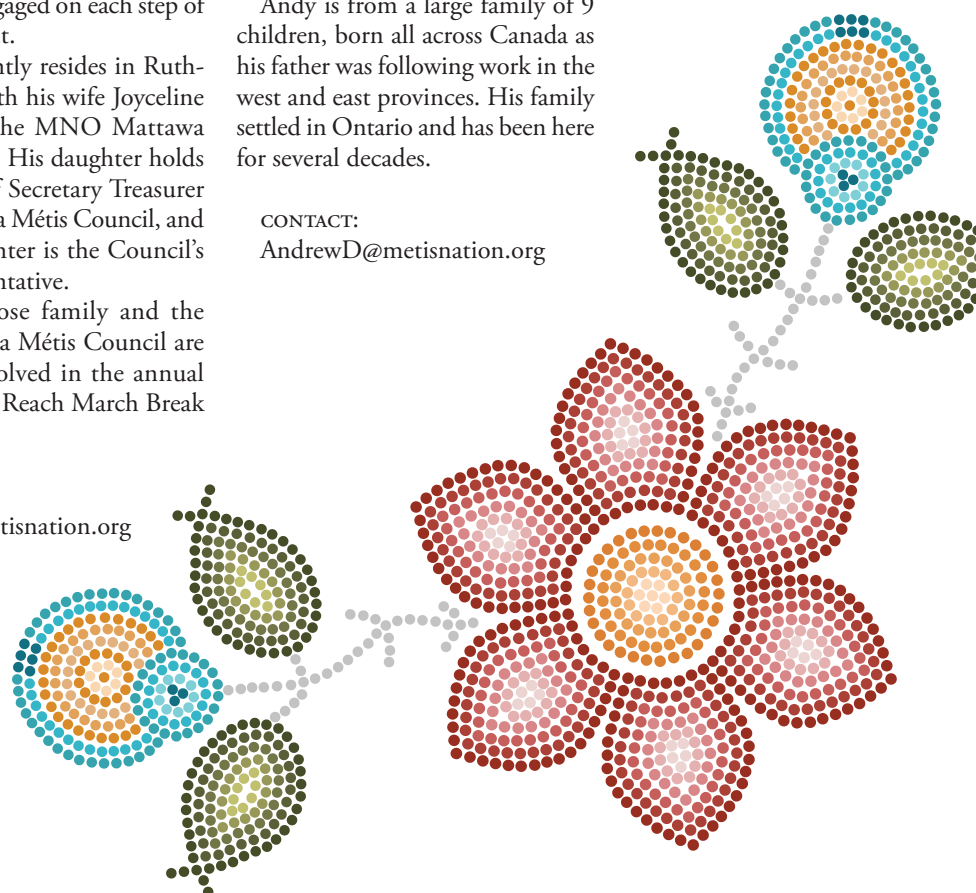
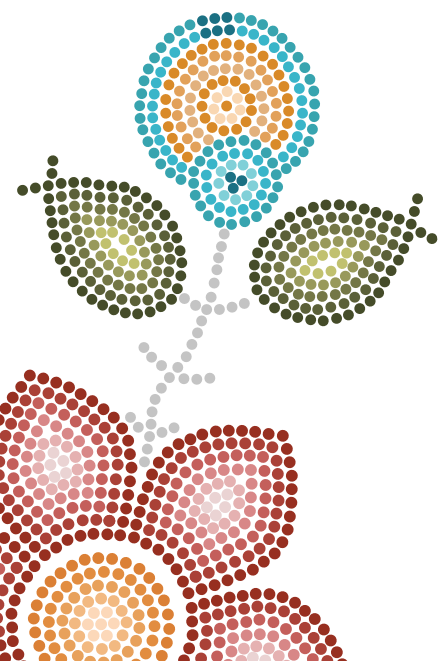
An MNO Citizen since 1997, David began working with the Georgian Bay Métis Council in 2006, and has held roles as Treasurer (2007-2014) and President (2014-2019).

As Regional Councilor for Region 7, David represents the interests of the Georgian Bay Métis Council, the Moon River Métis Council, Owen Sound Métis Council, and Barrie South Shore Métis Council.

David was instrumental in abolishing the administration fee charge for Citizenship Applications and Harvesting Certificates, to the benefit of many Métis families and children.

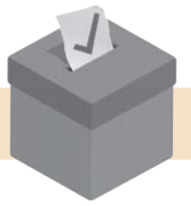
David is also actively involved in resolving Métis land claims, such as pursuing the 1840 Georgian Bay Petition Land Claim on behalf of Georgian Bay Métis citizens.

CONTACT:  
DavidD@metisnation.org





## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO ELECTION 2020

**Karen Derocher**COUNCILOR  
REGION 8

Karen Derocher has been acclaimed PCMNO Regional Councilor for Region 8. She has served on the Credit River Métis Council since 2003; first as Councillor, then as Women's Representative and then as President. Karen also serves as Council Rep for Federal and Provincial Government Consultations, Indigenous Education Council Representative for School Boards and Métis Representative on Conservation Councils.

Karen can trace her Métis roots back to Moose Factory and Fort Albany in Ontario, Ile-a-La Crosse and Fort Pelly in Saskatchewan and Brandon House and Winnipeg in Manitoba. Several of her ancestors were hunters, trappers, and voyageurs who worked for the Hudson's Bay Company and some of the women made clothing and pemmican for trade. They traveled and settled across many parts of the country.

In addition to her involvement with the MNO, Karen has worked in IT network operations for 20 years, has owned a business for 10 years and has been able to use her business operations background to guide her in her work with the Credit River Council.

She finds her work with Councils to be very rewarding, and is actively involved in Council operations and activities: hosting and participating in community events, school workshops and presentations, conservation events, and cultural activities. She believes that community gatherings are a great way to meet people, share stories, learn from each other and build friendships.

As PCMNO Region 8 Councilor, Karen looks forward to continuing to serve and to work with Councils and her community to share and celebrate Métis knowledge and ways of life.

CONTACT:

**KarenD@metisnation.org****Peter Rivers**COUNCILOR  
REGION 9

Peter Rivers has been elected for a fourth term as PCMNO Regional Councilor for Region 9. First elected to the Councilor position in 2008, Peter concurrently serves as Captain of the Hunt for Region 9.

Peter has significant previous experience advocating for Métis rights on provincial and federal levels; which includes working with Canada to confirm that section 35 rights for Métis Citizens are recognized and carried across Ontario. And, as part of the federal negotiations committee, Peter was a strong Métis voice and an active role in the negotiation of the historic self-government agreement with Canada.

Peter has worked tirelessly the past three terms to address the unique challenges facing Métis in southern Ontario. Over the years, he has had great success working with Councils to secure funding for the region, including the recent negotiation of two proposed long-term funding plans.

In addition to his work with the MNO, Peter has served as Captain for Windsor Fire and Rescue for 26 years and holds an Associates Degree in Fire Science from Lake Superior State University. As Captain, he is qualified in all firefighting disciplines (fire rescue, training and inspections).

Additionally, he has seven years' experience with the Windsor Fire Critical Incident Stress team and worked as rescue operations manager for an urban search and rescue team in Michigan, where he was deployed across North and South America. He has also been a Fire Marshal and served on the Public Fire Safety Council.

Peter grew up near the Sault Ste. Marie community and traces his Métis ancestry to a number of Northern Ontario communities. He currently resides in Windsor, where he is a business owner and residential landlord. A father of two young daughters, Peter is passionate about sharing Métis culture, traditions, and ways of life.

CONTACT:

**rivers\_peter@hotmail.com****Hannah Bazinet**POSTSECONDARY  
REPRESENTATIVE

Hannah Bazinet joins the PCMNO for the first time as the Post-Secondary Representative. Currently a Masters student at Western University in London, Hannah is enrolled in a Medical Biophysics program with plans to pursue a professional degree upon completion. Having been a post-secondary student the last 5 years, Hannah is acutely aware of the needs and considerations facing post-secondary Métis students and is excited to represent students on the PCMNO level. Hannah has been an MNO Infinite Reach facilitator for over two years.

Hannah plays an active role in the post-secondary Indigenous community and has fostered a strong relationship with her Western University's Indigenous Centre. As a student representative, Hannah has attended conferences across Canada where she has had the opportunity to engage with and listen to numerous Indigenous students; First Nations, Inuit and Métis. These discussions have allowed her to have open dialogue about lived experiences, and brainstorm ways to unite our communities through mutual understanding and conversation.

Hannah looks forward to representing the voice of post-secondary students when approaching PCMNO's goals on community building, and constitution building. She is committed to ensuring safe spaces for students to raise concerns and to learn about our history and culture, and believes it is through community building that we can truly understand what it means to be Métis.

CONTACT:

**HannahB@metisnation.org****Jordyn Playne**YOUTH  
REPRESENTATIVE

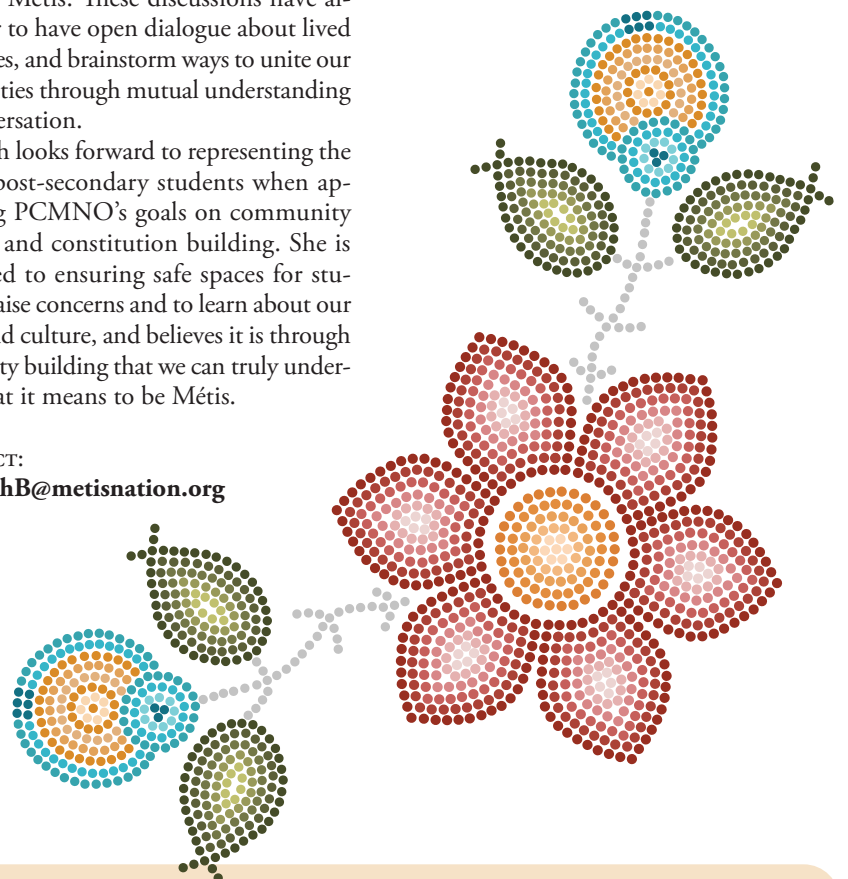
Jordyn Playne was acclaimed as the PCMNO Youth Representative. Most recently, Jordyn served as the Region 7 Youth Representative on the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council from 2016-2020. She is a social worker and mental health advocate who received her Masters of Social Work in the Indigenous Field of Studies program from Wilfrid Laurier University in 2019.

Jordyn, who currently resides in Penetanguishene, is a descendant of Dusome-Clermont Métis family line from Drummond Island.

CONTACT:

**JordanP@metisnation.org**

As PCMNO Youth Representative Jordyn also serves as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC). See page 9 for more.



## Many thanks to departing PCMNO & Advisory Council Members

The cornerstone of the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) democratic process is holding fair and open, province-wide elections every four years. This is a fundamental part of MNO's governance. MNO Citizens exercise their right to vote and select the representatives that will serve on the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) as well as the MNO Women's Council, MNO Youth Council and MNO Veterans' Council.

The MNO citizens that have stepped up to serve

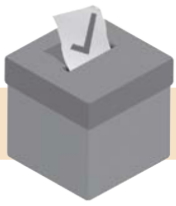
over the past 27 years are to be commended for their contributions to upholding the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose* and advancing Métis rights.

Every MNO Election results in change, while critical to the exercise of democracy, this can also be bittersweet. This last MNO Election did result in many longstanding PCMNO and Advisory Council members moving on from their leadership roles. The MNO wants to acknowledge and extend sincere gratitude to all.

Specifically we did want to acknowledge the contributions of these departing PCMNO members following the 2020 Election: **France Picotte; Tim Pile; Marcel Lafrance; Lee Rivet; Anita Tucker; and Katelyn LaCroix.**

We wish you the best as you move into new roles and opportunities and welcome your experience and voice as we start to build a constitution and continue to advance self-government.





MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO ELECTION 2020

# MNO Advisory Councils

## 2020 - 2024

**On June 1, 2020 citizens of the MNO cast their votes and elected their representatives for the Provisional Council of the MNO, the MNO Youth Council (MNOYC) and the MNO Veteran’s Council (MNOVC). Taking its direction from the Citizens of the MNO, the PCMNO is the primary governing body of the MNO. As the advocates for Métis Youth and Veteran’s the MNOYC and the MNOVC play vital roles in MNO’s governance as well. As Métis, we are proud of our rich heritage and we strive to move our citizens and our nation forward.**

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

### YOUTH COUNCIL

The MNOYC consists of youth representatives from across Ontario who advocate for the concerns and interests of Métis youth at the provincial level. The Youth Representative elected to the PCMNO (see page 8) has a dual role also acting as President of the MNOYC.

The MNOYC’s mandate is to identify issues affecting Métis youth and to work with the MNO to ensure these issues are addressed.

Members of the MNOYC communicate on a regular basis, take part in meetings and community events across the province, including the MNO’s Annual General Assembly (AGA), and often attend youth driven and focused conferences representing Métis youth across Ontario.

“I’m very excited for this new adventure as president of the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council and Youth Representative on PCMNO,” said Jordyn Payne, who on was acclaimed as the PCMNO Youth Representative and President of the Youth Council this spring.

“I’m looking forward to continuing to grow youth engagement throughout the province, and continuing to build youth focused and youth-lead initiatives,” said Jordan. ∞



MNOYC REGION 3:  
**SAMANTHA PICOTTE**

My name is Samantha Picotte, and I’m the new Youth Representative for Region 3. I’ve been involved with the

MNO for as long as I can remember, and I was the youth rep for the Timmins council before my current position. My main goal is to encourage the education of Métis culture and history in elementary and high schools in our region. I’m looking forward to learning and building new relationships with other youth!



MNOYC REGION 5:  
**JANNA ROSE**

Janna Rose currently lives in Mattawa and is the former Youth Representative for the Mattawa Métis council, serving from 2014 to

2020. Janna traces her Métis heritage through the Montreuil-Mic Mac and Belair-Laronde Métis family lines, that established themselves along the Ottawa River in the area of Mattawa. She is currently studying Social Service Work at Canadore College in North Bay. Janna hopes to attend the University of Ottawa in the future to get her Master’s degree in Social work in French.



MNOYC REGION 6:  
**JEFFREY DUSOME**

Jeff and their family is from the community of Penetanguishene, and they are a descendant of the Dusome, Beau-

soleil and Giroux families. Jeff studies Canadian and Indigenous Studies at Carleton University. As a youth, they are committed to ensuring that our communities continue to learn and unlearn, and that together as a people, we all progress as we outgrow the behaviours we carry that harm one another.



MNOYC REGION 7:  
**DALTON LATONDRESS**

Dalton Latondress’ family is from the community of Penetanguishene, and his family descends from the

Brissette-L’Hirondelle Line. He is continuing his education this September at Cambrian College for Environmental Technician. Dalton has sat as the Youth Representative on the Georgian Bay Métis Council from 2015 to 2019. He has been an active volunteer in the community for over 10 years. Dalton is looking forward to seeing what the future holds for the youth of the community, and is excited to see how we can work together as a nation.



MNOYC REGION 9:  
**PAIGE COTURE**

Paige Coture is the Youth Representative for Region 9. Her family is from the Great Lake Community.

For over 20 years, Paige’s grandfather has been involved with the MNO, as well as being the President for a council in Owen Sound. Paige previously served on the Grand River Métis Council as a Youth representative from October of last year until now. She just recently graduated with honors in the Educational Support Program at Conestoga College. Paige is looking forward to this amazing opportunity to serve on the MNOYC. As well, she hopes to make lasting relationships with the people who share our culture.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

### VETERANS’ COUNCIL

The MNO Veterans’ Council represents the interests of Métis veterans within the MNO’s governance structure.

MNO Veterans’ Council’s concerns and issues are brought to the PCMNO by Regional Councillors and Senators who sit on the PCMNO.

Brian Black was acclaimed this election to return as president of the Veterans Council as says he is looking forward to this next mandate and that a major focus will be outreach.

“We need to get out to our veterans and have conversations with them and make sure they are taken care of and if not advocate for them so they are,” said Black.

“These outreach efforts will include Métis Veteran town hall meetings throughout the province. Gathering veterans together to find out what our biggest needs are and how we can get them to our members. Identify veterans in communities that need support and that can provide support for our Métis Communities.”

“Before the MNOVC looks ahead we must reflect where we have come from and who got us here.” ∞



MNOVC PRESIDENT:  
**BRIAN BLACK**

Brian’s Metis ancestry started in the 1760’s ancestors landed in Moose Factory and York Factory working for the Hudson Bay Company working the fur trade route to Alberta and back. Through the year’s ancestors settled across the trade route from Manchester House to the Red River Settlement. Working within the Métis veteran community for the past four years has been very rewarding for Brian. The MNOVC will continue its outreach to identify all Métis Veterans and bring them together for support and fellowship.



MNOVC WOMEN’S REP:  
**LISA TESSIER**

Lisa was born in Penetanguishene, Ontario. She was an Air Cadet for approximately 4 years with the 724 Midland Squadron. After that she enlisted into the Royal Canadian Air Force in September 1981 at the age of 17. Lisa retired from the Canadian Armed Forces in 2011 at Base Borden after 30 years of service. Lisa and her family now live in Barrie, Ontario to be closer to relatives. Lisa attended her first MNOVC meeting in October 2013 and looks forward to learning more about her Métis heritage. In the fall 2019 she was appointed as the MNOVC Women’s Representative on an interim basis and was acclaimed to the position during the 2020 MNO elections.



MNOVC SARGEANT-AT-ARMS  
**DOUGLAS WOODS**

Born and raised in Midland Ontario, Douglas spent four years with the Canadian Army Reserves in Armoured Command. Retired as a self-employed retail merchant and part-time professional stage and studio musician, Douglas now lives at Cawaja Beach, Ontario. He is an avid hunter, fisher, and harvester and he also keeps busy biking, gardening and traveling.





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## OTIPEMISIWAK

First-Ever National Conference on Métis Self-Government concludes with a commitment to progress

# DEEP ROOTS, COMMON GROUND

Métis leaders, citizens, federal government representatives, legal experts, academics, and First Nations advisors who have successfully negotiated modern day treaties and self-government agreements gathered in the National Capital Region, in the spirit of sharing and collaboration for the first-ever National Conference on Métis Self-Government on March 9-10, 2020.

"This conference is born out of a relationship that our three governments, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S), have created as a means of moving forward in a positive way with advancing self-determination and self-government for our people," said MNO President Margaret Froh.

On June 27, 2019, the Métis Governments of Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta each signed *Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreements* with Canada. The Self-Government Agreements provide for Canada's immediate recognition of the inherent right to self-government held by the Métis communities and citizens represented by each Métis Government. This is the first time that Canada has ever recognized an inherent right of self-government for Métis.

"We have always known and asserted that we are Métis governments," said MNA President Audrey Poitras. "We do so based on many things: We have built credible and objectively verifiable registry systems to identify our citizens; we have established democratic processes and institutions at the provincial, the regional, and the local levels; we have advanced the rights of our citizens and our communities, whether it be through the courts, or through negotiations with other governments."

Otipemisiwak is a Cree word which translates to "those that rule themselves." MN-S President Glen McCallum referenced the conference name in his opening remarks. "Otipemisiwak.

We own ourselves. And that means a lot, it means to be able to own your life to be able to exercise our rights as Métis," said President McCallum. "The traditional and democratic self-government structure of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan has been practiced and built since the days of Louis Riel. This government structure needs to be understood, respected, and practiced. This conference represented an opportunity for our federal partners to hear from us, in our own words, about our Métis rights and self-government".

The Otipemisiwak conference brought together a diversity of voices including: Representatives from the Tlicho Government (NWT) and Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h First Nations (BC) negotiation teams who shared their experiences negotiating modern day treaties and self-government. The invaluable voices of Métis Youth were also in the spotlight.



(left to right) Métis Nation of Ontario President Margaret Froh, Senator Yvonne Boyer, Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) President Audrey Poitras and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) President Glen McCallum.

"I believe that a sign that we have been successful is, if at a structural level, every citizen has an opportunity to participate and contribute to our government, to the fullest possible extent," said panelist and MNO Youth Representative, Paul Robitaille.

"Our Métis young people have amazing gifts and talents, and are committed to moving forward for the betterment of all," said Robitaille. "We want to create a system that empowers young people to help everybody."

Otipemisiwak attendees also found time to celebrate their Métis culture and way of life. A reception was held with fiddle music provided by Alicia Blore; followed by Métis dance group Prairie Fire; and a rousing rendition of the Métis Nation of Ontario's song "We Aspire" by Juno Award-nominated singer songwriter and MNO citizen Amanda Rheame.

"We're hopeful this will be the first of many similar opportunities where we can bring our governments together, and we have already been discussing the concept of holding a conference on Constitution development as well as ensuring we are engaging in conversations about our traditional forms of governance. All three of our governments are looking forward to the dialogue that is and will continue to be had with citizens, families and communities as this work progresses," said President Froh.

The MNO would like to extend gratitude to its many partners, and to all participating citizens who made the inaugural Otipemisiwak conference such a success. ∞

Video and more at: [bit.ly/3kbBpqm](https://bit.ly/3kbBpqm)

**WE ARE HERE!** The Métis Nation of Ontario Self-Government conversations are starting. Talk to your Regional Councillor, Community Council, find out when the next conversation in your region is going to be. If you miss one, do not worry there will be many opportunities and many different ways to ensure that your voice is heard.

Since 1993 when the MNO was established one of our fundamental priorities has been advancing to our goal of Métis Self-Government in Ontario. With the signing of the *Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement* (MGRSA) the door has been opened and we are ready to walk through -- yet there is a lot of work ahead that we must do together.

In 2018 the MNO released the *Advancing Métis Rights and Self-Government What We Heard* report from meetings in 2017 with all MNO Communities ([www.metisnation.org/news-media/news/what-we-heard-1](http://www.metisnation.org/news-media/news/what-we-heard-1)). These are just some of the ideas and thoughts that will need to be refined and brought forward to begin work on a constitution, develop laws and transition from a not-for-profit to a fully recognized Métis Government.

**In an effort to streamline questions, inquiries and follow up we have created a dedicated email:**  
**[Self.Government@metisnation.org](mailto:Self.Government@metisnation.org)**

## ADVANCING SELF-GOVERNMENT

Until now the **Métis Nation of Ontario**, the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan have relied on corporate structures to act as it's legal and administrative arms. Implementation of the *Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement* will lead renewed Nation-to-Nation, Government-to-Government relationships.

Métis Nation of Ontario ∞



**The next steps in this journey will require the commitment of leadership at every level coming together with communities and citizens to make this dream a reality.**

**There will be extensive engagement and consultation with citizens throughout Ontario.**





# COMMUNITY



## COVID-19 IN THE COMMUNITY

# The MNO movement for masks

The Métis people have long been celebrated for their artistry, creativity and the ability to make the most of limited resources in challenging times. In the face of the current COVID-19 pandemic, some Métis citizens have been setting aside their beadwork, finger-weaving, and embroidery in favour of a new, much needed, project: mask-making.

What began as a few MNO citizens from communities ranging from Kenora to Hamilton and Bowmanville sewing masks on their own volition, has evolved into a coordinated, province wide effort.

The movement for masks has been greatly successful, approximately 400 masks have been created so far and hundreds more are in the

works.

Suzanne Jackson, Region 9 Representative for the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council (MNOWC) has been assisting with the coordination of the efforts, organizing orders for sewing kits and recruiting volunteers:

"We'd like to hear from citizens, who have, or knows somebody who has, a sewing machine and can dedicate a couple of days to make up one package of masks. A single kit would add an additional 14 masks to our efforts," she shared. "Once the masks are completed there may be a need to have them delivered to our citizens

The MNO Women's Council is looking for volunteers who can sew masks and caps. MNOWC will provide all necessary materials. To learn more and get involved please email Suzanne at: [suzannejWSMNO2016@gmail.com](mailto:suzannejWSMNO2016@gmail.com)

and their families."

Even community partners have been contributing. The Almaguin Quilters Guild has volunteered their time and are set to produce 200 masks to be shared within the Métis community.

The MNOWC is also seeking more skilled sewers to help create

gowns. Gowns require more proficiency with fabric and the use of a serger – a specialized type of sewing machine.

Those willing to assist with mask- or gown-making are encouraged to request a kit by contacting their local MNO Community Council Women's Representative or MNOWC Regional Representative. The materials will be shipped to their address. Once completed, arrangements can be made with the Rep to ensure the masks reach their destinations. All contact information for Representatives is available on the MNO website. If you are unsure who to contact,

please email Suzanne Jackson at [suzannejWSMNO2016@gmail.com](mailto:suzannejWSMNO2016@gmail.com).

The gowns being created will be included in the upcoming "COVID Care Kits," which will be distributed to Métis households currently caring for sick family members. Masks will also be sent to our MNO volunteers bravely working in the field to support their communities.

"This is such a new and constant evolving situation for all of us," shares Jackson. "The MNOWC is sincerely grateful for the support we've received from the MNO and every single person who has reached out and offered to assist in this effort. The spirit of compassion and dedication is truly alive and well in within our communities."

# Inaugural recipient of the Joseph Poitras Métis Bursary announced

Submitted by **Cecile Wagar**  
Senator, MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council

The MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council (ODRMC) is pleased to announce the name of the first recipient of the Joseph Poitras Métis Bursary. Congratulations, Brooklyn Gauthier of Barrie, Ontario!

Brooklyn is an MNO citizen connected to the Barrie South-Simcoe Métis community. She is currently enrolled full-time in her first year of a Concurrent Education program at Lakehead University in Orillia. Her hope and dream is to be an Elementary teacher in an Indigenous community in Ontario.

The Joseph Poitras Métis Bursary was initially funded by money raised at an event put on by the MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council for residents of Abbeylawn Manor Retirement Home in Pickering. The bursary is available to Métis students who wish to improve their lives, and the lives of others, through their own education. The bursary is not restricted to graduating high school students and has no upper age limits.

Before becoming the Executive

Senator of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario, Joseph Poitras was a member of the original Oshawa Métis Council. Eventually, he replaced founding Senator Olivine Bousquet Skura Tiedema when she stepped down. He held that position for many years. The Council honoured Joseph in recognition of his strong advocacy for educational opportunities for Métis by naming the bursary after him.

Over the years Joseph, his wife Elsa and the Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council have continued to fundraise to add to this bursary.

If you wish to apply for the Bursary visit the ODRMC page on the MNO website. You can also email comments or questions to the committee at [josephpoitrasmetisbursary@gmail.com](mailto:josephpoitrasmetisbursary@gmail.com).

Congratulation, Brooklyn, and thank you to the Joseph Poitras Métis Bursary Committee for their dedication to supporting the continuing education of our Métis people. ∞



Brooklyn Gauthier is the inaugural recipient of the Joseph Poitras Bursary.



COVID-19 IN THE COMMUNITY

# MNO Great Lakes Métis Council gives back during Covid-19 Pandemic

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Councils are finding amazing, community-focused ways to use funds provided during the COVID-19 pandemic to support their citizens.

The Great Lakes Métis Council received \$5,000 of as part of the MNO's COVID-19 Emergency Financial Support programs funding.

The Great lakes Métis Council also received some financial support from local proponents such as Bruce Power and Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO),

With these funds the Council purchased two full-butchered cows.

According to the council, this was done to include fresh meat as part of care packages for citizens in need. The packages were delivered to more than 100 MNO citizens that were negatively affected by the pandemic. The packages included carrots, potatoes, onions, canned goods and cleaning supplies as well as the beef.

Community successes like this deserve to be highlighted as councils across the MNO are stepping up to help their citizens who are the most in need. ∞



The Great Lakes Métis Council used funds provided to MNO Community Councils for COVID-19 relief to support citizens by purchasing two fully butchered cows



President of the Atikokan and Area Métis Council Marlene Davidson.

## MNO citizen Marlene Davidson receives leadership award

When Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and President of the Atikokan and Area Métis Council Marlene Davidson learned she had been selected for the Influential Women of Northern Ontario Award she literally could not believe it.

“My initial thought was that someone might have been fooling around,” Davidson explains. “Then they confirmed, ‘Yes this is for sure.’ But because I’m so busy, I found I needed time to process it before it truly sunk in.”

The Influential Women of Northern Ontario Award recognizes outstanding community and regional accomplishments of local women. Davidson was honoured for her contributions to economic growth and the bettering of her community.

Davidson has long been a champion for women’s rights, having personally founded the Women in Mining (WIM) program to encourage higher representation of women in the traditionally male-dominated industry.

“Women can truly do anything,” she explains. “And that’s what I support. We want to see more women involved in mining, especially in the Treaty 3 area. And we see a lot of strong Métis women excel in these roles, because they’re dedicated and extremely hard workers.”

But according to Davidson, mining is just a small part of what needs to be done: “We really need to promote our culture and everything else that goes with us. It’s something that I came to late in life. But I believe we find out who we are every day. It never leaves us once we find out,” she says.

This desire to tap into her Métis ancestry while building community is what motivated Davidson to charter her local MNO Council, that originated in a mall basement more than ten years ago.

“We’ve moved to a new office these days,” she says. “But many of our council’s current members have been there since the beginning. Together we’ve made some really phenomenal strides, including our recent efforts towards future self-governance.”

Davidson’s is regularly involved in an array of diverse projects that she believes will better the community from chartering the Atikokan’s Children’s Entertainment Series, to serving more than 40 years as the chair and “keeper of the library.” Davidson is also a key figure on the local hospital board.

“I believe leadership means doing things you really believe in,” she explains. “I believe in libraries because they are equalizers in communities, the knowledge is there for people. And children, especially in small communities, need spaces they can go for learning, for experiences and entertainment –like dance or music or theatre. Finally, everyone deserves good healthcare.” ∞

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

Rates and security customized to promote Métis business success

Contributions for business plans and ongoing support

The financier of Choice for

Métis

Entrepreneurs in Ontario

Métis VOYAGEUR Development Fund

mvdvf.ca



## OUR MÉTIS HISTORY, OUR STORIES

# BORN UPON THE SOIL

## The Sault Ste. Marie and Environs Historic Métis Community

In the early nineteenth century, the northern shore of St. Mary's River was home to a thriving Métis community. The community remained strong even as settlement threatened their ancestral lands.

Métis had occupied the riverfront for generations and relied on their environment for fishing, farming, hunting, and trading. Land was divided using the seigneurial system of New France, with long narrow lots ending at the river. This system, also used by Métis in Red River, allowed each family to have access to the water, which was a necessity not only for farming and livestock, but transportation as well.

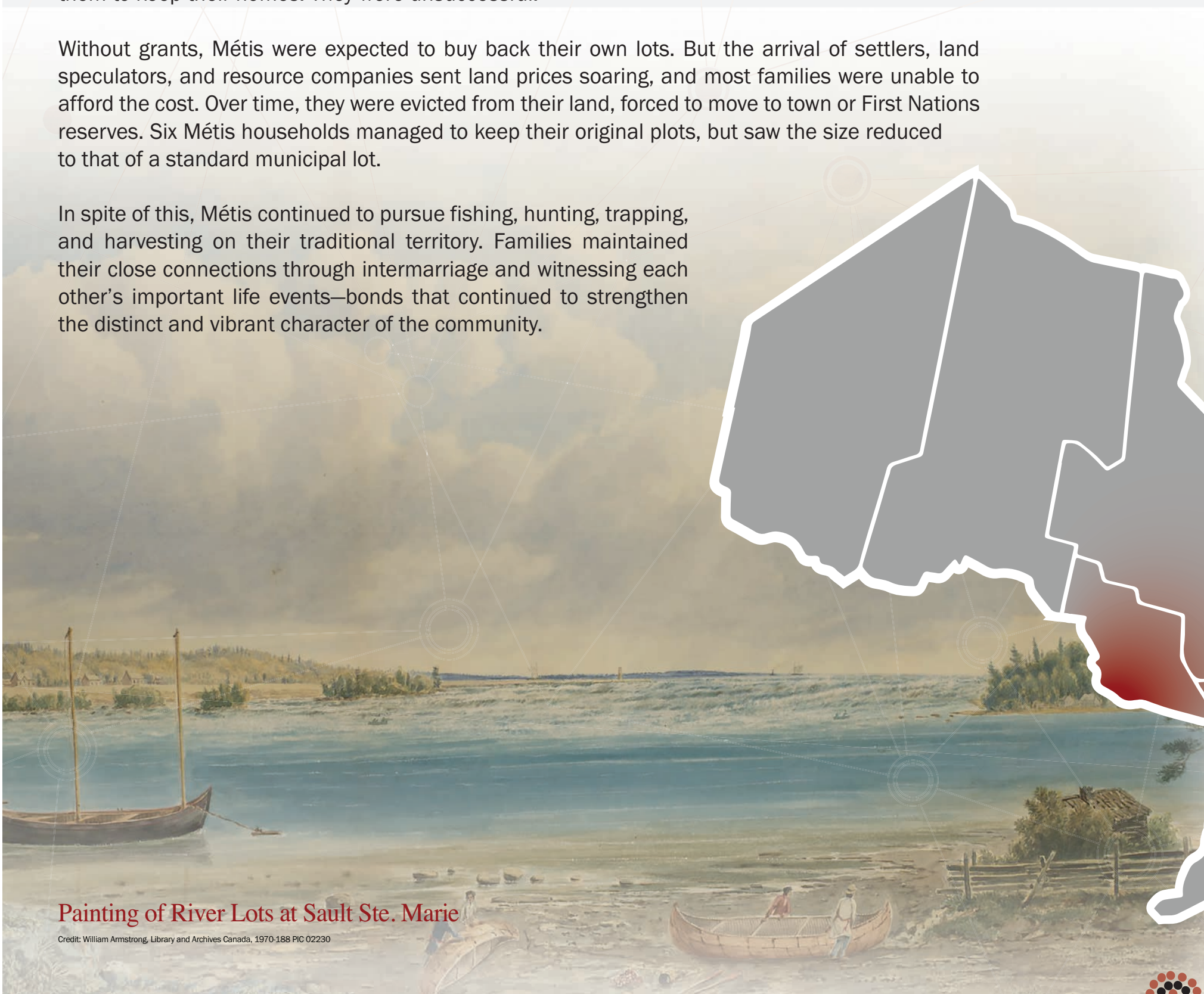
Despite the Métis community's long occupation of these lots, their claim to the land was ignored when the area was opened for settlement in the 1840s. The community mobilized, petitioning the government for protection. Métis reminded the government that they had been "born upon the soil" and requested free land grants that would allow them to keep their homes. They were unsuccessful.

Without grants, Métis were expected to buy back their own lots. But the arrival of settlers, land speculators, and resource companies sent land prices soaring, and most families were unable to afford the cost. Over time, they were evicted from their land, forced to move to town or First Nations reserves. Six Métis households managed to keep their original plots, but saw the size reduced to that of a standard municipal lot.

In spite of this, Métis continued to pursue fishing, hunting, trapping, and harvesting on their traditional territory. Families maintained their close connections through intermarriage and witnessing each other's important life events—bonds that continued to strengthen the distinct and vibrant character of the community.

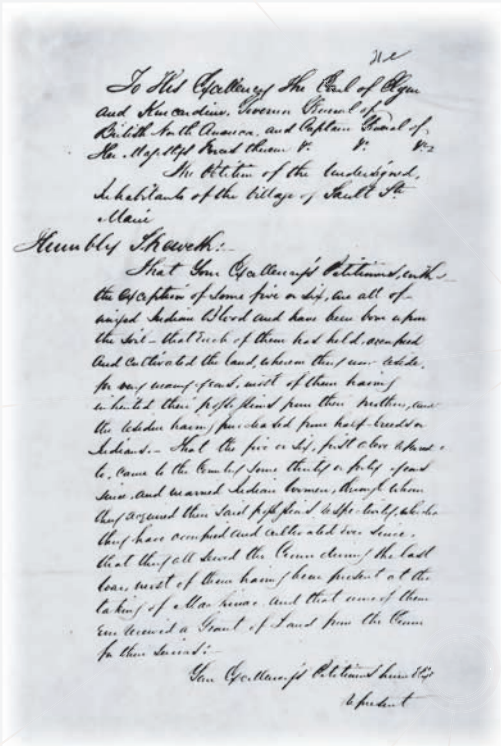
Painting of River Lots at Sault Ste. Marie

Credit: William Armstrong, Library and Archives Canada, 1970-188 PIC 02230





This is one of a series of historical vignettes that highlight Métis history in Ontario.  
Look for more in upcoming issues of *Métis Voyageur*.



### 1850 Petition

Fifty-five Métis heads of household signed this petition, arguing that they too were entitled to the land being surrendered under the Robinson Treaties because they were “born upon the soil” and “held, occupied, and cultivated the land” for many years.

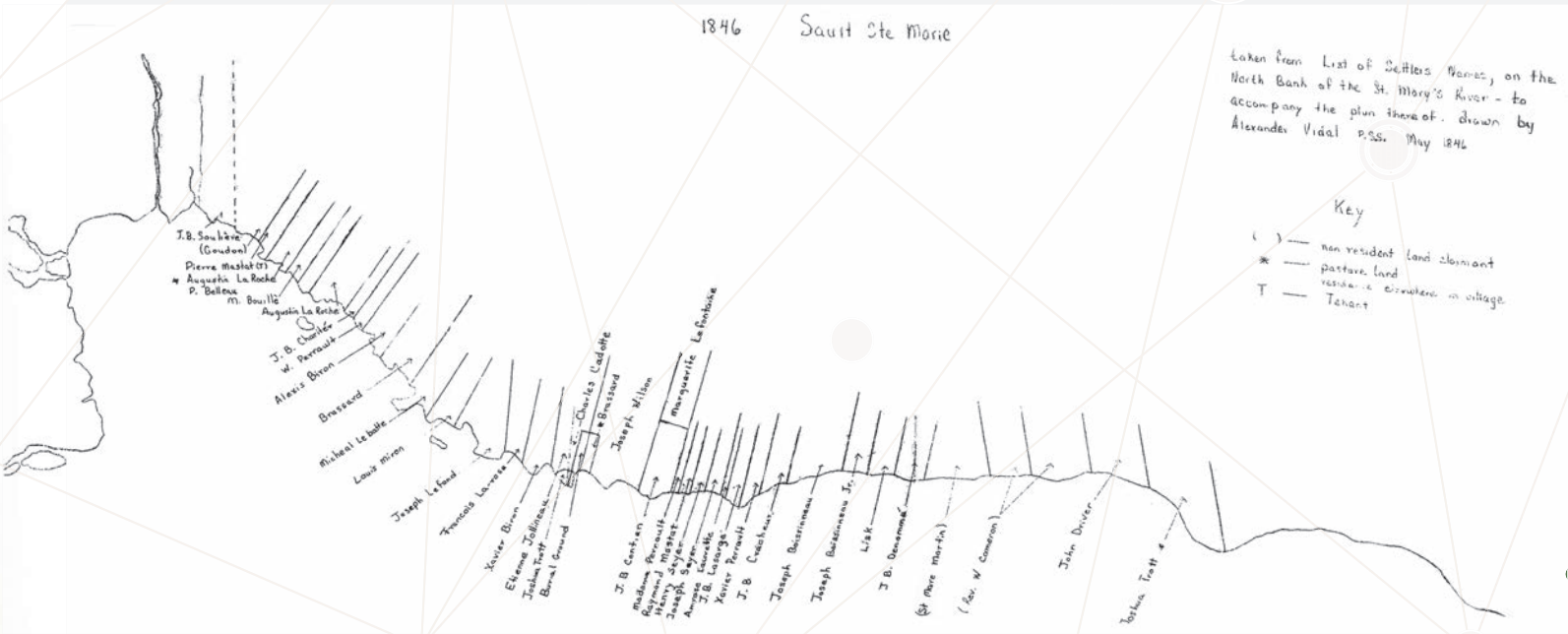
Credit: Library and Archives Canada, RG 1-L-3, Vol. 182-B



### Fishing in St. Mary's Rapids

Losing their river lots limited Métis families' access to St. Mary's Rapids, where they used nets and scoops to harvest whitefish for food and commerce.

Credit: Albertype Company / Library and Archives Canada / a032664



### Map of River Lots

Unlike the English system which used square townships to divide land, providing only some people with access to the water, the river lot system gave each family river access and fertile soil to maintain small gardens and cultivate oats, potatoes, and corn.

Credit: Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Archives





**AN AXE-CITING DAY!**  
Peterborough and District Wapiti council holds fun and educational workshops

An axe-throwing contest was held at the Peterborough Axe Club last winter. Congrats to MNO citizen and Councillor Luke Thompson who took home the prize! Read more about the Peterborough Wapiti and District Métis Council's activities at [bit.ly/2L7mTPS](https://bit.ly/2L7mTPS)



**PROUD TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS A PROSPEROUS FUTURE.**

Since we began operating a quarter-century ago at our Lac des Iles Mine northwest of Thunder Bay, Ontario, North American Palladium has become one of Canada's largest underground mining companies.

We are committed to maintaining open and respectful dialogue with all our Indigenous partners as we explore, innovate and grow sustainably.

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# Heroic actions of MNO citizen saves Ottawa man’s life

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and Special Constable Susanne Kelly was awarded the Ottawa Police Chief’s Commendation for heroic actions that saved the life of a local man in December 2019.

While on patrol, Kelly and her partner, Special Constable Michael Bednarek, encountered a distressed citizen urgently waving the pair down. Pulling over, the two witnessed an apparent suicide attempt in action, a local man had scaled a nearby bridge railing and was preparing to make a fatal jump.

Kelly was credited for her quick-thinking by utilizing available tools which secured the individual, while her partner engaged in conversation with the man, ultimately saving his life through their combined efforts.

The Chief’s Commendation is awarded to those whom have demonstrated “over the course of a single investigation, operation or incident outstanding skill, judgement, dedication or integrity in the performance



Special Constable Susanne Kelly (centre) received the Ottawa Police Chief’s Commendation for life-saving actions last year.



OPG’s Darlington nuclear station is being refurbished, to supply clean energy for another 30 years.

## Together we will #PowerON

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) produces about half of the electricity Ontarians rely on every day. Our power is clean, reliable and costs an average of 40% less than other generators.

Through the COVID-19 crisis, OPG has been helping to keep the lights on across the province, for homes, care facilities and hospitals. To help address the pandemic’s human impact, OPG has provided financial support to food banks across the province – including \$10,000 to Region 7 of the Métis Nation of Ontario – and donated 1 million surgical masks and other equipment to the health-care system.

OPG understands its responsibilities to safety and the environment. With 66 hydroelectric stations, 241 dams on 24 river systems, and four owned nuclear stations (two of them leased to Bruce Power), OPG values the well-being of its employees and its communities above all else.

OPG is committed to building and growing long-term, mutually beneficial working relationships with Métis and First Nations communities near our current and future operations in Ontario, in keeping with our Indigenous Relations Policy, posted online at [www.opg.com](http://www.opg.com)

Today, two-thirds of Ontario’s electricity

comes from nuclear energy, which emits virtually no carbon. This makes nuclear power a vital tool in the fight against climate change.

Nuclear energy produces a byproduct, radioactive waste, which OPG handles with care. Its Nuclear Waste Management division has “three pillars”:

- **Stewardship** – We manage the waste thoughtfully and carefully.
- **Lasting Solutions** – We are developing plans for permanent disposal, to protect people and the environment forever.
- **Peace of Mind** – We meet or exceed all regulatory requirements, so that Ontarians can enjoy the benefits of clean nuclear energy without worry.

OPG and its employees thank everyone who has helped tackle the COVID-19 challenge, from health-care workers to those who, at the height of the crisis, simply stayed at home, observed social-distancing and did their part to move the province toward recovery.

At OPG, we are doing our part – and together we will #PowerON.

**ONTARIOPOWER  
GENERATION**

# MNO Citizen appointed to Board of Museum of Science and Technology

From a young age, MNO citizen Matthew Lafrenière knew he wanted a career in the sciences. Having received his PhD in Chemistry and a professorship in the subject at University of Ottawa, it’s safe to say this goal was realized. Matthew’s ambitions went a step further when he became a Board of Trustee member at Ingenium Canada, the overseeing organization which manages Ottawa’s three science-oriented museums – including the National Museum of Science and Technology, Canadian Aviation Space Museum and the Museum of Agriculture.

Growing up in Penetanguishene, Matthew had an ambition to build a network of like-minded Métis and Indigenous youth and support them in realizing their academic and professional goals. He founded an organization for Indigenous people in science and engineering in 2017.

As a former MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator, Matthew recognized the value in building such networks.

“One of the great things about Infinite Reach was that it created connections between Métis students across Ontario and encouraged engagement from other Métis university students so that they might build more informal personal networks,” he describes.

“I think one of the biggest obstacles Indigenous youth face [in academic and professional pursuits] is a lack of mentorship,” he describes. “A lot of First Nation, Métis and Inuit come from lower socio-economic backgrounds and often lack the resources, support and networks. What I wanted to do was provide a space for students to ask specific questions about research or scholarships.”

Matthew’s commitment to increasing Indigenous representation is not limited to just STEM. He aspires to bring these values to his new appointment as a Trustee for Ingenium Canada, where he will assist in the overseeing and management of three museums: Canadian Aviation Space Museum, Museum of Science and Technology and the Museum of Agriculture. He believes bringing a different, Métis perspective, to the position was one of the strengths as an applicant.

Part of Matthew’s new objectives includes indigenizing elements of the museum content to highlight a more Indigenous facet to sciences. He also believes having more Indigenous content in these institutions and spaces will appeal to Indigenous youth and encourage them to pursue an education in hard sciences.

“One way to encourage students in STEM is having them see their voices and faces and experiences within Canada’s STEM culture, and you can do that through museums.” He explains. “Museums embody our successes, and our failures, and these three museums have a wonderful opportunity to do that, to highlight the contributions Indigenous Canadians have had towards innovation within Canadian culture and STEM.”



MNO Citizen Matthew Lafrenière has been appointed to the board of the National Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa.



## THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO AND THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

# Protecting Métis rights and way of life

The Canadian nuclear industry supports over 60,000 Canadian jobs and provides approximately 58% of Ontario's electricity. Canada's nuclear industry also provides radioisotopes for medical imaging and radiation sources for cancer therapies. While the nuclear industry provides benefits, some Métis citizens have concerns about how the industry could affect their rights and way of life. The Métis Nation of Ontario, through its Regional Consultation Committees and supported by the Lands, Resources, and Consultations Branch, continue to consult and engage in dialogue with the nuclear industry and regulators on a wide range of proposed and ongoing nuclear projects and initiatives throughout Ontario to protect Métis rights and way of life.

In the last two years, the Lands, Resources, and Consultations Branch has significantly increased its capacity to support continued consultation and engagement with Ontario's nuclear industry and its regulator. The Lands, Resources, and Consultations staff

work to review plans, policies and projects with the potential to impact Métis rights and way of life in areas where Regional Consultation Protocols are established and advise and support the relevant Regional Consultation Committees.

Under these protocols, the Regional Consultation Committees identify where consultation is required, and, if so, how consultation should take place. Land, Resources, and Consultation staff then work to review and analyze documents, arrange meetings, community information sessions, traditional knowledge and land use studies, third party reviews, and negotiations as needed.

Through this process, the MNO's Regional Consultation Committees have signed agreements with Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, Bruce Power, Ontario Power Generation, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization to support engagement and consultation on Nuclear projects and operations. •



The MNO Region 7 Consultation Committee signs an Engagement Plan with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

### The NWMO and MNO

Learning together

AUGUST 2020

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is responsible for implementing Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel in a manner that protects both people and the environment.

## Now and Into The Future

The NWMO values the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) involvement in Canada's Plan. Since 2010, we have engaged with MNO citizens by attending MNO Annual General Assemblies and hosting information sessions across the province to answer questions and learn from Métis communities.

Dialogue with communities is central to the work we do to advance Canada's plan. As the siting process advances, we have broadened and deepened our engagement activities. Most recently, we executed capacity agreements with MNO Region 1 and MNO Region 7 that resulted in Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Studies, meetings with regional Consultation Committees,

and meaningful dialogue with Métis citizens. Additionally, the NWMO has supported numerous MNO community cultural events as well as a Youth/Elder Knowledge Exchange.

As we continue to chart a steady course toward the identification of a preferred site for a deep geological repository, the NWMO looks to strengthen its relationship with the MNO—now and into the future.



**Top:** Ben Belfadhel with MNO President Margaret Froh and the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations during the 2019 MNO Annual General Assembly.  
**Bottom left:** NWMO President and CEO, Laurie Swami with MNO Region 1 Regional Councillor Theresa Stenlund and MNO Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau during the 2018 MNO Annual General Assembly in Peterborough.  
**Bottom right:** NWMO Vice President of Site Selection, Ben Belfadhel walking with MNO veterans and dignitaries during the 2019 MNO Annual General Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie.



## We are Canada's Nuclear Regulator

As an agent of the Government of Canada and as Canada's nuclear regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) recognizes and understands the importance of consulting and building relationships with First Nations, Métis and Inuit in Canada, including the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO).

- CNSC's Mandate:
- protecting the health, safety and security of Canadians
  - protecting the environment
  - communicating objective scientific, technical and regulatory information to the public
  - ensuring the peaceful use of nuclear materials in Canada and abroad
  - committed to meaningful consultation and engagement with Indigenous communities, including through collaborating on incorporating Indigenous Knowledge and ensuring nuclear activities are not adversely impacting the rights of Indigenous peoples

- The CNSC regulates all nuclear activities in Canada including:
- Uranium mining
  - Nuclear power plants
  - Nuclear waste management
  - Research
  - Medical applications
  - Transport of radioactive substances

### How we regulate and ensure safety

Before anyone can undertake a nuclear activity or project in Canada, they must first apply to the CNSC for a licence. The independent Commission Tribunal evaluates every licence application and holds public hearings to hear from all interested Canadians to ensure that all required measures are in place to protect the health of Canadians and the environment before making a decision to grant a licence for a nuclear project or activity. Even after a licence is given, CNSC staff continue to monitor by:

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NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION  
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

We welcome your questions. Please forward your questions to [askthenwmo@nwmo.ca](mailto:askthenwmo@nwmo.ca) or call us at 1.866.249.6966. Find us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

For more information about the NWMO and Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel, please visit: [www.nwmo.ca](http://www.nwmo.ca)

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## THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO AND THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

# Working Together

**B**ruce Power has worked collaboratively with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to fully understand MNO issues and concerns and over the years our relationship with Region 7 Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Committee (GBTTCC) has grown and flourished. We consider this to be a strong and productive partnership and are extremely proud of it.

We have been working jointly with MNO to develop an environmental monitoring plan. Based on ongoing dialogue, this monitoring plan will include a review and evaluation of MNO valued components and areas of concern and development of a monitoring plan for areas and species of interest related to thermal discharges. The plan will then be implemented and an adaptive management approach applied for continuous improvement. A process has been developed to communicate thermal compliance events with MNO.

### COVID 19 Supports We're here for you

We are living in unprecedented times and it is important that Métis citizens can continue to count on Bruce Power

to provide the electricity needs to power its hospitals, health-care facilities, clinics, and communities across Ontario. It is also important that the local MNO communities can continue to count on us to support the many programs that rely on Bruce Power support. Our Indigenous Community Investment Fund is geared towards supporting initiatives and projects within the local Indigenous communities. Over the years, we have supported a number of MNO projects and initiatives that range from cultural activities to youth programming. Over the past few months, we have been working very closely with MNO Region 7 leadership and providing them the flexibility to redirect those funds into areas that they're designating as a high priority to fight COVID-19. In addition to this, we have provided PPE and

hand sanitizer to assist those front line workers serving the MNO community.

Bruce Power has been a strong community partner as evidenced by our gold certification in the Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program. The program is a certification program that confirms corporate performance in Aboriginal relations and is the flagship program of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB).

### Medical Isotopes

For more than 30 years, the four reactors at Bruce Power's Bruce B generating station have been a reliable Cobalt-60 supply for Nordion, an Ottawa-based company. Bruce Power's Cobalt-60 helps to sterilize 40 per cent of the world's single-use medical devices, including sutures, syringes, masks, gloves and more. Bruce Power also produces medical-grade Cobalt-60 that is used in radiation-based cancer treatments, as well as other diseases in Canada and around the world.

The medical isotopes supplied by Bruce Power are vital resources to the medical community, and the company continues to seek ways to expand the types of isotopes it produces. An agree-

ment signed in 2019 brought together Bruce Power, Kinectrics and Framatome with group of a biotechnology and radiopharmaceutical companies to collaborate on establishing Ontario as a global hub for medical isotopes including research, development, production, processing and export.

By joining forces with the health care sector and research facilities, nuclear energy producers like Bruce Power can continue delivering life-saving medical isotopes to hospitals around the world – improving the quality of life of millions of people in the process.

Four of Bruce Power's reactors produce Cobalt-60, an isotope which helps to sterilize 40 per cent of the world's medical devices, and treat complex forms of cancer – including brain tumours – through non-invasive procedures like the Gamma Knife.

As we continue to find ways to leverage our reactors in producing isotopes, we are excited about the production of Lutetium-177, a key isotope used to treat prostate cancer. The production is expected to be enabled at Bruce Power as soon as 2022 thanks to a partnership with Kinectrics and Framatome to advance this innovative project.

**About Bruce Power** --- Formed in 2001, Bruce Power is an electricity company based in Bruce County, Ontario. We are powered by our people. Our 4,200 employees are the foundation of our accomplishments and are proud of the role they play in safely delivering clean, reliable, low-cost nuclear power to families and businesses across the province. Bruce Power has worked hard to build strong roots in Ontario and is committed to protecting the environment and supporting the communities in which we live. Learn more at [www.brucepower.com](http://www.brucepower.com) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube.

**BrucePower**  
Innovation at work

# We are Canada's Nuclear Regulator

continued from page 18

- Inspecting nuclear facilities to ensure that they follow regulations and operate safely
- Visiting communities to take samples from the environment, and test them in the CNSC's state-of-the-art laboratory

### HOW WE PROTECT THE HEALTH OF CANADIANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) was established to complement existing and ongoing compliance activities around nuclear facilities.

By sampling public areas

around these facilities, we measure and analyze the amount of radiological and hazardous substances and compare them to applicable standards and guidelines.

The CNSC values input from interested communities, stakeholders and Indigenous peoples including the MNO, to ensure that traditional knowledge and values are reflected in the program, including traditional medicines, berries and species of interest. All of the sampling results are posted on CNSC's Independent Environment Monitoring Program interactive webpage: (<https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/resources/maps-of-nuclear-facilities/iemp/index-iemp.cfm>).

### SUCCEEDING TOGETHER IN



### THE SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

On December 17, 2019, the CNSC and the MNO, in the spirit of collaboration and partnership, signed a Terms of Reference for long-term engagement, to formalize our relationship and provide a forum through which we can collabo-

rate and address areas of interest or concern raised by the MNO regarding CNSC-regulated facilities and activities within the MNO's regions and traditional territories.

This was an important milestone many years in the making and we are very proud of our evolving relationship with the MNO. Moving forward, the CNSC is committed to continuing to seek opportunities to strengthen our partnership and work with the MNO to address any concerns regarding the nuclear sector, and to ensure the safe and effective regulation of nuclear energy and materials in Canada.

### WE STRIVE TO BE A TRUSTED REGULATOR

**Your voice matters.  
Get involved!**

Whenever a major licensing decision for a nuclear activity needs to be made, your voice matters. At any time, you are encouraged to have your say by sharing your views with the Commission about a nuclear facility or project. Contact us at:

**1-800-668-5284** (in Canada)  
or **613-995-5894** or via email to:  
**CNSC.info.CCSN@canada.ca.**

Safety is everyone's business and a shared priority.

**[www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca)**  
We will never compromise  
safety



Canadian Nuclear  
LaboratoriesLaboratoires Nucléaires  
Canadiens

## BETTER BUSINESS THROUGH BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS.

Let's work together to make the most of every opportunity.

At CNL, we know that a strong relationship with partners in Canada's supply chain is key to our success. CNL's Supplier Diversity Agenda includes a commitment to the development of our Indigenous, small, medium, and local businesses, and we have recently taken steps to make connecting with CNL easier than ever.

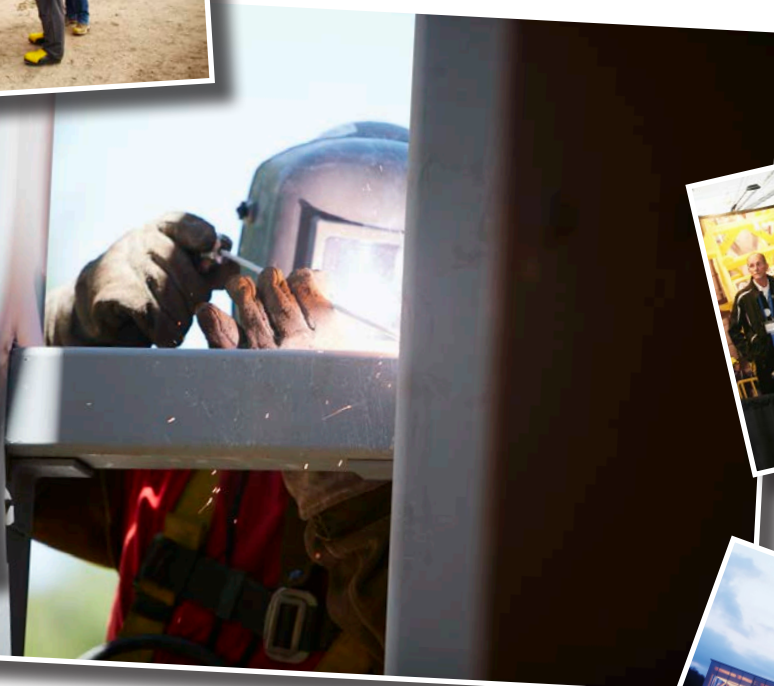
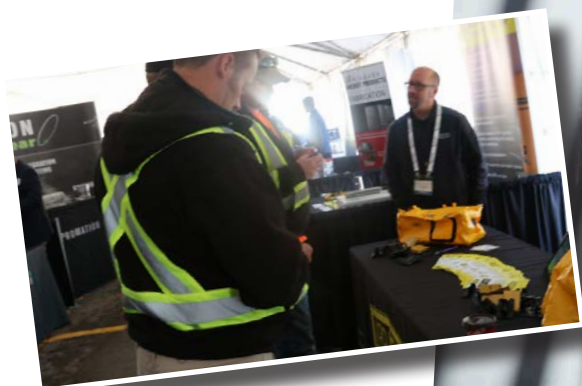
Check out our online Vendor Portal at [www.cnl.ca/vendors](http://www.cnl.ca/vendors) to register your business, or stay on top of upcoming procurements.

## DE MEILLEURES AFFAIRES GRÂCE À L'ÉTABLISSEMENT DE MEILLEURES RELATIONS.

Travaillons ensemble pour tirer le meilleur parti de chaque occasion.

Aux Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens (LNC), nous sommes conscients que des relations solides avec les partenaires de la chaîne d'approvisionnement du Canada sont la clé de notre succès. Le programme de diversité des fournisseurs des LNC comprend un engagement quant au développement de nos entreprises autochtones, petites, moyennes et locales, et nous avons récemment pris des mesures pour qu'il soit plus facile que jamais de créer des liens avec les LNC.

Consultez notre Portail des Fournisseurs en ligne à l'adresse [www.cnl.ca/vendors](http://www.cnl.ca/vendors) pour inscrire votre entreprise, ou vous tenir au courant des prochains projets d'approvisionnement.



[www.cnl.ca/vendors](http://www.cnl.ca/vendors)



# NEWS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED



## Tri-Council cooperation results in Joint Declaration

A historic meeting of the Métis Governments of Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan took place in Edmonton, AB in January 2020. The meeting marked the first time elected representatives of the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), and the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) have assembled together since signing *Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreements* (MGRSA) with Canada in June 2019. Increasingly the MNO, MNA, and MN-S have been working together to advance common interests trilaterally and to develop shared solutions to advance reconciliation, self-governance, and community well-being.

Tri-council Joint Declaration: [bit.ly/3kbBpqm](https://bit.ly/3kbBpqm)



## Métis citizens aspire to become fiddle aficionados

The Toronto and York Métis Council (TYMC) completed a six-session workshop on Métis fiddling in October 2019. Led by Alicia Blore, Education Officer at the MNO, and with fiddles provided by the TYMC and the Oshawa and Durham Métis Council, the aspiring fiddlers began with weekly, hour-long classes. Blore gave a history of the fiddle and its ties to Métis culture before moving on to technical aspects. Fiddlers learned to identify parts of the bow and fiddle, the proper form, how to read sheet music, and more.

"For some participants, this is the first time they've even held a fiddle. It's been amazing to see how far they've come in just six weeks," Blore explained.



## Fun in the sun at Camp Kitchikewana

Last summer 27 intrepid members of the Georgian Bay Métis (GBMC) Youth Council attended Camp Kitchikewana on Beausoleil Island. The Youth Council camp offers youth ages 5 to 15 the opportunity to experience traditional Métis culture and way-of-life first hand. Camp Kitchikewana is a YMCA run camp inside the Georgian Bay Islands National Park. For the ninth year in a row the camp brought together Indigenous youth from around Georgian Bay, Muskoka, Parry Sound, Gravenhurst, and the surrounding areas. Big thanks to the Georgian Bay Métis Council. The Council would like to thank Ontario Power Generation for their generous support.

-- submitted by **Larry Ferris**



## Windsor workshop honours victims of residential schools

The Windsor Essex Kent Métis Community Council (WEK-MCC), along with MNO staff held a special beading workshop in their community to honour Orange Shirt Day in September 2019. The workshop was led by Marie Pasquatch and Kat of Culture Shock jewelry who instructed participants in the making of a unique a beaded pin. Orange Shirt Day is marked on September 30 each year to honour the children and families affected by Residential Schools and its lasting impacts.

Since 2013, the donning of an orange shirt has become symbolic of Indigenous resistance and the wearing of an orange shirt (or pin) encourages conversation and education on the Residential Schools at a national level.



## IVÈR: Métis youth in Thunder Bay for winter cultural camp

Métis youth from all corners of Ontario made their way to Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay to celebrate their Métis culture during the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Ivèr Youth Cultural Camp from Feb. 1 to 4, 2020.

Nineteen students between the ages of 15 and 17 spent three days in Northern Ontario, engaged in activities rooted in their Métis way of life while also getting a glimpse into the history of the Canadian Fur trade.

The students spent time hiking, fishing, beading and even dancing as their Métis ancestors would have in the early 1800s.

VIDEO and more: [bit.ly/2PqnEG8](https://bit.ly/2PqnEG8)



## MNO's first ever Métis Early Learning Family Camp

Métis early learners, ages three to six, and their families were able to share in the vitality of their Métis culture against a stunning backdrop of snow-capped wilderness at the MNO's inaugural Métis Early Learning Camp from January 23 to 26, 2020. Nine Métis families traveled to the Canadian Ecology Centre (CEC) near Mattawa, ON where they spent several days engaging in indoor and outdoor activities, and their nights sleeping in individual cabins. Programming was designed for both children and families with a rich agenda that met the needs of both.

VIDEO and more: <https://bit.ly/3ftjqbl>



## MNOWC wins Lt Gov's award for Community Service

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is delighted to announce that the MNO Women's Council (MNOWC) has been awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Community Leadership. A formal awards ceremony and reception was held at the Legislative Building in Queen's Park on Feb. 20.

VIDEO and more: [bit.ly/2Pw2BSI](https://bit.ly/2Pw2BSI)



## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day marked at Juno Beach

On June 6, 2019 MNO Veterans' Council members Doug Woods, Shelly Claus, and Paul Pirie traveled to Juno Beach in France to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day and the landing of Allied forces in Normandy. The anniversary event in Juno brought over 30,000 individuals from across the globe together including dozens of World War II Veterans.

More at: [www.metisnation.org](https://www.metisnation.org)



## Métis WWII veteran Wilfred Rochon honoured

A presentation was organized by the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council (MNOVC) with President Brian Black and past Chair Shelly Claus on August 18, 2019. The event extended an invitation to President David Chartrand of the Manitoba Métis Federation to present a cheque of \$20,000 to 92-year-old World War Two veteran, Wilfred Rochon, in recognition of his service. The ceremony took place in Windsor, ON.





# BRINGING NATURAL GAS TO SOUTHERN BRUCE

## WE'VE BROKEN GROUND!

EPCOR is a Canadian-based company with more than 125 years of utility experience. We're proud to provide electricity, natural gas and water services to approximately 2 million people in Canada and the U.S.

This past summer, we broke ground to bring natural gas to communities within the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, the Municipality of Kincardine and the Township of Huron-Kinloss.

Between now and 2021, we will be working to build the distribution system and connect customers to natural gas in Chesley, Paisley, Inverhuron, Tiverton, Kincardine, Lurgan Beach, Point Clark, Ripley and Lucknow, as well as the Bruce Energy Centre.

### PROJECT AREA

Construction is taking place over three phases. From July to December of 2019, EPCOR, along with its construction partner, AECON, and its environmental consultant, Stantec, began Phase 1 and installed 57 km of eight inch steel pipeline from Dornoch to the Bruce Energy Centre.

### We're pleased to share some of the highlights from Phase 1 of the project:

- Consulted with First Nations and Métis during the planning of the project and through Phase 1
- Engaged with landowners and stakeholders who had questions about our project
- Employed 170 workers who logged 150,000 work-hours without any workplace injuries
- Carried out a comprehensive Environmental Protection Plan
- Conducted a migratory bird survey to identify nesting areas and avoid tree disruptions
- Used construction techniques to minimize disturbances along wetlands and water course crossings
- Organized environmental awareness training with all field workers before construction to identify possible species at risk and prevent the spread of invasive weeds
- Hired a third-party qualified environmental field inspector to conduct weekly inspections of the work site to ensure environmental measures were in place

### PREPARING FOR PHASE 2

We are diligently working on planning for Phases 2 and 3 to ensure we maintain the highest level of regard for health, safety and the environment. We are currently working on finalizing the details for the remaining steel pipe installation and plastic distribution networks within the communities to minimize environmental impacts. Our archaeological assessments and permit submissions continue, along with preparations for restarting construction in early 2020.

### INTERESTED IN NATURAL GAS FOR YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS?

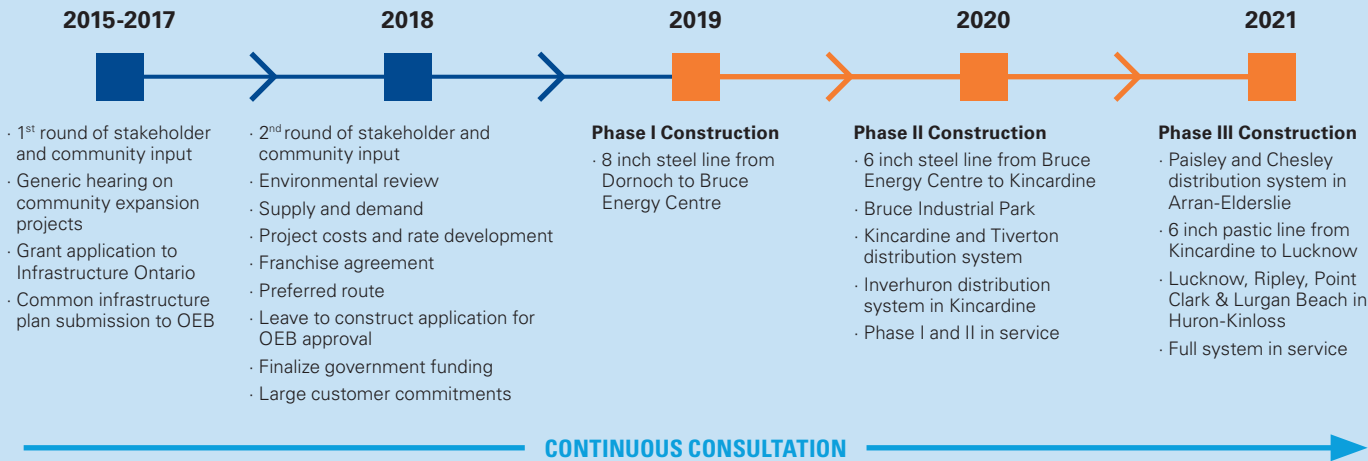
We currently have approval to provide natural gas to certain areas in the municipalities of Arran-Elderslie, Kincardine and Huron-Kinloss. However, we will seek approval to serve customers in additional areas should future expansions be warranted. If you would like to register your interest in receiving natural gas, please contact us.

With 3,400 employees, EPCOR is proud to have been recognized for our leadership on environment and social responsibility, and providing a healthy, safe and rewarding work environment for our employees.

### CONTACT US

Interested in learning more about natural gas? Have a question about the project? Don't hesitate to contact us.

Phone: 1-888-765-2256  
Email: [gas@epcor.com](mailto:gas@epcor.com)  
Visit: [epcor.com/southernbruce](http://epcor.com/southernbruce)







## MÉTIS VETERANS

### WWII Métis Veteran receives thanks in Sudbury

World War II Métis Veteran William Hurteau received thanks from the Métis Nation, a \$20,000 Recognition Payment and an apology from the Government of Canada in Sudbury, Ont. on June 2, 2020.

The Recognition Payment and apology are part of the Métis Veterans Legacy Program established in partnership with the Trudeau government to commemorate forgotten Métis soldiers who have fought for Canada.

Métis Nation of Ontario Veteran Council (MNOVC) President Brian Black and recently elected Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Chair Hank Rowlinson were on hand to present a message from President Margaret Froh as part of the ceremony.

Bill joined the Canadian Army Medical Corp in 1942 when he was 16 years old. He lied about his age in order to join and fight earlier and did so without his parent's knowledge.

Bill spent his 17th birthday in London during the Battle of Britain. His group landed on Juno Beach with the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944. Bill spent his 18th birthday on the battlefields of France and served throughout the European theatre in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

Near the end of war after Germany's surrender, Bill volunteered to join the Pacific campaign against Japan to fight alongside Canada's American allies. However, before he could be redeployed to the Pacific, Japan surrendered.

Bill says he had seen the human toll of war and what he saw during his time in combat left him with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Not until the Vietnam War in the 1970s was PTSD properly diagnosed and treated. It was initially known as "shell shock."

Bill met and married his wife, Nina in 1945 in Ottawa. They soon moved to Sudbury where Bill worked for the International Nickel Company (INCO) for the next 35 years. Nina passed away in 2015 and Bill has two children, David and Patricia-Jean as well as four Grandchildren, eight Great-Grandchildren and three Great-Great Grandchildren. ∞



William (Bill) Hurteau

### Métis Veteran Alcide Duval recognized

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to recognize Métis Veteran Alcide Joseph Alzeur Duval, who was honoured in a special ceremony in Midland, ON on July 17, 2020.

In a long-awaited gesture, the federal government of Canada issued a formal apology to Métis Veterans in September 2019. This acknowledgment sought to honour and bring closure to Métis Veterans who often experienced neglect and indifference when readjusting to civilian life in Canada.

Alcide Duval, who served as a rifleman in the Canadian Royal Regiment during WWII, and is the 26th Métis Veteran in Canada to be formally recognized as part of a nation-wide effort of recognition and appreciation owed for years of service.

Guests from across the province traveled to (safely) witness the ceremony; including MNO President Margaret Froh and MNO Veterans Council (MNOVC) President Brian Black, who delivered the formal presentation on behalf of Métis Nation Veterans Affairs Minister, David Chartrand.

During Saturday's ceremony the attending leadership expressed gratitude to Duval for his wartime efforts, delivered the formal statement of apology from Canada, and finally provided Duval a \$20,000 Recognition Payment as reconciliatory compensation under the Métis Veterans Legacy Program.

"We owe these heroic individuals a debt that can never be repaid, expressed President Froh. "After so many of our people suffered in silence when returning from the war, today their voices are finally being heard. The voices and recognition of our honoured Metis Veterans play an essential role in our Metis communities, and we are forever grateful for their sacrifices. It's important we hear don't take days like today for granted, as we honour Veteran Duval and this very well-deserved recognition."

Duval, a previous recipient of the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, and the France-Germany Star, was gifted the Métis National Council's ceremonial sash and a hand-crafted beaded broach during Saturday's presentation. ∞



Alcide Duval

### WWII Métis Veteran Leonard Landrigan honoured

Métis World War 2 Métis Veteran, Leonard Landrigan received long over-due recognition on July 29, 2020 in Midland, ON.

Landrigan is the 26th Métis WWII Veteran, the tenth from Ontario, to be identified by the Métis Veterans Legacy Program established in partnership with the federal government.

The Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council (MNOVC) President Brian Black and MNO President Margaret Froh were on hand to honour the Mr. Landrigan.

"We were able to present Veteran Leonard Landrigan with a cheque and an apology from Prime Minister Trudeau and the Government of Canada for not having properly recognized Métis servicemen and servicewomen following the Second World War," said President Froh.

"We had a very lovely opportunity to speak with Mr. Landrigan and present him with a few gifts, and he was especially delighted to hear about all the work that has gone in to help recognize Métis Veterans," said President Froh.

As part of the Métis Veterans Legacy Program, WWII veterans receive a formal apology from the Government of Canada and a Recognition Payment of \$20,000. Mr. Landrigan was also presented with a ceremonial Métis sash and a traditional hand-crafted beaded broach.

Mr. Landrigan served as a seaman in the Navy during WWII and sailed on nine different ships. He is also the cousin of Métis Veteran Alcide Duval, who was honoured in a similar ceremony in July. ∞

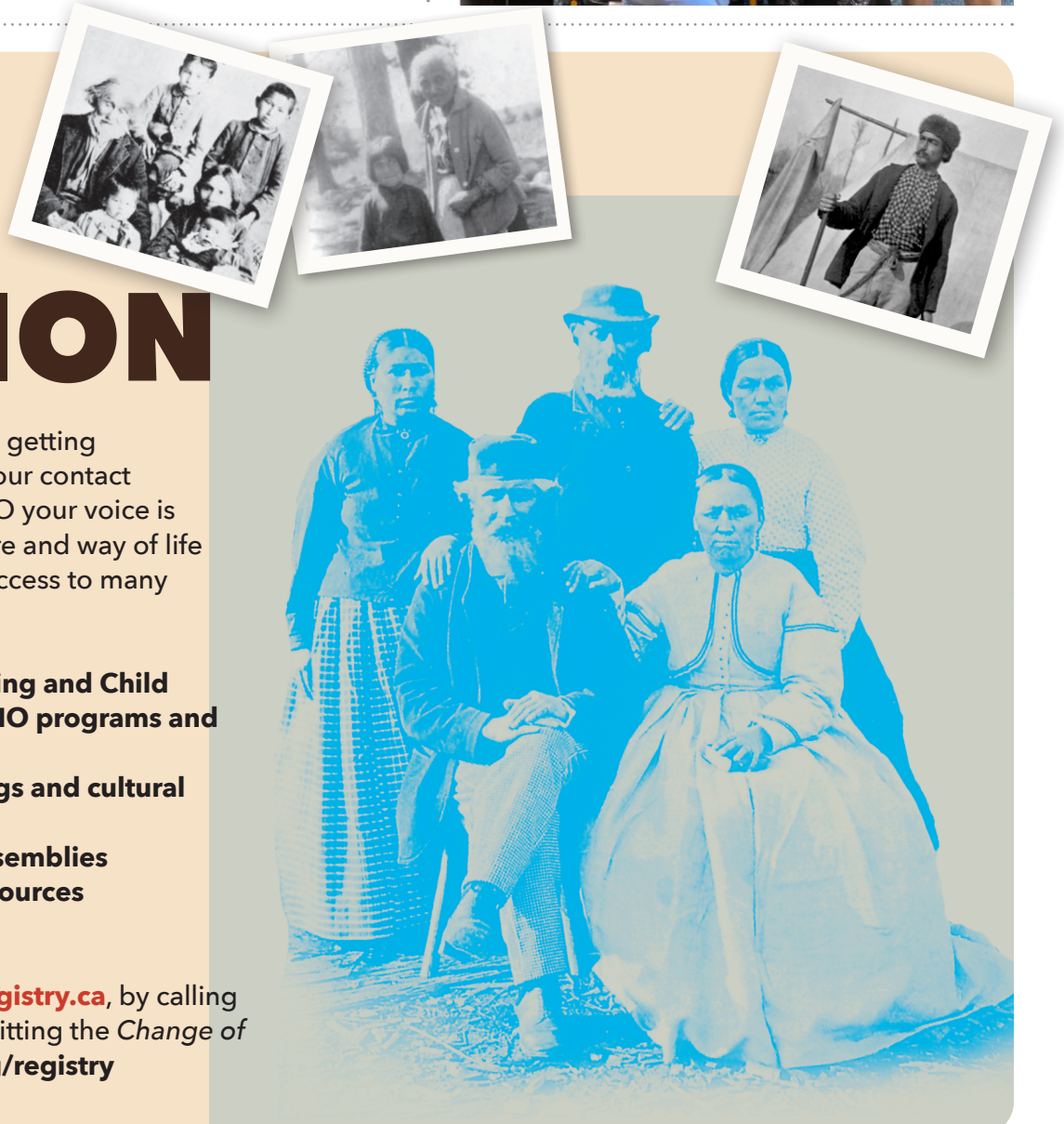


## UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have moved or changed your name, or if you are not getting communications from the MNO it is important to update your contact information with the MNO Registry! As a citizen of the MNO your voice is important and you are part of ensuring Métis history, culture and way of life remains strong in Ontario. Your citizenship card provides access to many amazing opportunities:

- **Funding for Post-Secondary Education, Early Learning and Child Care, COVID-19 emergency supports and other MNO programs and services:**
- **Participation in MNO activities, community meetings and cultural events**
- **Voting in MNO elections and at Annual General Assemblies**
- **The Métis Voyageur newsletter and other MNO resources**
- **Be a part of our collective path to Self-Government**

Update your contact information by emailing [info@mnoregistry.ca](mailto:info@mnoregistry.ca), by calling the MNO Registry at **1-855-798-1006** or fill out and submitting the *Change of Address Form* at the MNO website: [www.metisnation.org/registry](http://www.metisnation.org/registry)





MÉTIS YOUTH



The MNO's Summer Youth Employment Program is looks a little different this year as participants will be working from home.

COVID-19 IN OUR COMMUNITY

# MNO Summer Youth Program goes online during COVID-19

The Metis Nation of Ontario's Summer Youth Program is back this year though as the world takes the necessary precautions against COVID-19, the program is a little different this year.

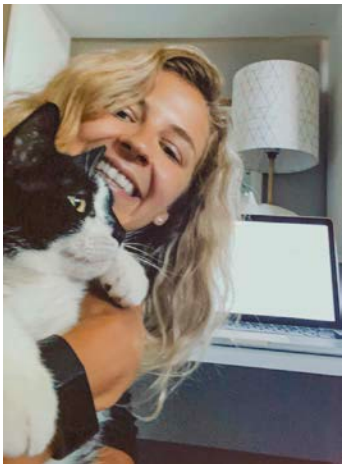
As the youth prepare to work from home this year MNO staff and supervisors in the Education and Training department have been hard at work to create a plan to help these students achieve the same goals and connections with their cultures. This all while being spread across the province.

While this has drastically changed the logistics of the program, Tammy Webb at the Education and Training branch says this has actually allowed for expansion and development of the initiative.

"Working remotely is the key to being able to roll out the program for 2020," said Webb

"It has also afforded the MNO the ability to hire 30 Metis youth. In years past the students had to be formally located at office sites that could accommodate additional staff and we would usually only be able to hire 18 to 20 students."

As the program shifts to fully remote this year the youth have been given tasks that reflect the new dig-



Samantha Lavallee, seen here with her coworker 'Michael' is one this year's Summer Youth Program cohort.

ital-focused landscape we find ourselves in now that we are all working from home.

This year we have put the students together in teams spread across the Province and provided them with the technical equipment to connect via Zoom, to be creative and work on short video clips relative to Metis culture," said Webb.

"Something new this year that we are calling 'The Metis Minute.' These

*I believe that our SYP team will have a great summer since we will have the opportunity to get creative*

minutes will be modeled after the Canadian Heritage but it will be Metis specific."

Webb goes on to say that these videos will be developed with information that is available on the MNO website but in a format that is brief and to the point.

"This summer should be fun and exciting."

Other videos the youth will be tasked in making include step-by-

steps for beading, finger weaving and other traditional crafts.

As the program moves forward throughout the summer safety will be the top priority for the MNO and its staff which includes youth in the Summer Youth Program.

As of right now, all of our employees are working from home following recommendations from the Government of Ontario.

If this changes before the summer ends this will have no effect on the youth in the program as they will remain working from home regardless.

The MNO believes this is the best option to keep our youth safe.

While this is a much different way of doing things from past years the youth are still excited not only to work creatively with the MNO but also learn more about and become closer with their roots.

Janelle Masicotte is a returning youth to the program this year and she says she understands the need to change it up this year and she's excited to see what's in store.

"I believe that our SYP team will have a great summer since we will have the opportunity to get creative, have fun and jump out of our comfort zone with the work that we will be doing," said Masicotte.



Morgan Turcotte is one of the 30 participants in this year's Summer Youth Program.

"I strongly believe that the MNO has been doing exceptional work for the virtual transition and even though this is a learning process for everyone, the staff is always ready to help each other which makes everything so much easier."

The program has evolved even over the last few years as the focus has shifted from a historical focus to a more contemporary one. ∞



# FAMILY & MILESTONES

## MNO mourns loss of Métis Veteran Joe Paquette

Today we are deeply saddened to report the loss of a beloved Métis community member and former Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council (MNOVC) President, Joseph Paquette.

As a dedicated and active advocate for the Métis community, Joe devoted many years to both furthering the aspirations of Métis youth and elevating the voices of our veterans.

“Joe was a very proud Veteran who worked closely with Veterans groups including National Aboriginal Veterans Association to ensure that services and recognition of Veteran contributions to Canada were never forgotten,” shared current MNOVC President Brian Black.

Joe was born in Kapuskasing, Ontario. In 1966, he joined the Lincoln and Welland Regiment reserves and in 1967 transferred to the Queen’s Own Rifles of

“*Joe Paquette will surely be missed by a number of people both young and old, however his lively spirit will live inside all of us*”

Canada, 1st Battalion regular force. Joe served as a rifleman in the military for several years, before his honourable discharge from the Canadian Armed Forces in December 1970. That year he went on to attend Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, Ontario. In 2012, Joe was elected as President of the MNOVC, a post he held for many years.

In February 2014, Joe was the recipient of the 2013 Lieutenant Governor’s Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement and in October 2014, he received the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation for work done with the MNO Veterans Council. This past July, Joe was bestowed with the “Order of the Métis Nation” by the Métis National Council. The “Order of the Métis Nation” recognizes the positive impact a recipient has made in moving forward the rights and aspirations of Métis people.”

“Joe Paquette will surely be missed by a number of people both young and old, however his lively spirit will live inside all of us,” expressed Brian Black. “Your work is done, Joe. Rest easy.”

The MNO extends its deepest condolences to Joe’s family and friends, and wishes them strength in these difficult times. ∞



Joe Paquette

### OBITUARY ~

## Brad Maggrah remembered for tireless fight for Métis rights

One of the founding members of the Métis Nation of Ontario, Brad Maggrah has died.

Brad spent the better part of the last three decades training and supporting Métis citizens across the province. Brad was one of the first Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Councillors for Region 2 and served on the PCMNO from 1995 - 1999.

In 1995, he was a member of the team negotiating with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) for hunting rights for Métis.

While a PCMNO Councillor, Brad helped to establish community councils in Kenora and Dryden, as well as the Northwest Métis Council in Wabigoon.

At the same time, Brad was also the Vice-President of the Dryden Community Centre.

His father, a Métis born in Wakaw Saskatchewan, (near Batoche) later settled in Wabigoon where Brad and his six siblings were born and raised.

Brad began a 20-year career in logging at the Dryden Paper Company, as a log hauler. Then, in 1973, he moved to Grand Cache, Alberta to work in the coal mines, operating heavy equipment.

When Brad returned to Ontario he combined his logging skills with his knowledge of heavy equipment, and worked as a logging contractor in Sioux Lookout.

Brad then moved to Ear Falls where he expanded his contracting business by purchasing his own heavy equipment. It was there that Brad also trained Métis in the use of heavy machinery.

Brad was recognized with Queen’s Jubilee medal, and also with an Eagle feather from the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples for his work fighting for indigenous rights.

A celebration of life and an interment will take place at an as-yet-unannounced date. ∞



Brad Maggrah

### OBITUARY ~

## MNO citizen and veteran Harvey Horlock passes away

Veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces and MNO citizen Harvey Horlock has died. Inspired by the sacrifices of his uncles in World War II, Harvey enlisted in Canadian Forces in the 1950s. In his decade of service he helped in the clean-up after Hurricane Hazel, among other events.

Harvey was heavily involved with the MNO for many years.

He was a past president and a past Senator of the MNO Toronto Métis Council prior to it becoming the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council and past president of the MNO Veterans’ Council (MNOVC).

He also assisted in the creation of the MNO Oshawa Durham Métis Council and the MNO Credit River Métis Council.

Harvey was a past representative for Ontario to the National Veterans Council and past member of the National Aboriginal Veteran Association (NAVA).

Horlock was awarded the Queen’s Jubilee medal in 2012.

For several years, Harvey represented Métis veterans at the Oshwegan National Memoriam Day on the Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation and was invited by the Ontario Premier’s Office to represent the MNO at the Remembrance Day ceremony in Queen’s Park for several years running.

Harvey was also member of the Royal Canadian Legion Todmorden Branch number 10 and served as a member of their colour party. Harvey could be seen proudly participating in the MNO’s annual Louis Riel Day celebrations at Queen’s Park.

Jim Fryer who served with Harvey in the colour party said Harvey was well respected and served as a proud member for almost three decades. Fryer also said Harvey was instrumental in having the Branch 10 colour party lead the procession at the MNO’s annual provincial Louis Riel Day celebrations. A tradition which continues to this day. ∞



Harvey Horlock

### OBITUARY ~

## MNO Citizen Hector “Hec” Lavigne remembered

Long-serving Mayor of Callander, Ontario and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Citizen Hector “Hec” Lavigne has died. Lavigne entered politics as Reeve of Callander in December of 2000. He sat and chaired numerous local and regional boards and committees while maintaining full-time employment in the insurance industry as a Commercial Lines Account Manager with the Rivet Insurance brokerage firm.

Lavigne was a proud Métis who served on the board of directors of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) since the MNO initiated its formation in 2011. The MVDF is an independent Métis-owned and controlled agency that provides funding and support for Métis businesses.

“The Board and Staff of MVDF greatly regret the passing of Mr. Hector Lavigne, who served as Treasurer for the past eight years,” said MVDF CEO Steven Morse, “Hec brought passion and professionalism to the Board, expressed in his characteristic no nonsense style. He cared deeply for the promotion of Métis rights and self-reliance; Hec was integral to our success. Most of all we will miss his laughter, his counsel, his exuberance, and the presence of a good man.”

MPP Vic Fedeli, whose riding covers Callander, says Lavigne put a lot of pride in the town and in his Métis heritage. “He was a proud Métis and served on one of the Métis funding agencies and his goal was to bring additional funding into the Nipissing area. He worked very, very hard on that and I don’t think anybody really realized that,” said Fedeli.

Lavigne is survived by his wife Lynne and his three children Nathan (Jaimie), Christopher (Celeste) and Kevin (Lindsay). The family plans to continue one of Hec’s nearest and dearest projects: the beautification of Centennial Park in Callander. Donations to the “Hec Lavigne Centennial Park Beautification Project” will be accepted at the RBC Branch at 5 Main Street in Callander, ON.

Lavigne’s funeral was held on January 12, 2020. ∞



Hector “Hec” Lavigne



OBITUARY ~

GBMC Senator  
Ken ‘Two Dogs’  
Fraser passes

Georgian Bay Métis Councillor Ken “two dogs” Fraser has passed away. He was 71.

A celebration of life was held on the day of his passing at the Legion in Penatanguishine, Feb. 29. The celebration was originally to be hosted by Ken who had been battling an illness. Members and citizens from across the region made their way to the event to sing and dance and remember Ken.

Ken had an “extreme” passion for fishing and was always willing to share his knowledge. He served faithfully on the Region 7 council for many years which included working closely with the service people and veterans of the nearby Canadian Forces Base Borden.

Ken is survived by his wife Sue Fraser, his son Choya Fraser and grandchildren Mackayla Beauchamp, Robyn and Harper Fraser. ∞



Ken “Two Dogs” Fraser

OBITUARY ~

Former MNO  
Northwest Métis  
Council President  
Ron Robinson  
passes

It is with deep regret that the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) announces the passing of Ron Robinson on March 13, 2020. As President of the Northwest Metis Council, Dryden, Ron was devoted to his position and to the Métis citizens that he served.

Ron enjoyed meeting other Metis from other regions and made lasting friendships and incredible bonds. Ron was a true Métis with the great respect for Mother Earth. Ron enjoyed his camp, boating, blueberry picking and hunting, just to name just a few passions. Ron was respected by his colleagues from his community council and by the MNO Region One Consultation Committee.



Ronald Robinson

Ron was extremely proud that he was a part of the signing with MNO-Canada Framework on Advancing Reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Metis Community in 2017.

He will be greatly missed by all.

“Dryden has always been home for us,” wrote Ron’s wife Jo Ann in Ron’s obituary.

“Ron loved the waters and the great outdoors, from wind-sailing; boat sailing, year-round fishing was his greatest joy.”

Ron volunteered at the MNO Northwest Métis Council, based out of Dryden, for many years. He served as Chair of the Council and later as President.

“He did his best to bring the community members together,” said Jo Ann. “He managed a positive circle of council members and had supportive guidance from neighboring councils of Kenora, Fort Frances and Atikokan.

A celebration of life will be determined at a later date. ∞

In memory  
of Métis WWII  
Veteran  
Alex Boucher

It was with deep sadness that the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) reports the loss of Métis Veteran Alexander Sandy Boucher who passed peacefully the morning of July 12, 2020 in Parry Sound, ON.

“Alex was truly a charming, independent spirit with many remarkable stories, and it has been my great pleasure to get to know him and his family over the years,” shared MNO President Margaret Froh in a statement this morning.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to Alex and his loved ones during this sad time, but we look forward to hearing more stories about Alex as we honour this exceptional individual and his many achievements.”

Boucher was a celebrated World War 2 Veteran, serving as Corporal in the Army Infantry and Medical Corps from 1942-1945. Additionally, he was responsible for the training of new recruits in battlefield medical procedures and rifle range. In 2013, he registered as a member of the MNO Veterans Council.

An honoured recipient of both the Louis Riel Medal and the Order of the Sash, Boucher was also identified in a formal apology from the federal government addressed to Métis Veterans in 2019. This long-awaited apology

recognized Boucher for his many sacrifices and contributions, and featured a special ceremony and presentation of a \$20,000 cheque from the Minister of Veteran Affairs and Manitoba Métis Federation President, David Chartrand.

A beloved member of the Métis community and MNO Veterans Council, Boucher was acknowledged as the oldest Indigenous Veteran in Canada, having celebrated his 107th birthday in January at his home in Britt, ON. A celebration was held with Boucher’s friends and family, the MNO President, and Veterans Council, and included a special message from Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lawrence MacAuley, who expressed his gratitude to Boucher for his contributions and service.

“Thank you for what you did for this country, Alex,” shared Minister MacAuley. “When somebody needed to stand up and defend us, you were there.”

The MNO extends its sincere, heartfelt condolences to Alex Boucher’s family and loved ones during this time. Boucher was a beloved figure and while this loss will be deeply felt, his legacy will live on as we remember his strong spirit, his profound contributions to the Métis community, and his sacrifices when serving his country and nation. ∞



World War 2 Veteran Alexander Boucher served as Corporal in the Army Infantry and Medical Corp from 1942-1945

This past January members of the Métis MNO Veterans’ Council and MNO President Margaret Froh joined members of the Boucher family on Alex’s 107 birthday in Britt, ON to honour the Veteran and recognize his many accomplishments and years of service: <https://bit.ly/3idBrfx>



New Arrival

Announcing the arrival of our newest Métis family member ... **Willow!** Born to Alissa and Aaron LaCroix on January 14, 2020. This is the first great-grandchild of MNO citizens Lorraine and Rick LaCroix.

*submitted by Lorraine Lacroix*



Congrats!

Congratulations **Kaileigh LaBelle** on making the Dean’s list in her first year at Carleton University. Thank you MNO for the bursary support. Kaileigh you make the LaBelle and LaCroix families proud!

*submitted by Lorraine Lacroix*





*“Everyone here will remember this and they’re going to talk about what they did and saw. They’ll tell the story of how we were forced off the island, but also how we came back.”*

# DRUMMOND ISLAND HOMECOMING

**N**early two centuries after their forced relocation, a group of more than fifty Ontario Métis people returned to Boot-aagani-minis, Drummond Island, in the first organized return since 1828.

During the War of 1812, many Métis sided with the British taking up arms against their American adversaries. The war changed the political landscape and brought about a border-dispute. Drummond Island became part of American territory (the present-day state of Michigan). That saw the Métis removed from the land and dispersed around Georgian Bay. Many migrated to Penetanguishene, Sault Ste. Marie, Killarney and other surrounding areas.

Dylan Miner, a descendant of the Brissette-L’Hirondelle family, is an artist, activist, and scholar. Miner has gone to great lengths to investigate and honour the rich history of his ancestors and the Drummond Island descendants.

“What’s taking place now [Métis returning to the island], is a reclamation of our family stories, as historic communities here in Ontario have begun to reassert and reclaim the rights that we’ve always known, but have been reaffirmed through *Powley* and more recent

affirmations. Part of that reclamation and assertion of rights is to look back and think about how those were practiced historically. For me, that’s thinking about traditional foods, medicines, harvesting, place names, etc.”

Documenting his research in a unique non-linear fashion, Miner has mapped the history of “The People Who Didn’t Sign Treaty” and produced a series of booklets which were gifted to attendees at the 2019 Métis Youth Leadership Conference and the MNO’s Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Sault Ste. Marie.

Following last year’s AGA, citizens were invited to take a trip across the U.S. border and back to their roots with a day trip to the Drummond Island. Miner and Sault Ste Marie resident Mitch Case (recently elected to the Provisional Council of the MNO as the Region 4 Councilor) led the assembled group of Métis citizens through the woods to key historic sites while sharing their knowledge of the land and its people.

Descendants of ancestral families surveyed these meaningful spaces, including the remains of the former Fort Drummond, and posed for photos with kin and cousins, recreating images pulled from historical archives.

Miner describes this reclamation of space as vital: “Those of us whose ancestors were

“  
*For many people this is the first time they’ve been to the island.*  
”

here and forced off are going to have a very moving experience. For many people this is the first time they’ve been to the island. [This homecoming] is about reconnecting with the spirit of that place, and reconnecting with those ancestors buried on that island.”

Kassie Dusome, who attended with her siblings Jeff and Ali, had been talking about doing a trip to Drummond Island for years.

“Leading up to the trip, I was thinking a lot about how sad our ancestors must have been to leave the island, it’s very emotional,” said Kassie Dusome. “But it was great that I was able to travel and share this experience with my siblings and friends—friends who have pictures of our ancestors that also traveled together!”

While much evidence of the previous peoples has fallen into disrepair and ruin, including the former Fort Drummond -- now being reclaimed by nature -- efforts are being made to preserve what remains.

“I really enjoyed touring the old fort, where the only thing that remains is the chimney from the original building” said Jeff Dusome. “All of the trees have grown in around the ruins. It really lends scale to the amount of time since there have been people to take care of the land there.”

The return to the island concluded with a

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CELEBRATE WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# AGA2020

THE 27<sup>TH</sup> MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY • NOVEMBER 7, 2020

**We'll see you  
at the AGA!  
Online!**

The Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario is happy to announce that a resolution was passed to reschedule the 2020 Annual General Assembly (AGA) to **Saturday, November 7, 2020.**

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens, families and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 AGA will be held virtually this year and hosted by the Métis Nation of Ontario. We want to thank the Toronto and York Region Métis Council for their understanding as we defer their hosting of the AGA to a future year when it can be held in person

As details are confirmed in the coming weeks information on how will be able to participate in the MNO's 2020 virtual AGA will be posted to **www.metisnation.org** including:

- ∞ The registration link to sign in to the virtual AGA platform
- ∞ How to sign in to the online voting platform (citizens only)

- ∞ Where and how you will be able to test and practice using the voting platform in advance of the AGA
- ∞ An online market, where Community Councils will have an opportunity to sell
- ∞ Virtual live and/or pre-recorded Cultural Events (e.g. Voyageur games demonstrations).

If you have any questions about the virtual 2020 AGA contact: **AGA2020@metisnation.org**

**CALLING ANY AND ALL METIS ARTISANS AND VENDORS!!** You will have an opportunity to promote your products with several photos/short video during this year's virtual AGA. These will be shown during breaks and links to your site can be provided on the MNO website. If you're interested in participating, please reach out to event organizers at **AGA2020@metisnation.org** by noon on Friday, October 9, 2020.

## THE DRUMMOND ISLAND HOMECOMING

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visit to Drummond Island Historical Museum. Constructed entirely of hand-hewn logs and stones recovered from Fort Drummond, the museum boasts an extensive collection of artifacts, with some Indigenous pieces dating back to 200 B.C.E.. A reconstructed model of the former fort exists in miniature as well as tools, photographs, personal effects and more from the 19th and 20th centuries settlers are on display.

"It was pretty remarkable to see how unrecognized the Métis presence on the Island is. Visiting the fort and seeing its condition was very impactful, as was visiting the museum and seeing the history of the people who lived there," shared Ali Dusome.

Miner hopes that more Métis begin thinking about ways to return to the island and creating ongoing presences there; and significantly, ways to more create lasting relationships to and on the island. To many Métis, Drummond Island represents a sacred space. Efforts are being made to return the space to the Métis community, including a proposal to build a cultural centre on the Island to continue building relationships and share traditional Métis knowledge.

Mitch Case sees great significance in Métis peoples returning to Drummond Island: "To be able to come home [to Drummond], not only reminds the world that we're still here but reminds ourselves too."

"[Part of the] insidious nature of colonialization is it takes away our belief in ourselves, our belief that we deserve to be respected. Days like [today's trip] really help build that pride, build that sense of identity and history. Everyone here will remember this and they're going to talk about what they did and saw. They'll tell the story of how we were forced off the island, but also how we came back. These are our stories – we need to honour and share them in a respectful way." ∞



(left) Dylan Miner lays an octopus bag and a Métis sash on what little the remains of Fort Drummond.  
(both above) The excursion cuts a path through the woods to the site of Fort Drummond.