



President's Update on Métis Rights

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MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

HEALTH SUMMIT 2015

MNO On Cutting Edge Of Métis Health Research

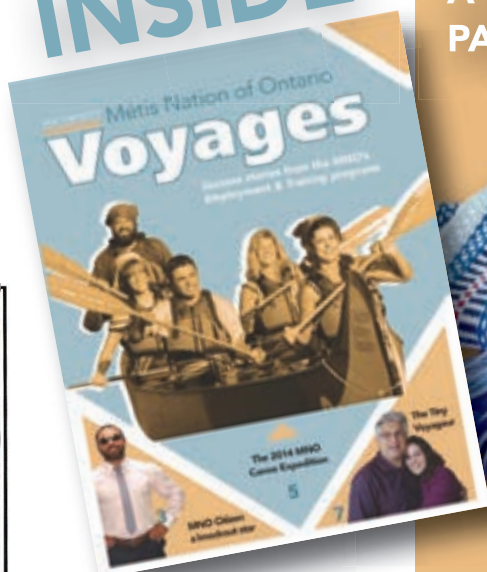
MNO President Gary Lipinski addresses
the 2015 MNO Health Summit

Full coverage on pages 3 through 8



Summit attracts key researchers and elected officials

INSIDE



A BEAUTIFUL GIFT
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SIERRA NOBLE TO
HEADLINE PAN AM
GAMES ABORIGINAL
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DR. JANET SMYLIE
TO ADDRESS GAPS
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THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

WINTER 2015, No. 84

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Submission Policy:

MNO encourages contributions from MNO citizens and staff. All submissions are edited to conform to the Canadian Press Style Guide as well as for grammar, repetitiousness, spelling and to accurately reflect the official names and titles of individuals, organizations, bodies and agencies referenced in submissions.

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.

2015 Submission deadlines:

March 13, 2015
May 15, 2015
September 4, 2015
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FAMILY

The Christmas Métis sash

submitted by | **Tammy Webb,**
MNO Manager of Labour Market

Shirley Folz was presented with a Métis sash by her granddaughter, Shawna Hansen, this past Christmas. Shawna is the niece of Tammy Webb, Métis Nation of Ontario Manager of Labour Market. Attached to the sash was the following letter:



Shirley Folz (left) proudly wears the sash that her granddaughter Shawna Hansen (right) made her for Christmas.



NATION



▲ A panel of experts addresses delegates at the MNO Health Summit.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

HEALTH SUMMIT
2015MNO on cutting edge
of Métis health research

■ Distinctive Métis approach impresses experts

by | MNO Staff

Over 200 delegates from 42 different agencies attended the 2015 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Health Summit (the Summit), February 22-24 in Toronto. Delegates represented non-profit organizations dedicated to disease prevention and cures, hospitals and other health institutions, government ministries and agencies, universities and colleges, Local Health Integration Networks, Aboriginal organizations and consulting groups. These representatives included medical doctors, university professors and researchers, government policy makers and elected officials.

What drew this distinguished and influ-

ential audience to Toronto for the three-day Summit was ground-breaking research carried out by the MNO Chronic Disease Surveillance Program in concert with a number of key partners including most notably the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) and Cancer Care Ontario (CCO).

The research provided the latest available data on coronary heart disease, diabetes, cancer, respiratory disease, musculoskeletal disease, renal disease, mental health, and health risk factors in the provincial Métis population. During the Summit, three main themes emerged, with speakers and panellists focusing on recognizing the distinct risk factors

that lead to chronic disease and mental health disorders in Métis people; the importance of concentrating on preventative measures to avoid chronic and emergency health situations; and the need to reduce barriers that prevent those in remote communities from accessing healthcare services. The data demonstrates that significant health disparities exist between Métis and the general Ontario population. **A summary of the research can be found on page 6.**

A major feature of the research was its distinctive Métis approach, which included taking into account the unique history and culture of Ontario Métis. MNO staff and citi-

zens from across Ontario were in attendance, providing valuable insights into how the research should be interpreted to better serve Métis. MNO President Gary Lipinski stressed the importance of MNO citizens being a part of these discussions.

"We know that access to timely care and treatment is a particular challenge facing Métis, and that is why it is important for the MNO to be at the right policy tables," he said. "Systems change, and seamless health care is essential in increasing earlier diagnosis and treatment."

(Cont'd on page 4)

HEALTH SUMMIT



1 - Métis singer-songwriter Amanda Rheume opened the summit with a selection of her award-winning music. **2** - A panel of experts, led by MNO Senior Policy and Research Analyst Storm Russell (second from left), discussed the research findings. **3** - (L-R) MNO Community Wellness Worker Donna St. Jules; MNO Community Wellness Worker Heather Briel; MNO Healing and Wellness Violence Against Aboriginal Women Coordinator Sahra McLean; PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case. **4** - President Lipinski (centre) with MNO Chair France Picotte (left) and Deborah Richardson (right), Deputy Minister of the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

Summit stresses importance of Métis way-of-life

(Cont'd from page 3)

Delivering the Summit's keynote address, President Lipinski encouraged those assembled to be mindful of the unique challenges experienced by the Métis both historically and today. He presented a comprehensive overview of Métis history, including the influence of the fur trade and the landmark Powley and Daniels cases. He also spoke of ethno-genesis—the process by which cultures are formed—and how in the case of the Métis this has involved not only the formation of traditions and values informed by mixed European and Aboriginal heritage, but also by a long history of fighting the courts and the Canadian government for recognition as a distinct people and the ability to exercise traditional rights such as harvesting.

"As we move into the modern era with restrictions that are imposed on us, governments failing to recognize our legal and constitutional right to harvest, we see

food sources changing," he said, noting the effects of more fast food and sugar being introduced into the Métis diet—effects that lead to chronic health conditions such as obesity and diabetes. "Those struggles of the past, people think that's history and that's behind us but it isn't. This history connects us to where we are today, and it really determines where we go forward."

President Lipinski went on to explain how government refusal to recognize the Métis as a distinct people has had far-reaching effects on the health of MNO citizens. As an example, he told the story of a Métis man who served as a witness during the Powley case and who had developed a heart condition. The government, President Lipinski said, told this man that the medication he needed would be covered but only if he reg-

istered as First Nations. As a Métis person with a family heritage he was proud of, this was unacceptable to him and so he was faced with the choice of either losing his cultural identity to access lifesaving medications or to die proudly as Métis. "Is this really an option?" President Lipinski asked.

"We know that access to timely care and treatment is a particular challenge facing Métis, and that is why it is important for the MNO to be at the right policy tables."

- Gary Lipinski

Considering the importance of Métis culture and way-of-life to the research, it was natural that these were highlighted throughout the MNO Health Summit. In the

opening prayer, Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Executive Senator Reta Gordon expressed the cultural sovereignty and pride of the Métis people, thanking the Creator for bringing the assembled attendees together. "To be Métis," she said, "is to be blessed with the fruit of not one but two family trees; not halved but doubled, being twice blessed."

The opening reception featured award-winning singer-songwriter and MNO citizen Amanda Rheume, whose emotional ballads drawing on her family history, provided delegates with another way to connect with Métis culture.

Expressing similar sentiments in his closing prayer, PCMNO Senator Rene Gravelle, urged everyone to give more love to their families and continue caring for one another.

Scott Carpenter, MNO Manager of Education, Way of Life and Special Projects provided an impressive display of Métis handicrafts, artwork, and historical artefacts that greeted conference-goers as they arrived. Métis youth fiddler Alicia Blore further livened up the crowd by playing several high-energy waltzes and jigs.

A session on Métis history and way-of-life was led by Dr. Brian Tucker, MNO Associate Director of Education and Way of Life and Margaret Froh, LLB., Director of Strategic Policy, Law and Compliance, which provided delegates with the broad context for understanding the significance of the health research within the Ontario Métis narrative. A panel composed of front-line MNO staff related stories from community members about the unique health challenges experienced by the Métis.

(Cont'd on page 5)

HEALTH SUMMIT

CHRONIC DISEASE AND RISK FACTORS IN THE MÉTIS POPULATION OF ONTARIO: KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS

CHRONIC DISEASE:

- The prevalence of diabetes among Métis citizens in Ontario is 26% higher than in the general Ontario population.
- Métis with diabetes are 86% more likely to be hospitalized due to a heart attack or pre-heart attack than people with diabetes in the general provincial population.
- Métis in Ontario are 18% less likely to receive care from a diabetes specialist.
- Less than half of Métis with diabetes are receiving the recommended eye care.
- Métis seniors in Ontario are more likely than other seniors to use insulin and less likely to try to control their diabetes through diet alone.
- Rates of heart attack and pre-heart attack and congestive heart failure are 1.8 and 1.3 times higher among Métis compared to the general Ontario population.
- The readmission rate for congestive heart failure is over two times higher among the Métis than the general Ontario population.
- The prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is over 1.6 times higher among Métis people in Ontario.
- Asthma is 1.2 times higher in the Métis population compared to other Ontarians, with the greatest differences seen in young people aged 18 to 24 years.
- One in five Métis citizens in Ontario suffer from osteoarthritis, a rate that is 20% higher than in the general provincial population.
- Métis citizens suffering from arthritis are less likely than other Ontarians to see and receive treatment from a specialist physician for their disease.
- Métis men in Ontario have a lower rate of bone mineral density testing for osteoporosis compared to other Ontario men.
- While Métis citizens have similar rates of acute kidney injury, chronic kidney disease, and end-stage kidney disease compared to other Ontarians, Métis citizens who are hospitalized with acute kidney injury are more likely to die during the year following hospital discharge than those in the general population.

RISK FACTORS:

- Métis adults in Ontario are 1.7 times more likely to smoke cigarettes compared to the general population (37% vs. 22%, respectively).
- Métis adults in their twenties, those with less than secondary school education, and those with the lowest income are the most likely to smoke in the provincial Métis population.
- Métis men in Ontario are more likely to exceed cancer prevention guidelines for alcohol consumption (consume more than two drinks daily, on average) than non-Aboriginal men.
- Métis adults are twice as likely to exceed drinking guidelines for cancer prevention and smoke compared to the general provincial population.
- Over half of Métis adults in Ontario are either overweight or obese (66% men, 55% women).
- A similar proportion of Métis and non-Aboriginal Ontarians are overweight; however Métis adults are more likely to be obese than the general provincial population.
- Approximately 70% of Métis adults in Ontario fail to consume the recommended number of vegetables and fruits daily.
- Nearly half of all Métis adults in Ontario are inactive and just under three-quarters are considered sedentary; similarly high rates exist in the general provincial population.



▲ MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson stressed the importance of rights-recognition in improving Métis health outcomes.

“This is a true partnership.”

The second day of the MNO Health Summit was devoted to breakout sessions led by MNO Director of Healing and Wellness, led by MNO Director of Healing and Wellness Wenda Watteyne. These sessions focused on “Working Together, Make a Difference,” and allowed delegates and MNO staff to discuss how to collaboratively brainstorm new solutions and directions forward.

The connection between Métis culture and way-of-life with health research about the Métis was succinctly expressed by MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson who stressed the importance of rights-recognition in improving health outcomes and serving communities.

“What is most important in this whole thing to all of our citizens and to all of us is the assertion of those rights in achieving everything that we deserve to achieve and have the right to achieve,” he said. “It’s all about communities [and] it’s all about the people living in them.”

The research is also significant because of the effective partnerships the MNO has been able to build with other health stakeholders, in particular with its research partners ICES and CCO and with the provincial government. The value of the relationship between the MNO and its research partners were underscored by Dr. Michael Schull, the President and CEO of ICES.

“To me what’s really important is that this is not just a collaboration between ICES and the Métis Nation of Ontario,” said Dr. Schull, “this is a true partnership. This is not just about data exchange. That’s just a first step towards an exchange of a much deeper knowledge, and that’s knowledge on many levels. It’s scientific knowledge, it’s cultural knowledge, it’s historic knowledge, it’s about social knowledge. It’s all of that. Today [at the Health Summit] makes this kind of remarkable and I think in many ways ground-breaking partnership

for our organization, and I would say it’s a model for us to look at as we engage with other partners and stakeholders in many [areas] of our society.”

The MNO and ICES signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) during the Health Summit. **To read more about this MOU, see page 7.**

The importance of partnership was also stressed by Richard Steiner, a Senior Project Analyst with CCO’s Aboriginal Cancer

ally to understand who the Métis are, how the Métis operate, what the Métis people need as directed and governed by the Métis Nation of Ontario, and how we can best support the Métis in what they need.”

“I think we got a good picture today [at the Health Summit] in terms of understanding where we need to go and what we need to do,” he added. “It’s very good to have that validation and understand that we are on the right course in terms of what we’re doing with prevention, screening, supportive care, relationship building, outreach, education—all of these priorities that we have. But again, I’ll bring it back to an understanding from the Métis perspective. That’s what we need and it was a huge learning curve I think, for us over the last few years in terms of working with the MNO, and it’s been growing and growing. We’ve been working very, very closely with the MNO Healing and Wellness branch to develop this relationship . . . in terms of working together.”

Just before the start of the Health Summit, the MNO and CCO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). **To read more about this MOU, see page 7.**

(Cont’d on page 6)

“This is not just a collaboration between ICES and the Métis Nation of Ontario; this is a true partnership.”

- Dr. Michael Schull,
President & CEO of ICES

Control Unit. “I think one of the most important things for us,” he stated, “was really, after having formalized this relationship that outlines how we can practically and ideologically move forward together in terms of our collaborative work with the MNO, was re-



▲ The second day of the health summit was devoted to breakout sessions, allowing participants to brainstorm new solutions to chronic health issues among the Métis.

HEALTH SUMMIT

MNO Research helps to identify potential solutions



▲ A panel of experts speaks to the assembled Health Panel audience. (L-R) Dr. Suzanne M. Cadarette, Associate Professor, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto; Danielle Nash, Epidemiologist and Lead Research Coordinator, ICES Kidney Dialysis & Transplantation Research Program; Baiju R. Shah, Senior Scientist, Chronic Disease & Pharmacotherapy Research, ICES; Dr. Elizabeth Badley, Adjunct Scientist, Chronic Disease & Pharmacotherapy Research Program, ICES; Dr. David Henry, Senior Scientist & Aboriginal Health Lead, ICES; Dr. Storm Russell, MNO Senior Policy Analyst; Saba Khan, Data Partnerships Project Manager, ICES; Dr. Loraine D. Marrett, Senior Scientist, Prevention & Cancer Control, CCO; Dr. Martin Cooke, Associate Professor, Dep't of Sociology and Legal Studies and School of Public Health and Health Systems, University of Waterloo.

(Cont'd from page 5)

The partnership between the MNO and leading health agencies like CCO and ICES has led to a unique Métis approach to research that is very practical. This was explained by Dr. Martin Cooke, a Professor in the School of Public Health and Health Systems from the University of Waterloo. "One [thing] is the excellent level of integration of the research in the MNO's agenda," explained Dr. Cooke. "Often research is done as sort of a separate function from either healthcare service provision or planning or whatever; it's important but it doesn't always make it onto the main agenda. As researchers, often we don't see the findings reflected in action. What was really interesting here is all of the talk about action and how those determinants of health, for example, are really important, and then the next question is what do we do with next steps."

Dr. Cooke added: "One of the things that's important for our own research but also for others, is understanding what's going on at the community level, and how these things that we may see patterns across Ontario, how they may vary across the province and in different MNO communities. I think understanding that context might be one of the important next things."

[The MNO aims] to promote the improved health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community.

- MNO Statement of Prime Purpose

Dr. Cooke was part of an expert panel of disease specialists on Métis Health and Determinants led by Dr. David Henry, ICES Research Lead and Dr. Storm Russell, MNO Senior Policy and Research Analyst. The panel explained the importance of the MNO Healing and Wellness Collaborative Research Program and the fact that the Métis experience significantly different key health issues as compared to the general and Aboriginal populations in Ontario.

Along with the MNO's research partners, the MNO's long-standing positive relationship with the Ontario government has been crucial in finding ways to increase knowl-

edge about Métis health and improve health services to Métis people in Ontario. During the Summit, representatives from the Ontario Government, including Premier Kathleen Wynne (who addressed the Summit via a pre-recorded video message), the Honourable Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Children and Youth Services, and Indira Naidoo-Harris, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, pledged to continue working with the MNO to address the key issues affecting Métis health and thanking the MNO for its vital research findings.

"This research is helping to identify potential solutions and, perhaps even more importantly, the Summit will highlight the work you are doing with government and other partners to turn the knowledge gained from this research into concrete action to improve health outcomes," Premier Wynne said. "Our most pressing challenges are always best solved together, and I'm so proud that our government is working with you on these issues."

When addressing delegates, Minister MacCharles thanked the MNO for its research and reiterated Ontario's desire to see MNO citizens achieve their full potential. "My sense is that there is tremendous value in an event like

My sense is that there is tremendous value in an event like this to contribute to better health and wellbeing for [MNO] citizens across Ontario.

- Hon. Tracy MacCharles,
Ontario Minister of Children &
Youth Services



▲ Indira Naidoo-Harris, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, spoke of the need to improve access to health services for Métis living in isolated, rural and northern communities.

this to contribute to better health and wellbeing for [MNO] citizens across Ontario," she said. "We share your desire to see happy and healthy Métis families that have very fulfilling lives."

Parliamentary Assistant Naidoo-Harris spoke of the crucial need to improve access to health services for Métis living in some of the province's most remote communities, and of including Métis people in the conversation, particularly as the provincial government works to develop a healthcare model that prioritizes patient engagement.

"We are committed to engaging with Métis and our other Aboriginal partners to identify community health, mental health and addiction priorities," she said. "These discussions will guide us and help us make the right investments."

At the Health Summit, President Lipinski outlined some of the ways the MNO will continue to make good use of the research to improve the lives of MNO citizens. "We are seeing high rates of modifiable risk factors in the Métis community like non-traditional tobacco use, diet, obesity, inactivity, sedentary living and alcohol consumption to name a few," he pointed

out. "We know from our citizens and from MNO client and community services that access to mental health [initiatives] continues to be a major concern. That is why the work that the MNO, in linking our systems to health supports through MNO's telehealth and other services, is essential."

"The MNO has a central role in improving the health outcomes for Métis people in Ontario. [But even] with limited resources the MNO has built an impressive service delivery network throughout the province," he concluded.

The success of the 2015 MNO Health Summit clearly demonstrates that the MNO and its research partners are on the cutting edge of health research about Métis people in Ontario and that its ground-breaking work is respected and valued in the wider health community. One of the goals outlined in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose is "To promote the improved health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community," MNO citizens can be proud that the MNO continues to make progress towards that goal. ∞



▲ The Hon. Tracy MacCharles, Ontario Minister of Children & Youth Services, thanked the MNO for its research, and reiterated the Province's commitment to Métis and Aboriginal health.

HEALTH SUMMIT



▲ The MNO and ICES sign a Memorandum of Understanding on February 23, 2015 during the MNO Health Summit. (Left to right: Dr. Michael Schull, President and CEO of the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES); MNO President Gary Lipinski; and MNO Chair France Picotte.)

MNO and ICES sign Memorandum of Understanding during Health Summit

by | MNO Staff

On February 23, 2015, the first day of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Health Summit in Toronto, the MNO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES). Much of the Métis health research that was launched at the Health Summit was a product of the partnership between the MNO Chronic Disease Surveillance

Program and ICES. This research used the MNO Citizenship Registry that includes the records of over 18,000 MNO citizens in Ontario.

ICES is an independent, non-profit corporation whose core business is to conduct research that contributes to the effectiveness, quality and equity of health care in Ontario. Considering the centrality of this relationship to the research discussed at the Health Summit, it

was fitting that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the two partners during the event.

President Lipinski, MNO Chair France Picotte and Dr. Michael Schull, President and CEO of ICES all signed the MOU. During the signing ceremony, President Lipinski explained: “The ultimate goal [of our partnership] is prevention and positive health outcomes, so

being able to continue working together with that data and that knowledge base in the future [will be very beneficial]. Dr. Schull also emphasized the importance of co-operation stating: “This is not just about data exchange. That is just a first step towards an exchange of much deeper knowledge, and that’s knowledge on many levels. It’s scientific knowledge, it’s cultural knowledge, it’s historic knowledge,

it’s about social knowledge. It’s all of that. Today makes for this kind of remarkable, and I think in many ways ground-breaking, partnership for our organization, and I would say it is a model for us to look at as we engage with other partners and stakeholders in many [areas] of our society.” ∞

MNO signs Memorandum of Understanding with Cancer Care Ontario

by | MNO Staff

On February 21, 2015, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the basis for future cooperation on areas of common interest. President Gary Lipinski and Chair France Picotte signed the MOU on behalf of the MNO and Dr. Michael Sherar, CCO President and CEO signed on behalf of Cancer Care Ontario. The signing ceremony took place in Toronto at the same time as a meeting of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and so the entire Council was present for the event.

CCO is the Ontario government’s advisor on the cancer and renal systems, as well as on access to care for key health services. CCO drives continuous improvement in disease prevention and screening, the delivery of care and the patient experience for chronic diseases. CCO directs and oversees approximately \$1.5 billion

in funding for hospitals and other cancer and chronic kidney disease care providers, enabling them to deliver high quality, timely services and improved access to care. CCO has worked closely with the MNO’s Chronic Disease Surveillance Program and the MOU further strengthens their already very positive working relationship.

In his remarks, President Lipinski spoke about how cancer is a terrible disease that impacts Métis communities across the province and how the partnership with CCO can play a role in reducing that hardship. President Sherar spoke about CCO’s mission to ensure the best cancer care in Ontario and that meeting the needs of all Ontario communities is a critical part of that objective. He stated that as the Métis represent an important community in Ontario CCO is very pleased to enter into the MOU with the MNO.

Alethea Kewayosh, Director, Aboriginal Cancer Control Unit,

also spoke at the signing and she thanked President Lipinski for his original commitment four years ago to work with CCO. She felt his personal attention to the issue of cancer prevention and treatment was crucial in bringing about the MOU.

Other CCO officials in attendance at the signing who have not been previously mentioned were: Dr. Calvin Law, Regional Vice President, Cancer Services, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre; Dr. Janet Smylie, Director, Well Living House; Susan Blacker, Interim Regional Director, Toronto Regional Cancer Program; Usman Aslam, Senior Project Manager, Aboriginal Cancer Control Unit, Cancer Care Ontario; Richard Steiner, Partnership Liaison Officer, Aboriginal Cancer Control Unit, Cancer Care Ontario; Laura Senese, Research Project Manager, Aboriginal Cancer Control Unit, Cancer Care Ontario; and Steven Lewis, Legal Counsel, Cancer Care Ontario. ∞



▲ MNO and Cancer Care Ontario officials following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on February 21. (Left to right: Dr. Calvin Law, Regional Vice President, Cancer Services, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre; Dr. Michael Sherar, President and CEO of Cancer Care Ontario; MNO President Gary Lipinski; and MNO Chair France Picotte.)

HEALTH SUMMIT



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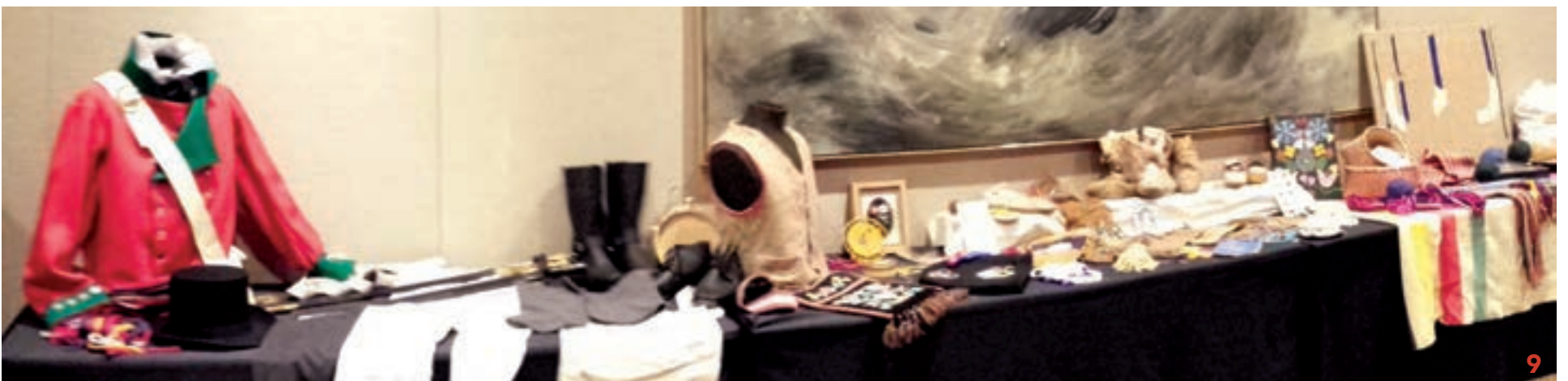
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▲ Some highlights from the MNO Health Summit: **1** - MNO Director of Healing and Wellness Wenda Watteyne addresses the Health Summit. **2** - MNO President Gary Lipinski gave a keynote address during which he presented a comprehensive history of the Métis People and the Métis Nation of Ontario, and stressed the importance of the MNO being at the right policy tables when decisions are being made about Métis and Aboriginal health. **3** - Fiddler and MNO Citizen Alicia Blore provided lunchtime entertainment at the health summit, livening up the crowd with a series of high-energy waltzes and jigs. **4** - Saba Khan, Data Partnerships Project Manager with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) speaks during an expert research panel held at the Health Summit. **5** - Margarate Froh, LLB (right), speaks with conference attendees. **6** - Dr. David Henry, Senior Scientist & Aboriginal Health Lead with ICES, speaks at the health summit. **7** - Tracy MacCharles (left), Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services, reiterated the Provincial Government's commitment to issues surrounding Aboriginal and Métis health. President Lipinski (right) presented Minister MacCharles with a special gift featuring artwork by acclaimed Métis artist Christi Belcourt. **8** - PCMNO Executive Senator Reta Gordon (centre) with Shirley Dorion (left) and Tracey Dale (right) at the Health Summit. **9** - A beautiful display of Métis handicrafts and cultural objects, created by MNO Manager of Education, Way of Life and Special Projects Scott Carpenter.



▲ Participants in the Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy roundtable held on January 21, 2015. Front row (L-R) Sylvia Maracle, Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC); Dr. Dawn Harvard, President of the Ontario Native Women’s Association (ONWA); the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; the Honourable Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Children and Youth Services; Gary Lipinski, MNO President; Gertie Beaucage, Traditional Person. Back row (L-R) Deborah Richardson, Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; France Picotte, MNO Chair; Darryl Sturtevant, Assistant Deputy Minister of Children and Youth Services; Alexander Bezzina, Deputy Minister of Children and Youth; Doug Wilson, MNO Chief Operating Officer; Erin Corstan, ONWA Executive Director.

MNO and partners continuing work on Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy

by | MNO Staff

On January 21, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) participated in a Métis and Urban Aboriginal Leadership Roundtable. This was the third roundtable focused on the issue of developing an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy. Other participants in the meeting included the Honourable David Zimmer, Min-

ister of Aboriginal Affairs and the Honourable Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Children and Youth Services as well as representatives from the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) and the Ontario Native Women’s Association (ONWA). The MNO was represented by President Gary Lipinski, Chair

France Picotte, Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson, Director of Healing and Wellness Wenda Watteyne and Manager of Operations Shelley Gonneville. This meeting marked the final stage in the eighteen month process of developing an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy and approved a Framework proposal

that will now go before the provincial Cabinet for consideration. “The MNO made a valuable contribution to the creation of the proposal that will go before cabinet,” explained President Lipinski. “This again brings home the importance of the positive relationship we have built with the Ontario government through the MNO-Ontario Frame-

work Agreement.” “Once in place,” he added, “the Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy will assist Métis and other Aboriginal youth become all they can be. ∞

MNO leaders take part in a Low Income Energy Program information session

by | MNO Staff

In early November, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens took part in an information session with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). The OEB is currently seeking input on how to revise its regulations and practices in order to as-

sist individuals with low incomes. Representatives from each of the MNO’s nine regions took part in the session. The information session was facilitated by consultant John Beaucage. ∞



▲ Participants on the Low Income Energy Program information session. (L-R) Barbra Lair, MNO Grand River Métis Council Chair, Marcel Lafrance, Region 3 PCMNO Councillor; Juliette Denis, Region 5 PCMNO Councillor; John Beaucage; Cameron Burgess, Region 2 PCMNO Councillor; Pauline Richardson, Region 7 PCMNO Councillor; and, Richard Cuddy, MNO Credit River Métis Council President.



▲ The MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council at the Governance and Finance training. (L-R) Matthew LaFreniere, Secretary/Treasurer; Alexandra Dusome, Youth Representative; Shirley Lynn Pantuso, Women's Representative; Ginny Gonneau, Councillor; Benny Michaud, President; Lois McCallum, Senator; and, Parmallia Burgie, Chair.



▲ The MNO Sunset Country Métis Council at the Governance and Finance training. (L-R) Brady Hupet, Treasurer; John George, Senator; Roz Calder, Chair; Wendy Kabel, Councillor; Sarah Marusyk, Youth Representative; Lesley Grienke, Womens Representative (Interim); Karen Chowman, Councillor; Wade Nelson, Councillor; and, Clint Calder, President.

MNO Sunset Country and Ottawa Region Métis Councils participate in Governance and Finance training

by | MNO Staff

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) benefits immensely from the dedicated volunteers who are members of our chartered community councils. These hard-working individuals spend hundreds of hours building and strengthening their Métis communities.

The MNO has developed a Governance and Finance course that helps community councils perform their important work. The course is delivered by the MNO Community Relations team.

During the weekend of December 6-7, 2014, the course was offered to the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council. The following weekend, on December 13-14, 2014, the course was also offered to the MNO Ottawa Region Métis

Council. In the past, courses have been available in Atikokan, Sudbury, North Bay, Ottawa, Peterborough, Georgian Bay, Toronto, Credit River, Milton, Grand River, Niagara, and Windsor.

The course is a two-day seminar, usually on weekends, in a hotel or meeting hall in each council's community. The program explains the role of community councils as the MNO's local governments, whose structure and purpose is coordinated through each council's charter agreement with the MNO. The course covers everything from how to run effective meetings and engage citizens in council activities to budgeting and the various financial practices, regulations and legislation that community councils follow. ∞

Duty to Consult and Accommodate training

by | MNO Staff

In November 2014, MNO Consultation Committee members took part in Duty to Consult and Accommodate training. The training was provided by Tracy Campbell with the Calliou Group. Campbell is an expert on Aboriginal negotiations with governments and corporations. ∞

► Regions 1, 2, and 3: Front row (L-R) Jerry Clarke, President of the MNO Clear Waters Métis Council; Aly Alibhai, MNO Director of the Lands, Resources and Consultations; Christa Lemelin Chair of the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council; Peter Rivers, Region 9 PCMNO Councillor; Anita Tucker, Region 8 PCMNO Councillor; Kristin Randall, President of the MNO Oshawa Durham Métis Council; and Benny Michaud, President of the MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council.

Back row (L-R) Shafic Khouri, MNO Energy Resource Development Analyst; Jennifer Parkinson, President of the MNO Grand River Community Métis Council; Glen Lipinski, MNO Consultation and Community Relations Coordinator; Tera Beaulieu, President of the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council; Richard Cuddy, President of the MNO Credit River Métis Council; Tom Thompson, Region 6 PCMNO Councillor; Derrick Pont, President of the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council; and Deidre Thompson, Interim President of the MNO High Land Waters Métis Community Council.

► Regions 6, 8, and 9: The workshop took place on November 29-30 in Toronto. During the training, the Region 8 Protocol was re-signed. Front row (L-R) Valerie Pelepetz, past President of the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council; Marlene Davidson, President of the MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council; Cameron Burgess, Region 2 PCMNO Councillor; Glen Lipinski, MNO Consultation and Community Relations Coordinator; Aly Alibhai, MNO Director of Lands, Resources and Consultations; Laure Fournier, MNO Manager of Lands, Resources and Consultations; Marcel Lafrance, Region 3 PCMNO Councillor; Joanne Meyer, MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations.

Back row (L-R) William "Torch" Gordon, President of the MNO Greenstone Métis Council; Joel Henley, President of the MNO Kenora Métis Council; Alain Lefebvre, President of the MNO Timmins Métis Council; Ken Simard, MNO Region 2 Captain of the Hunt; Andy Lefebvre, MNO Mineral Development Coordinator; Liliane Ethier, President of the MNO Temiskaming Métis Council; Kevin Muloin, MNO Consultation Coordinator; Mr. Ethier; Trent Desaulniers, President of the MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council.



Métis artist Sierra Noble to headline at the 2015 Pan Am Games Aboriginal Pavilion

by | MNO Staff

On February 10, 2015, a press event for the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games (TO2015) Aboriginal Pavilion was held at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto. Many distinguished guests attended the launch, including Member of the Provincial Parliament (MPP), Sophie Kiwala and Minister of State (Sport), the Honourable Bal Gosa. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) had a strong presence at the launch thanks to the attendance of PCMNO Senator Joe Poitras and the stunning performance of MNO citizens Alicia and Liam Blore, who played some fast and fancy Métis fiddling for guests. At the launch, Rhéanne Chartrand, Artistic Associate for the Aboriginal Pavilion, announced the thrilling lineup of Indigenous performers set

to appear at the TO2015 Aboriginal Pavilion, which includes Métis fiddler Sierra Noble. Acclaimed Métis artist Sierra Noble is a fiddler, singer-songwriter, and compelling live performer who has entertained citizens at many MNO events. Sierra can play many different styles of fiddle music, but Métis fiddle is her heart and soul. As a child, her favorite pastime was learning hundred-year-old Métis fiddle tunes. Sierra has been touring worldwide since the age of 14, opened for Paul McCartney at 19, Bon Jovi at 20, and performed at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games. Creating meaningful Aboriginal participation is a focus of TO2015. The Aboriginal Pavilion at the games will offer diverse performances, demonstrations, commissions and activities to celebrate and

share the Indigenous cultures of the Americas at three locations across the city of Toronto: the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto; Garrison Commons (adjacent to Fort York); and Planet IndigenUs at Harbourfront Centre. More Métis artists are expected to perform at TO2015 and will be announced as they are confirmed. The Toronto Pan Am Games take place from July 10 to 26 and the Parapan Am Games from August 7 to 15 and will involve municipalities stretching from Oshawa to Welland. During the games, close to 7,000 athletes from across Latin America, South America, the Caribbean and North America will put their years of intense training, perseverance and sacrifice to the test in world-class competition in 36 Pan Am sports and 15 Parapan Am sports. ∞



1 Photo by Heather Latter, Fort Frances Times



2 Photo by Victoria Vaughan



3 Photo by Victoria Vaughan



4 Photo by Victoria Vaughan



5 Photo by Victoria Vaughan

▲ Some highlights from the press event. 1 - Acclaimed Métis fiddler Sierra Noble will be among the Indigenous performers appearing at the Aboriginal Pavilion at the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/ Parapan Am Games to be held in Toronto in July and August. 2 - Many distinguished guests attended the launch event, including MPP Sophie Kiwala, the Honourable Bal Gosa, Minister of State (Sport), PCMNO Senator Joe Poitras, Artistic Associate for the Aboriginal Pavilion Rhéanne Chartrand and MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations Joanne Meyer. 3 - A participant dances with Pachi, the TO2015 Pan Am games mascot, at the February 10 press event. 4 - MNO citizens Alicia (right) and Liam Blore entertained the group with a stunning performance of fast and fancy Métis fiddle music. 5 - PCMNO Senator Joe Poitras stands with the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am / Parapan Am Games mascot Pachi at the Aboriginal Pavilion launch event.

MNO Canoe Expedition recognized with Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award

by | MNO Staff

On February 27, 2015, the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) 2014 Canoe Expedition participants—Jeremy Brown, Kenora; Heather Bunn, Fergus; Elizabeth Clapin, Manotick; Amilia DiChiara, Thornhill; Kyle Grenier, Midland; Emily Ingram, Sault Ste. Marie; Gerald Lavallee, North Bay; Geneviève Routhier, Sault Ste. Marie; and Josh Szajewski, Kenora—were presented with the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award at a ceremony at Queen's Park in Toronto. The Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards are presented annually to individuals, groups and communities that have made outstanding contributions to conserving Ontario's heritage.

Members of the MNO Canoe Expedition departed on May 26, 2014, from Mooney's Bay in Ottawa and followed the historic routes of the fur trade until they arrived in Thunder Bay on August 22. Their route covered over 2,000 kilometers and took them through 23 Métis communities. Along the way the young voyageurs shared their heritage at community events where they demonstrated and

taught traditional Métis storytelling, games, music and jigging.

"We are all very proud of the leadership shown by our young Métis Voyageurs," said MNO President Gary Lipinski. "They provide a shining example of what is possible when young people set out to be all they can be and provide a living symbol of the relationship between our rich heritage and our promising future."

The MNO Canoe Expedition was an interdisciplinary model of experiential learning that challenged and rewarded its participants and helped them gain important and transferrable skills, knowledge and abilities. This project provided equipped Métis youth with knowledge of their culture that can be passed down to future generations and taught them skills that they can put into practice as they enter today's labour market. Click [here](#) for more information about the MNO Canoe Expedition.

At the same ceremony on February 27, Métis youth Mélanie-Rose Frappier also received a Heritage Trust Award. See The next issue of the *Métis Voyageur* for this story. ∞



Photo by Tessa Buchan, courtesy of the Ontario Heritage Trust

▲ Members of the MNO Canoe Expedition at Queen's Park following a ceremony where they received the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award. (Left to right) The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; Geneviève Routhier, Jerry Lavallee, Emily Ingram, Heather Bunn, Elizabeth Clapin, Josh Szajewski; Maria Topalovich, Board Member, Ontario Heritage Trust. Expedition members unable to attend the ceremony were Jeremy Brown, Kyle Grenier and Amilia DiChiara



▲ Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women representatives during the February 24 meeting in Toronto. (Left to right): The Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; Deputy Grand Chief Denise Stonefish of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians; Sheila McMahon, President of the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres; MNO President Gary Lipinski; the Honourable Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Children and Youth Services; and Dawn Lavell-Harvard, Ph.D., Interim President of the Ontario Native Women's Association.)

President Lipinski attends meeting of Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women

by | MNO Staff

On February 24, 2015, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski represented the MNO at a meeting of the members of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Violence Against Aboriginal Women (VAAW). Also attending the meeting on behalf of the MNO was MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson. The Honourable Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Children and Youth Services,

and the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, were both in attendance.

The MNO has been a key player in advancing the agenda to end VAAW. It has participated in five summits on ending VAAW, is a full signatory to the Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women and is an active member of

the JWG on VAAW since its inception in 2010. At its 2014 Annual General Assembly, the MNO also passed a motion asking for a Federal Inquiry into the national tragedy of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. President Lipinski wrote to the Prime Minister about the issue in September 2014. The MNO has also been integrating awareness about VAAW within the

MNO through its Victim Services program and the Women's Secretariat of the MNO has been heavily involved in this critical issue.

The meeting was another opportunity for the JWG, which consists of ten provincial ministries: the MNO, the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, the Ontario Native Women's Association, the Chiefs of Ontario and

Independent First Nations to report on its progress. The MNO commends the Government of Ontario for supporting efforts to reduce the very high rates of violence affecting Métis, First Nations and Inuit women in Ontario and called upon the lead Ministers to report back to their cabinet colleagues on progress and ongoing challenges articulated in the meeting. ∞

President Lipinski attends Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business gala

by | MNO Staff
written with information from
thestar.com and ccab.com

In the last several years economic development has become an increasing priority for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) especially since the MNO passed the Economic Self-sufficiency Law at the 2012 MNO Annual General Assembly. It is important that the MNO maintain a high profile within the Aboriginal business community. As a result, On February 3, 2015, MNO President Gary Lipinski and Scott Patles-

Richardson, the Executive Director of the MNO Infinity Investments Limited Partnership, attended the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) 17th Annual Toronto Gala at the Fairmont Royal York honouring their 2015 Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame (ABHF) Laureate. Among other dignitaries in attendance was the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

The ABHF recognizes Aborigi-

nal persons whose business leadership has made a substantive contribution to the economic and social well-being of Aboriginal people over a lifetime. The 2015 ABHF Laureate is Mel E. Benson, President of Mel E. Benson Management Services Inc. Past laureates are from across Canada and represent Métis, Inuit, and First Nations persons in wide ranging fields of work, organizational and personal endeavors. ∞



▲ Métis Nation of Ontario President Gary Lipinski (left) with JP Gladu, President and CEO of Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business at the gala

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) & Métis Awards Committee (MAC)

The Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is seeking Métis community members who are interested in volunteering their time as members of Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) or Métis Awards Committee (MAC). These roles offer an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the Métis community across Ontario. RAC and MAC members assist in the review of employment and training services in keeping with program Principles, Policies and Procedures.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- RAC members review and recommend training proposals through an anonymous review process with the assistance of the Regional Employment and Training Coordinator (RETC). Reviews are ongoing however time commitment is limited in nature.
- MAC members are required to review bursary applications once or twice a year.
- All RAC and MAC business is to be completed by fax, e-mail and/or teleconference wherever possible. MNO will provide the tools necessary to assist us with making informed decisions
- RAC/MAC work is strictly voluntary

If you are interested in this position
or would like to know more please contact:

Jade Bourbonnière
jadeb@metisnation.org
1-800-263-4889

Métis Nation
of Ontario ∞

A WONDERFUL WAY TO
PROVIDE VALUABLE
FEEDBACK TO OUR
COMMUNITIES

Region Nine participates in NRF information session



▲ Region 9 participants at the New Relationship Fund information session. (L-R) Gisele Legiehn, NRMCM Chair; Jon Rochon, MNO WEKMC Interim President; Barb Lair, MNO GRMC Chair; Terry Desjardins; Josh Clarke, MNO CWMCM Councillor; Jennifer Parkinson, MNO GRMC President; Jerry Clarke, MNO CWMCM; Wilf Rochon, MNO WEKMC Chair; and Derrek Pont, MNO NRMCM President.

by | MNO Staff

On January 19, 2015, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 9 Consultation Committee members took part in a New Relationship Fund (NRF) information session at the MNO office in Windsor. At the session, participants learned about the purpose of the NRF, its objectives and eligibility criteria.

In attendance were: Gisele Legiehn, MNO Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMCM) Chair; Jon Rochon, MNO WEKMC Interim President; Wilf Rochon, MNO WEKMC Chair; Barb Lair, MNO Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) Chair; Jerry Clarke, MNO Clear Waters Métis Council President (CWMCM); Josh Clarke, MNO CWMCM Councillor; Terry Desjardins; Jennifer Parkinson, MNO GRMC President; and, Derrek Pont, MNO NRMCM President.

Consultation Committees work in collaboration with MNO staff to ensure inclusive, transparent and meaningful Métis consultation and accommodation processes with the Crown and proponents are in place. This collective-based, aggregate approach enables the MNO to ensure that regional rights-bearing communities have access to the technical and scientific expertise they need to effectively engage in consultation and accommodation processes. ∞



"The MNO cannot do this alone, we must work—together—to achieve results."

- MNO President
Gary Lipinski

Working Together

President's Update on Métis Rights

As always, the protection and advancement of Métis rights and self-government are front and centre in the Métis Nation of Ontario's ("MNO") agenda. As MNO President, I continue to make this a priority in everything the MNO undertakes. As such, I am pleased to provide an update on some recent initiatives, developments and upcoming events.

By

Gary Lipinski

Métis Nation of Ontario President

Métis Inclusion in Ontario's Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Strategy

Based on our interventions and positive relationship with the Ontario Government, we now have confirmation that the MNO will be included within Ontario's recently announced Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Strategy.

This is a very positive development and will provide us the opportunity to tell the Ontario Métis story, as a part of the history of treaty-making in this province as well as the contemporary recognition of Métis rights.

In this fiscal year, we have received funding to consult with our citizens and communities on what initiatives we would like to see un-

dertaken as a part of the Strategy. I encourage all citizens to read my previous memo dated February 6, 2015 that provides further details on this initiative. The memo is available on the MNO's website at: www.metisnation.org.

As well, please provide your comments and suggestions on the MNO's involvement in the Strategy to Joanne Meyer, MNO Director of Intergovernmental Affairs by March 31, 2015 on what types of initiatives you believe this Strategy should support. Joanne can be reached via email at joannem@metisnation.org or at the MNO office in Toronto.

"This is a very positive development and will provide us the opportunity to tell the Ontario Métis story, as a part of the history of treaty-making in this province as well as the contemporary recognition of Métis rights."

Ongoing Engagement with Ontario on Métis Communities

The MNO continues to work with the Ontario Government on Métis rights issues flowing from our original commitment in the Harvesting Agreement reached in 2004. This important work will inform our future negotiations with respect to the removal of the current 1250 cap on Harvester Cards, Crown consultation and other rights-related issues.

Notably, in December 2014, the historic research project on the Mattawa-Nipissing region, which was overseen by a tripartite steering committee consisting of the MNO, and the Ontario and federal government, was

completed. This report is now available on the MNO's website under the Registry/Historic Research section.

In addition, we continue to move towards finalizing joint assessments of the existing historic research on Ontario Métis communities. We hope to have these completed in the next few months and will be reporting out to our citizens at the upcoming MNO Annual General Assembly. I encourage all of our citizens to attend this important Assembly, which will be held in Midland in August, for updates on this rights-related work.

In December 2014, the historic research project on the Mattawa-Nipissing region, which was overseen by a tripartite steering committee consisting of the MNO, the Ontario and federal government, was completed. ▶



Recent Quebec Court Case No Rights-Bearing Métis Community Established

For information purposes, I had the MNO's legal counsel prepare a case summary on a recent decision from the Quebec Superior Court in *R. v. Corneau*. A copy of this summary is available on the MNO's website at: www.metisnation.org.

In this case, 16 individuals claimed "Métis" harvesting rights in eastern Quebec. The trial judge found that there

was no evidence of a historic Métis community in this region. The court also rejected the defendants' arguments that simply having an Aboriginal ancestor in Quebec in the 1700s and now creating an organization today that asserts rights does not meet the test for Métis rights established in the *Powley* case.

This case, along with others from east of Ontario, demon-

strate the importance of the collaborative work we are doing with the Ontario Government on the identification of Métis communities—based on the facts of history—not just political rhetoric. It also emphasizes the importance of the MNO maintaining a credible Harvester Card system that is based on the *Powley* test.

The late Harry Daniels, who initiated *Daniels v Canada*, is most widely known among Métis people as one of the individuals who negotiated the expressed inclusion of "Métis People" in the *Constitution Act, 1982*. ▶



The Daniels Case "No More Political Football"

As we are all too well aware, since Canada was created the Métis have been treated as the proverbial "political football" with respect to what level of government (federal or provincial) has constitutional responsibility and jurisdiction for us.

The Daniels case, started by well-known Métis leader Harry Daniels, is about whether the federal government has constitutional responsibility for the Métis, similar to the responsibility it has for First Nation and Inuit peoples.

At trial and on appeal (where the MNO was an intervener at the Federal Court of Appeal), the courts have affirmed what we have always known:

the federal government has constitutional responsibility for Métis in the same way it does for all Aboriginal peoples.

The federal government has now appealed our victories at the lower court levels to the Supreme Court of Canada. A tentative hearing date for the Daniels appeal has now been set for October 8, 2015.

Based on the unanimous direction of the 2014 MNO AGA, the MNO will be intervening in the Daniels case at the Supreme Court of Canada. We will continue to keep people updated on developments with respect to this important case for Ontario Métis and the Métis Nation.

Federal Policy Consultations "Finally Dealing with Métis Claims"

Over the last several months, the federal government has been undertaking consultation on its Comprehensive and Specific claims policies that are designed to address outstanding Crown obligations as well as outstanding land and rights claims of Aboriginal peoples.

By and large, Métis communities have been excluded from these federal policies. This is unacceptable to Ontario Métis. Moreover, this federal exclusion can no longer be sustained based on the Supreme Court of Canada's decisions over the last decade.

From the *Powley* case to the Manitoba Métis Federation case to the Daniels case, the message from the courts to the government has been clear: reconciliation in Canada cannot continue to exclude the Métis people. Negotiation processes to address Métis rights, interests and claims are the only way forward.

Accordingly, the MNO has been actively involved in both federal consultation processes. I met with Doug Eyford, the Federal Government's Special Representative on the Comprehensive Claims process, in November 2014. I expect to meet with Benoit Pelletier, the Federal Government's Special Representative on the Specific Claims process, in the near future.

I am optimistic that both Special Representatives will recognize the need for the existing policies to be modified to include Métis or that a distinct Métis claims process be established. We are expecting that Mr. Eyford's report will be out very soon and will keep citizens updated on progress.

Very likely, changes to these policies will not occur immediately, however, the writing is on the wall that at some point in time, Métis rights, interests and claims will finally need to be addressed by the federal government.



▲ Doug Eyford



▲ President Lipinski participates in a media scrum at the Supreme Court of Canada in 2013

Upcoming Federal Election "Make Your Vote Count"

Related to some of the issues outlined above, it is very likely a federal election will be held in the Fall of 2015. In preparation for this, I have recently written to the federal Conservative, Liberal and NDP parties for meetings.

At these meetings, I will be asking these three parties where they stand on issues of importance to Ontario Métis such as: Métis inclusion of the federal Comprehensive and Specific claims processes; the renewal of the Aboriginal Skills, Education and Training program; and their ongoing commitments to Métis Registry funding and other priorities.

Flowing from these meetings, we will be providing information on the policies of all three parties with respect to Métis, so our citizens can make an informed choice when they cast their ballot. While our 18,000+ citizens are dispersed throughout Ontario, we can make a difference in many key ridings in this province.

We must flex our voting power—as Ontario Métis—in this upcoming federal election. That is the only way we will finally begin to see progress at the federal level on our issues. The MNO cannot do this alone, we must work—together—to achieve results.



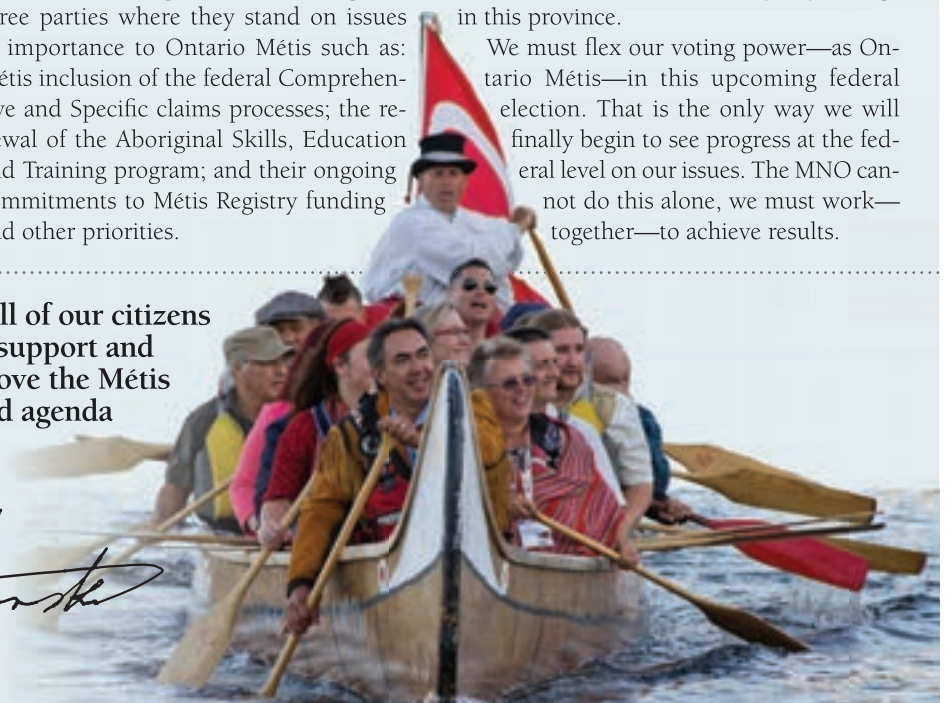
▲ Photos from Facebook.com

As you can see, we have much going on in order to advance Métis rights in Ontario. These are just a few of the initiatives that I wanted to provide updates on, but there is much more that the MNO does every day related to our rights agenda.

Also, whenever I travel to our communities, I stress that all of the work that is being done on the local and regional levels—as a part of consultations, traditional knowledge studies or public awareness initiatives on Métis—contributes to our efforts.

I want to thank all of our citizens for their continued support and confidence as we move the Métis Nation's rights-based agenda forward. ∞

Harry Daniels



COMMUNITY



◀ Métis youth from the Clear Waters Métis Council having fun in the Tilsonburg Christmas Parade.

A year in the making

2014 was a banner year for the MNO Clear Waters Métis Council

submitted by | **Jerry Clarke**
MNO Clear Waters Métis Council President

February

On February 16, 2014, 18 participants took part in a moccasin workshop at the MNO Hamilton office. The workshop was organized by Tobias Clarke, MNO Clear Waters Métis Council Women's Representative, and included a potluck lunch, which was enjoyed by all! The MNO CWMC was pleased to have instructor Sarah Doolittle from the local First

Nations reserve to lead the group in hands-on training. At the end of the workshop, participants left with a personalized pair of moccasins and a full belly! The MNO CWMC would like to thank all of those who attended the workshop and for the superb food shared at the potluck.



▲ Participants show off their moccasins at the MNO Hamilton office.

March



▲ Participants of the Faceless Dolls workshop.

On March 22, 2014 at the annual Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Brantford, citizens had the opportunity to gather for a vote, presentations, music and entertainment as well as a potluck. The event began with an official vote by citizens concerning the councils' name change to the MNO Clear Waters Métis Council. The council had formally

been called the MNO Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council. Sharon McBride, PCMNO Vice-Chair, assisted in overseeing the counting of the ballots. During the AGM, Métis Veteran Lorna Burke was presented with the Louis Riel Medal and the Batoche Medal (See page 24 for the full story).

May

In May, Tobias Clarke, MNO CWMC Women's Representative, organized a Faceless Dolls workshop and potluck at the Burford local library. The MNO CWMC was pleased with their efforts in making 68

dolls. In memory of missing and murdered Aboriginal women, the dolls were then donated to MNO citizen Starr Kennedy who brought them to the Haldimand and Norfolk Women's Services.

November

On November 15, 2014, the MNO CWMC created a float for the Tillsonburg Christmas Parade. (see photo above) The float was created with the goal of increasing awareness of Métis culture and Louis Riel. It was the first time a Métis float

has been in the parade and was very well received. The float stood out with a Métis encampment, furs, drums, music, hand painted canoes and Métis citizens dressed in period regalia.

December

On December 6, 2014, the MNO CWMC organized a traditional feast at the Ministry of Agriculture/University of Guelph Research Centre Hall in Simcoe. MNO staff provided a few of the gifts for draws as well as the meat for the occasion. Nikki Shawanna was dressed in First Nations regalia and entertained participants with Hoop Dancing. Métis Veteran Lorna Burke, donated a large quilt made with Métis colours for a future fundraising event. Participants had the opportunity

to meet their MNO CWMC members and were informed about past and present council events. Participants also learned about the upcoming Rendezvous event, which is a joint effort between the MNO CWMC and the MNO Grand River Métis Council. The Rendezvous will be held in Tillsonburg on September 12, 2015. The MNO CWMC would like to thank everyone that has helped to make this year such a success! ∞



▲ Participants unveil the quilt donated by Métis Veteran Lorna Burke.

MNO Canoe Expedition members inspire at We Day



▲ (L-R) Marc Kielburger, Gerald Lavalée, Genevieve Routhier and Craig Kielburger at the We Day celebration in Kitchener, Ontario.

by | MNO Staff

On November 20, 2014, over 7,000 students, educators and guests gathered at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium for the We Day Waterloo Region celebration. Gerald Lavalée and Genevieve Routhier, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) 2014 Canoe Expedition participants, were among the speakers that addressed the crowd.

Gerald and Genevieve spoke about the challenges they met on their journey and their commitment to achieving positive change. Their presentation included an exciting one minute video that featured highlights from their Ottawa to Thunder Bay trek. This video can be viewed on the 2014 MNO Canoe Expedition page on the MNO website

(metisnation.org/programs/education--training/canoe-expedition-2014).

Marc and Craig Kielburger, co-founders of Free the Children, established We Day in 2007 based on the understanding that by awakening the spirit of volunteerism in young people, anything is possible.

The We Day movement provides tools and skills to youth helping to turn the inspiration of one day into sustained action. It brings the biggest and brightest philanthropic minds of our time together with some of the most important cultural influencers to inspire youth to change the world and the communities around them. We Day is a free event, however tickets cannot be bought. Students and their

The We Day movement provides tools and skills to youth helping to turn the inspiration of one day into sustained action.

schools must earn their way into We Day through a year-long commitment to local and global actions.

The MNO is proud that Gerald and Genevieve were able to present at We Day and share with thousands their experience as Métis youth and their epic 2,000 kilometer journey following the historic fur trade routes of Ontario. ∞

Kenora Warmth and Wellness Group continues to make a difference

submitted by | Cyndy Laliberte
MNO Kenora Métis Council Chair

The Kenora Warmth and Wellness Group (KWWG) was established six years ago through a seniors' grant to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Kenora Métis Council (KMC). The KWWG currently has nineteen members as well as three home knitters. Several of its members are Métis, including Cynthia Laliberte, MNO KMC Chair. Membership has continued to grow every year!

KWWG members are thankful to Evergreen School for allowing them to get together once a week free-of-charge to knit and crochet items for those in need. In the summer, the KWWG will be moving to the Rideout Community Club—the same place the annual spring and fall fundraisers are held.

The KWWG uses donated wool to knit and crochet items of warmth such as hats, scarves, mitts, slippers, chemo hats and blankets. The KWWG donates their pieces to a variety of organizations, including: the Lake of the Woods District Hospital; the Kenora Sexual Assault Center; Migiisi; Birchwood Terrace Nursing Home; the Atikokan Hospital; Seven Generations School; and Ontario Works who brings these donations to areas in need such as Red Lake and Sioux Lookout. Special "touch blankets" have also been made in the past for the Alzheimers Group. Hat, scarves and mitts were also made and donated to the Ontario Provincial Police so that they can be kept in their cruisers and given to people who are in trauma.

The KWWG has also helped other organizations, including: the Red Cross (Keewatin area); assisting with workshops at the Jubilee Church, providing support with a fundraiser hosted by the Women's Place, and helping young students in attaining community service hours for school.

The KWWG has provided support to the MNO KMC on initiatives such as moccasin making classes, the Wee Youth group, coffee houses, and Louis Riel day celebrations.

The KWWG has a sister group in Winnipeg called "The St. Vital Warmth and Wellness Group". This group focuses on making scarves, hats, mitts and blankets, which are all put in a back pack and handed out before Christmas. The KWWG would like to recognize Linda Loutit and her daughter Maegen for doing an amazing job on this initiative!

If you know of someone in need who could benefit from knitted and crocheted items, please call Wendy Langlois at 807-548-4289. Anonymity and privacy will be respected. ∞



▲ The Kenora Warmth and Wellness Group.

Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association Conference

by | MNO Staff

The 22nd Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association (CAMA) conference took place in Toronto from November 16-18, 2014. CAMA is an Aboriginal, non-profit organization that seeks to increase the understanding of the minerals industry, Aboriginal mining and Aboriginal communities' paramount interests in lands and resources.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) had several delegates at the conference, including MNO Regional Councillors from Regions 1-5 and Nicholas Callahan from Region 5 who participated on the

CAMA Youth Panel.

This year was the first time in the history of CAMA that the MNO had a presence on the agenda. On November 18, 2014, Jason Madden, MNO General Counsel, led a workshop on Best Practices in Métis Consultation and Accommodation. Topics included:

- Métis Consultation and Accommodation: A Cross Canada Update
- Métis and Mining: What's Happening
- Challenges and Best Practices

- Métis Rights and Legal Issues
- Emerging Issues and Trends

During the CAMA conference, the new logo for the Aboriginal Pavilion at the upcoming TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Game was unveiled. The Aboriginal Pavilion will offer diverse performances, demonstrations, commissions and activities to celebrate and share the Indigenous cultures of the Americas at 3 locations across the city: the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto (NCCCT), Garrison Commons (adjacent to Fort York) and Planet IndigenUs at Harbourfront Centre. ∞



▲ The MNO participants at the CAMA conference. Back row (L-R) Andy Lefebvre, MNO Mineral Development Coordinator; Kevin Muloio, MNO Consultation Coordinator; Roger Rose, MNO Mattawa Métis Council Chair; Trent Desaulniers, MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council President; and, Ernie Gatien, Region 4 PCMNO Councillor. Front row (L-R) Joanne Meyer, MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations; Juliette Denis, Region 5 PCMNO Councillor, and Joyceline Rose, MNO Mattawa Métis Council Women's Representative.



▲ Joanne Meyer (left), MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations and Vice Chair of the Aboriginal Leadership Partners (ALP) and Larry Frost, Executive Director of the Native Canadian Centre and Chair of the ALP, at the launch of the Aboriginal Pavilion on November 18, 2014 at the Fort York Visitor Centre.

MNO veteran celebrates his 102nd birthday

submitted by | **Joseph Paquette**
MNO Veterans' Council President

World War II veteran and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Alexander Sandy Boucher celebrated his 102nd birthday this past January making him the oldest Métis veteran in Ontario. Alex reg-

istered with the MNO Veterans' Council in 2013.

Alex attended his first Annual General Assembly in Ottawa in 2013. This was also his first time in Ottawa and his first time visiting the National cenotaph,

the Aboriginal Veterans monument and the Canadian War Museum.

The MNO Veterans' Council is honoured to have Alex as a member in good standing and wish him the very best and a very happy birthday! ∞



▲ MNO Veteran Alex S. Boucher (middle) with MNO President Gary Lipinski (left) and MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette at the 2013 Annual General Assembly in Ottawa.

The 22nd Annual Métis Nation of Ontario

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

August 22 - 24 2015, Midland Ontario

Métis Nation
of Ontario ∞



Photo by Jonathan Migneault

▲ From front, Laurentian University School of Architecture second-year students Sophie Amacky, Maxine Blais, Alex Gunnewiek, Ali Modl and Denis Lemieux worked nine hours per week for a month to complete the birch bark canoe they are holding over their heads.

Métis elder lends his skills to the Laurentian School of Architecture

by | Jonathan Migneault

Adapted from an original story that appeared at northernlife.ca

Marcel Labelle, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and Métis elder from Mattawa, is a master canoe builder and was approached by the Laurentian School of Architecture for help with a special project.

This past school semester, around 30 Architecture students from Laurentian University were given the task of designing and building a canoe over the course of a month and Labelle was chosen as their instructor.

Labelle is a proud Métis who grew up in northern Ontario and spent most of his childhood on the trap line, where he learned how to live with, and from, the forest. Today he continues Métis traditions by building birch bark canoes and by demonstrating and teaching this craft at many venues, including Trent University where he instructs an Indigenous Studies course. He often works with the MNO and is a popular part of many Moccasin Camps, including the camps that took place in North Bay and Kitchener in 2012. He is also the recipient of a 2008 Ontario Arts Council Aboriginal Arts Projects grant.

When Maxine Blais found out that her and her classmates would be building a birch bark canoe during their second year of architecture school, she was

a little skeptical. “I was a little apprehensive because I was wondering about the connection between this and architecture,” said Blais. But that hesitation vanished once she learned about the materials and techniques they would be using. They worked with cedar for the canoe’s skeleton, spruce roots to tie pieces together, and, of course, birch

“They get to build [the canoe] and now they’re standing around with their families and there’s a sense of completion in a fairly short time.”

– Terrance Galvin,
Director, Laurentian School
of Architecture

bark to create the outer shell.

Labelle taught the students how to bend the wood to their will, and better understand the material they will go on to use in buildings when they become architects. Blais explained how they “learned how the material has its own mind.” While Blais and her peers worked on a birch bark canoe, around 30 other second-year students tackled its more modern cousin, made of space-age carbon fiber. Gergely Lanci,

the commodore at the Sudbury Canoe Club, taught the second group how to build the carbon fiber canoe.

“If these students understand the construction method of a canoe – why we are doing things a certain way – they are very easily able to apply it on a larger scale, or use it as a component on a building,” Lanci said.

Laurentian School of Architecture Director Terrance Galvin said the canoes, and ice huts his students built last winter, were deliberate curriculum choices to represent northern culture. “Tackling small projects like the ice hut or the canoe ... what’s nice for the students is they’re not doing something abstractly,” Galvin said. “They get to build it, and now they’re standing around with their families and there’s a sense of completion in a fairly short time.” The students dedicated nine hours each week to the project.

Both canoes were on display at the University on December 13, 2014. Students’ family members, and local dignitaries, including Sudbury Mayor Brian Bigger, were on hand to see the finished products. The school plans to donate the birch bark canoe to the Wahnapiatae First Nation. ∞

A SINGLE FLAKE

By Raymond Tremblay, MNO Citizen

As I felt weaker and weaker, I wondered how I’d regain my energy.

Surviving became my sole preoccupation. My life was in jeopardy!

I still carried ammunition in my pouch, but I had run out of water.

Never had I felt so thirsty! My sound mind now began to wander.

Gaspings for air as I continued my expedition, I became anxious.

Life seemed to be abandoning my legs. That was treacherous!

Even Brother Sun had disappeared. Clouds came to visit me.

Finally, my loyal friends came to my rescue. I was happy.

Little by little, dainty snowflakes fell from the whitened sky.

Accepting this sacred manna, my spirits reached a new high.

Kings of the sky gracefully embraced my being with tenderness.

Each pure flake of snow finally quenched my thirst. What kindness!

Métis sash making workshop at Algoma University

by | MNO Staff

Algoma University (Algoma U) in Sault Ste. Marie is turning 50 in 2015! To celebrate their first 50 years of education, Algoma U will be holding celebratory events all year long.

One of these events is a Métis sash making workshop. At this event, participants will have the opportunity to create a finger woven Métis sash in Algoma U red and white colours. The workshop is free and participants can take their sash home with them at the end. Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Brenda Powley will be participating in this event. The workshop will be led by Shawna Hansen, MNO Community Wellness Worker, Métis community member and mother of three. Shawna is an avid sash weaver knowledgeable in finger weaving and loom weaving techniques. Judy Syrette, Algoma U Director of the Anishinaabe Student Success, has scheduled the workshop to run for 10 sessions over 10 weeks.

MNO council provides Métis knowledge to Waterloo students

submitted by | Barb Lair

MNO Grand River Métis Council Chair

From September 30 to October 1, 2014, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) participated in the Waterloo Region Museum’s First Peoples Festival. Students in the area were invited to attend workshops presented by First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities. There were over 1100 students in attendance over the three day event.

Jennifer Parkinson, MNO GRMC President, sat on the question and answer panel, while Barb Lair, MNO GRMC Chair and Heather Bunn, MNO citizen and 2014 Canoe Expedition participant, taught the children Métis games such as sling shots and neck, leg,

and arm wrestling.

The MNO GRMC was also invited in November by the Healing of the Seven Generations organization to offer Métis knowledge in the Aboriginal Teaching Circles. Teaching circles were organized over six separate days for students in Grades 5 to 8 in the Waterloo Region.

President Parkinson, Chair Lair and Leslie-Anne Muma, MNO GRMC Secretary/Treasurer, taught the students Métis 101, using the Métis Education Kit and other resources such as furs and beadwork. At the end of each session, a short lesson in jigging also took place. The teaching circles were a great success and enjoyed by all! ∞



Photo by Kathryn McGarry, MPP Cambridge

▲ Jennifer Parkinson (left), MNO Grand River Métis Council President, and Barb Lair, MNO Grand River Métis Council Chair, lead a workshop at the Aboriginal Teaching Circles.



Photo by Anna Uliana

▲ Santa Claus, also known as MNO Citizen Raymond D. Tremblay, leads the Round Dance as the O-town Boyz beat their drums.

Santa's magical moment

submitted by | **Raymond D. Tremblay**
MNO Citizen

Raymond D. Tremblay provides his first-hand account of playing Santa Claus at the Rideau Centre Shopping Centre in Ottawa:

There I was at the Rideau Centre on Sunday, December 21, 2014, greeting young and older children alike, asking them what they wanted as gifts for Christmas. The rapport between a little boy and I was particularly memorable as he

asked Santa for his favourite red fire truck. All of a sudden, our visit was brought to an abrupt end by the loud beat of drums; the little boy seemed to instinctively understand what was happening. Yet before he left, he took the time to promise me that he would have some chocolate chip cookies, a glass of milk and some carrots sticks left out for when Santa delivered his gifts on

Christmas Eve. A colorful group of First Nations drummers—called the O-Town Boyz—and dancers suddenly appeared and gathered outside the main wall of Santa's Castle. As the beat and tempo of the O-Town Boyz drummers increased and the dancers began their amazing Round Dance, I could not resist the alluring call of their drums. My Métis soul compelled me to join them in

their Round Dance and, much to my surprise, I found myself leading the dance. The observing crowd continued to increase as the sound of the drums attracted them. Cameras flashed from all angles to capture this magical moment. Santa was in ninth heaven! I couldn't believe what was happening! But above all, it was the sacred voice of our ancestors' drums that created this

spiritual moment and allowed us to remember the true meaning of Christmas. Sincerest thanks to the O-Town Boyz and for the other dancers for welcoming Santa into their Round Dance and to Anna Uliana for taking this beautiful picture. ∞

Families take part in the second Annual Breakfast with Santa event in Midland

by | MNO Staff

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff in Midland hosted the second Annual Breakfast with Santa on December 13, 2014. This event, which puts a different spin on the traditional Christmas dinner event, was a huge success last year. Families were given a wholesome breakfast and took part in

crafting and colouring. Children also had the opportunity to spend some time with Santa Claus, who is also known as John Paradis, MNO citizen and long-time member and volunteer with the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council. Families also received gifts from Santa Claus. The MNO Midland staff teamed up with Healthy Weights Connec-

tion and The Karma Project to provide each family with a Good Food Box voucher. These vouchers will provide each family with a large box of fresh produce and help them become more aware of the initiatives and services that are readily available to them within their community. ∞



▲ Participants at the Louis Riel Day celebration in Windsor.

Windsor community members gather for a day of celebration

submitted by | **Jon Rochon**
MNO Windsor Essex Métis Council President

On November 16, 2014, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council (WEKMC), the MNO Windsor office staff and residents from Windsor and local Métis communities, gathered to celebrate Louis Riel Day and to honour Métis Veterans. The celebration was held at the Windsor Family Credit Union Centre. A military honour guard and piper started the event followed by Donna Grayer, MNO WEKMC Interim Women's Representative, who gave an opening prayer in Ojibway. Sergeant Adam Girard C.D. who served two tours in Afghanistan was honoured at the celebration with the Louis Riel Medal and Certificate as well as

the Batoche Medal. After the ceremony, participants indulged in a lunch and took part in a community meeting. Participants also had the opportunity to make blankets for Windsor's local women's homeless shelter to remember the tragedies and violence against not only Aboriginal women, but all women. The lunch prayer and the closing prayers were performed by Métis Youth Sienna Rochon and MNO WEKMC Interim Chair, Wilfred Rochon, who is a World War II Veteran. Many thanks go out to the MNO Windsor office, notably October Fostey, Jannatul Mawa and Audrey Bayliss, who helped make this event possible. ∞



▲ Children sit with Santa Claus at the second Annual Breakfast with Santa.

Christmas came early for the MNO Sudbury Métis Council

by | MNO Staff

On December 6, 2014, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Sudbury Métis Council (SMC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) was attended by over 230 citizens. In attendance was the following PCMNO members: France Picotte, Chair; Sharon McBride, Vice-Chair; Juliette Denis, Region 5 Councillor; and, Ernie Gatten, Region 4 Councillor. Doug Wilson, MNO Chief Operating Officer (COO), was also in attendance.

Participants were greeted by PCMNO members and MNO COO Wilson provided an update on the MNO to the assembly. One of the most anticipated activities at the AGM was the arrival of Santa Claus! The MNO SMC had over 65 children in attendance. The children waited very patiently to meet Santa and each received a special gift, which was provided by the MNO SMC. ∞



▲ Métis youngsters meet Santa Claus at the MNO Sudbury Métis Council AGM.



▲ Children at the MNO Sudbury Métis Council Christmas dinner.



▲ Highlights from Village Noël: 1 - Men put together the teepee in the heart of New Liskeard for Village Noël. 2 - The beautiful teepee set up and ready. 3 - Tina Nichol, MNO TMC Secretary/Treasurer, harvesting cedar to make tea for visitors at Village Noël. 4 - Village Noël participants inside the teepee at the festival. (L-R) Tina Nichol, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Timiskaming Métis Council (TMC) Secretary/Treasurer, Marilyn Chevrier-Wills, member of the Timiskaming Native Women's Support Group, Rejeanne Massie, Coordinator/Director of Village Noël, and Melissa Gill, Healthy Lifestyle Educator and Diabetes Prevention Coordinator for the Timiskaming Native Women's Support Group.

MNO council participates in Village Noël

submitted by | Tina Nichol
MNO Timiskaming Métis Council Secretary/Treasurer

From November 27 to 30, 2014, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Timiskaming Métis Community Council (TMCC) partnered with the Timiskaming Native Women's Support Group to promote awareness of Aboriginal cultures during the first Annual Village Noël in the heart of New Liskeard. Village Noël was organized by the Francophone community to promote local artists by showcasing their beautiful talents. The festival included kiosks featuring artisans, craftspeople and food vendors as well as carolers, street performers and musicians. The event also promoted the history of Timiskaming including the Old Mission trading post, life on the shores of Lake Timiskaming and prominent residents that have helped make Timiskaming the community it is today. Aboriginal people from the Timiskaming First Nations, members of the Timiskaming Native Women's Support Group and Métis from the MNO TMCC, worked together to

erect a teepee. For four days they kept the sacred fire burning while the women of these communities drummed throughout the event. Participants were invited into the teepee to pray for themselves or as a group by receiving a handful of cedar and tobacco medicines and then putting their offering into the sacred fire. Many different schools visited the teepee. Marilyn Chevrier-Wills of the Timiskaming Native Women's Group, brought "shakers" for the children so that they could participate in the drumming circle. Tina Nichol, TMCC Secretary/Treasurer, made homemade bannock and offered cedar tea to women and visitors. "Taashkinikay ki-iyanaan kaayaash Ooshchi, share our traditions; that is what it is all about when approaching one another in our communities," she said. "We have always shared our stories, but sharing our traditions is also very important as it allows us to create ties with one another and increase awareness." ∞

CELEBRATE WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO AGA 2016



23RD ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REQUEST FOR BUSINESS PLANS TO HOST THE 2016 AGA

Every year Métis from across Ontario gather for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly. It is here the business of the nation takes place and we celebrate our culture as well as renew many friendships.

The MNO is looking for communities interested in hosting the 2016 Annual General Assembly (AGA) and encourages all chartered MNO Community Councils to consider submitting a business plan.

Each business plan should include:

- The name of the person who will liaise with the MNO head office and his/her contact information;
- A plan for a social event to be organized by the host community the last evening of the AGA;
- A list of venues suitable for AGA activities (arenas, halls, theatres, etc.) providing information about their capacity, availability and rental cost;
- A list of accommodation options (including camping) available in your community indicating their locations, capacities, availability and cost;
- Options for planned social events in your area (for example in the past AGAs planned social events included boat cruises, concerts, dances, campfires, etc.); and
- An indication of your Council's volunteer capacity.

Please forward your business plans to Doug Wilson, MNO Chief Operating Officer at dougw@metisnation.org by **July 31, 2015**.

Obituaries



Former MNO Senator Jack Leroux

Born in Timmins on April 21, 1935, former Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Jack Leroux passed into the creator's arms on January 19, 2015. Predeceased by his wife, Jane (Pennington), parents Joe and Juliette Leroux, sisters Marie Ducker, Rose Meloche, and Carmen Britt. Survived by sons Bernard (Johanne) Stephan (Sandy) Vince (Tracy) his sister, Juliette Swink (Earl) and friend Mary Leroux-Strobl, six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren, along with

many nieces and nephews.

Jack resided in North Bay from 1954 to 1977 when he owned and operated JBL Hair Den. He then resided in Bruce Mines until 2011.

Jack was an accomplished scuba and hard hat diver, which he worked at for many years. He was also a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 23, a member of the Canadian Navel Association, and an officer with the North Bay Sea Cadets in his younger days.

Jack enjoyed his retirement years in Bruce Mines by the waters of Lake Huron at which time he

became an MNO citizen and soon rose to be an MNO Senator.

Jack also compiled an extensive genealogy of his family. Those relationships were precious to him. He enjoyed and appreciated the visits from relatives who travelled long distances to spend time with him on his last days.

Cremation has taken place, and a celebration of life will be held in the spring. ∞

John Patrick Kelly



MNO citizen and Métis veteran John Kelly died peacefully on February 24, 2015. John was the brother of MNO Executive Senator Reta Gordon and MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council Senator Lois McCallum and is predeceased by his brother MNO Veterans' Council Senator George Kelly.

John served in the Royal Ca-

nadian Navy and was a retired Ottawa Police Constable.

He was the cherished husband of Jeannine. Devoted father to John (Betty). Dear grandfather to Patrick. Will be greatly missed by his siblings Lois (Walter), Reta (Ronnie), Robert (Judith), Gordon (Betty), Barbara (Chris), Larry (Gail), and Leonard. Predeceased by his brothers George and Don-

ald. Fondly remembered by his extended family, nieces, nephews and friends.

John was a founding member of the Ottawa Police Association Pipes and Drums. An original member and instructor of the Ottawa Police Underwater Squad. Former member of the Cameron Highlanders Pipes and Drums.

A visitation at Kelly Funeral

in Ottawa, was held on Tuesday March 3, 2015 and the Funeral Service took place on Wednesday March 4, 2015. Interment will take place at St. Bernard's Cemetery in spring. If desired, donations may be made to the Ottawa Hospital Riverside Campus (Dialysis Unit) in memory of John. ∞



▲ Highlights from the Annual Harvest Gathering. 1 - Children test out their homemade turtle craft at the harvest gathering. (L-R) Gabrielle Joy, Ekela Nichol, and Jordan McKnight. 2 - Jamie Dupuis gives a sample of his banjo skills—one of his many musical talents. 3 - Gracie Masulka (front) jigs her feet to the music, while Jamie Dupuis (left) and Jamie’s uncle Claude Dupuis, MNO TMCC VP/Chair, provide entertainment at the harvest gathering. 4 - Participants at the harvest gathering. (L-R) Nolan Nichol; Tina Nichol, MNO TMCC Secretary/Treasurer; Marilyn Chevrier from the Timiskaming Native Women’s Support Group and Timiskaming First Nation; and Liliane Ethier, MNO TMCC President. 5 - Non-perishable food items are collected at the harvest gathering. (L-R) Stephane Devost, Devost Value Mart Owner; Tina Nichol, MNO TMCC Secretary/Treasurer; Claude Dupuis MNO TMCC VP/Chair; and Julie Devost, Devost Value Mart Owner.

MNO Timiskaming council hosts Annual Harvest Gathering

submitted by | Tina Nichol
MNO Timiskaming Métis Council Secretary/Treasurer

On November 22, 2014, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Timiskaming Métis Community Council (TMCC) hosted their 14th Annual Métis Harvest Gathering in Timiskaming Shores. The event saw more than 60 Métis and other people and included activities for children, a silent auction, live entertainment and a wild game feast.

Instead of charging admission, the MNO TMCC asked participants to bring a non-perishable food item. In partnership with Devost Value Mart, the collected food items were then distributed to local

food banks just in time for the Christmas season.

The MNO TMCC had a variety of games organized for kids throughout the afternoon. Karen Beland, MNO TMCC Councilor, taught the kids how to make a dream catcher using recyclable materials. Children also had a great time making turtles out of paper bowls, which were then tied to a string and raced.

Once the activities were finished, participants indulged in a feast that included beaver, moose, and deer meat as well as traditional Mohawk corn soup.

A silent auction took place during the event with funds going towards MNO TMCC cultural activities. Many local businesses and organizations donated to the auction. Devost Value Mart donated a turkey for the “Christmas Dinner in a Basket” prize, valued at \$150. This prize was won by local MNO citizen, Lorette McKnight.

A live guitar and banjo performance by Timiskaming born MNO citizen Jamie Dupuis was the highlight of the evening. Jamie is a composer and guitarist who has spent the last seven years studying music. His first studio album is entitled *In-*

spired by a Dream. Jamie obtained a College diploma from Cambrian College in Music Performance and studied classical guitar with renowned guitarist Philip Candalaria. Jamie has won many different awards, including the “Full Ride Scholarship, 2011” at the Musicians Institute of Contemporary Music in Hollywood, California.

The MNO TMCC would like to acknowledge Marilyn Chevrier-Wills—a First Nation Elder from the Algonquin Timiskaming First Nation. Marilyn organized a display of traditional First Nation culture and gave teachings to par-

ticipants. Marilyn also drummed with Tina Nichol, MNO TMCC Secretary/Treasurer.

“It is fantastic to share our traditions with the various Aboriginal communities in our area,” said Nichol. “As an MNO TMCC employee and a Métis woman of Temiskaming, I long to see our partnerships grow in the community we live in. It speaks volumes to the public and our governments.” ∞

MNO takes the lead on Rainy River District OPP Stuff-A-Cruiser event

Adapted from an article that originally appeared in the Ontario Provincial Police News Portal

On Saturday November 29, 2014, officers of the Rainy River District Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) hosted the Stuff-A-Cruiser event in Atikokan. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) took the lead on this year’s event and helped it become such a success.

With the assistance of our policing partners, officers and volunteers were outside the Atikokan Foodland and the Atikokan Economic Development Office between 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Together, the community stuffed 14 cruisers full of non-perishable food items to help support the Atikokan Native Friendship Centre/Ashandwin Food Bank, Atikokan Christ-

mas Cheer and the Faith Lutheran Church Food Bank. The annual event is held in conjunction with the Christmas Parade and was very well attended.

On Saturday December 13, 2014 Stuff-A-Cruiser was held in Fort Frances, Emo and Rainy River. Officers and volunteers were located outside of Canada Safeway, The Place, Wal-Mart, Cloverleaf Grocery and Beaver Mills Market between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. This year, the OPP, Treaty Three Police Service and CN Police were grateful for the help received from Rainy River District Emergency Medical Services (EMS), students of the paramedical program at Confederation College and Iron Range

Bus Lines. The community came out in droves and stuffed a full size bus three times during the day at the Wal-Mart site!

Together, the community stuffed 25 cruisers in Fort Frances, 7 cruisers in Emo and 3 cruisers in Rainy River with all non-perishable food items in support of the Sunset Metis, United Native Friendship Centre, The Salvation Army, Emo Food Bank, Fort Frances Vol-

unteer Bureau and Rainy River West End Food Bank.

The OPP wishes to congratulate the MNO for their role in this year’s event and to the Celebrating

Diversity Committee for their assistance in coordinating the schedule of over 70 volunteers who helped throughout the day. Well done! ∞



▲ Volunteers at the Stuff-A-Cruiser event.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Photo by Lisa Shepherd

▲ Dr. Janet Smylie.

MNO Citizen to address gaps in indigenous health through research

by | **Geoff Koehler**

Adapted from an article that originally appeared at www.stmichaelshospital.com

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Public Health Agency of Canada have awarded Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, Dr. Janet Smylie, an Applied Public Health Research Chair. This position will allow her to address the striking inequities in health and health service access experienced by Indigenous people in Canada. Dr. Smylie will focus on improving access to effective treatments for illnesses disproportionately affecting Indigenous peoples, such as diabetes, obesity, tuberculosis, suicide and dental disease.

Dr. Smylie has partnered with the MNO on three major health research projects as well as with public health researchers in New Zealand, Australia and the United States. Dr. Smylie is one of the first Métis doctors in Canada and is a leading expert in the field of Indigenous health. In 2012, she received the prestigious National Aboriginal Achievement Ind-

spire Award, which recognizes First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals across the country.

“Our goal is to ensure that every child born in Canada has the opportunity to live a full and healthy life,” said Dr. Smylie, who is a family physician with St. Michael’s Hospital Department of Family and Community Medicine. Dr. Smylie is also a researcher in the hospital’s Centre for Research on Inner City Health, where she directs the Well Living House – a research centre for Indigenous infant, child and family health and well-being.

Dr. Smylie said that her research will consider local Indigenous cultures and contexts and prioritize community partnerships. To that end she’s forged and nurtured dozens of research partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations around the world.

“We’ll integrate Indigenous approaches to health and well-being in our research to find the most effective ways to de-

velop, implement and evaluate evidence-based interventions with Indigenous populations,” said Dr. Smylie. “Our research will support the respectful sharing [of] local best practices between Indigenous communities in Canada and globally—an approach that wouldn’t be possible without our Indigenous community and organizational research partners.”

The grant application, titled: “Clearing the pathways to health equity: Applied Public Health Research Chair in Indigenous health information and knowledge systems,” ranked fourth in a field of 41 applications from all areas of public health. Dr. Smylie is one of 14 participants to receive the honour in 2014.

“Dr. Smylie’s work fits perfectly into the overall goal of CIHR’s Pathways to Health Equity for Aboriginal Peoples signature initiative,” said Dr. Alain Beaudet, president of CIHR. “By funding her chair, we will help Dr. Smylie integrate health

“Our research will support the respectful sharing [of] local best practices between Indigenous communities in Canada and globally.”

– Dr. Janet Smylie

interventions in Aboriginal communities that will improve their health in four priority areas: tuberculosis, oral health, suicide prevention and obesity/diabetes. She will achieve this by collaborating with Aboriginal health leaders, partnering with community members, and respecting Aboriginal knowledge and practices.”

The mentorship component of the Applied Public Health Research Chair allows for the hiring of a Junior Chair in Aboriginal health at the University of Toronto’s Dalla Lana School of Public Health, where Dr. Smylie is also an associate professor. ∞

Métis veteran honoured for her service

submitted by | **Jerry Clarke**

MNO Clear Waters Métis Council President

The Métis people were brought together on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at the Annual General Meeting of the newly named Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Clear Waters Métis Council (CWMC) to celebrate their rich heritage and to acknowledge the milestones of family, friends and the Nation. The MNO CWMC and the MNO Veterans’ Council coordinated this extraordinary event.

It was a joint effort and privilege by all to honour Métis veteran Lorna Burke. Burke comes from a long line of military men and women, dating as far back as the Northwest Resistance at Duck Lake and the battle of Cut Knife Hill where her Uncles James and Charles took up arms with Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont to defend the Métis Nation.

Burke and her two sisters joined the Navy and Naval Reserve during the late 1960’s. Burke served at the Canadian Forces Base in Halifax, and ended her 12-year naval career at Hamilton HMCS Star in Hamilton, Ontario.

At this celebration, Burke was presented with the Louis Riel Certificate, which indicates that the MNO Veterans’ Council has confirmed she is a Métis veteran. She was also honoured with the Louis Riel Medal, which is given to Métis Veterans for their dedicated service to their peers, community and the Métis Nation. Burke also received the Batoche Medal.

Peace and freedom would not be possible without the willing sacrifice of our men and women who have answered the call to service. A great deal of thanks and appreciation were extended to all of our Métis Veterans, both those still with us and those who have passed on. ∞



▲ Métis veteran Lorna Burke receives the Louis Riel Certificate.

MNO Veterans’ Council Chair receives Eagle feather

submitted by | **Joseph Paquette**

MNO Veterans’ Council President

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council held an annual meeting on November 1, 2014 in Ajax. During the meeting, Guy Mandeville, C.D., veteran and MNO Veterans’ Council Chair, was awarded an Eagle feather for his continuous involvement in local youth programs that promote Métis history, culture and education. Chair Mandeville was recognized due to his involvement and participation with local schools, Scouts Canada and other organizations.

North American indigenous cultures have always highly venerated the Eagle—a bird that is synonymous with strength, courage, wisdom, honesty, power and freedom. Métis culture also contains this symbolic association. The Eagle is considered sacred in Métis traditions and acts as a messenger, carrying our thoughts, prayers, and desires towards the Creator.

Considering the spiritual significance and honour attributed to the Eagle, receiving an Eagle feather is one of the highest honours that can be awarded in Aboriginal circles. The presentation of the Eagle feather acknowledges hard work and achievement and is a tribute to individuals who significantly impact their communities. ∞



▲ Joseph Paquette (right), MNO Veterans’ Council President, presents Guy Mandeville, MNO Veterans’ Council Chair, C.D., with an Eagle feather.



▲ Madison Goodwill (second from left) of Owen Sound holds the Lincoln M. Alexander award after receiving it at Queen’s Park. At left is Helen Angus, Deputy Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade; centre right is Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor, and at right is Liz Sandals, Minister of Education.

Métis youth helps promote social change

Adapted from an article that originally appeared in the Owen Sound Sun Times

On January 21, 2015, Métis youth Madison Goodwill was one of three students to receive a Lincoln M. Alexander Award at Queen’s Park in Toronto. Madison received the award for her work as a summer student with the Métis Nation of Ontario’s Great Lakes Métis Council. She organized Blossom’s Program, an initiative to empower girls and promote

leadership. She also researched the history and legacy of residential schools and created information kits for school and community use. The stories she uncovered helped enrich the Grade 10 history curriculum at Owen Sound Collegiate and Vocational Institute. The Lincoln M. Alexander Awards are presented each year by

the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario to three Ontarians between the ages of 16 and 25 who have demonstrated leadership in ending racial discrimination. Recognizing Ontario’s youth human rights leaders is part of the government’s efforts to build strong, inclusive and diverse communities. ∞

Métis Veteran presented with Louis Riel Medal

submitted by **Joseph Paquette**
MNO Veterans’ Council President
Jack Bouchard
MNO Citizen

On October 31, 2014, Métis Veteran and MNO citizen William (Jack) Bouchard presented fellow Métis Veteran and MNO citizen, Dave McFarling, from Sault Ste. Marie with the Louis

Riel Medal and accompanying Louis Riel certificate. This presentation was particularly special as they have a long history together and live in the same community. ∞



▲ William (Jack) Bouchard (right) presents Dave C. McFarling, C.D. with the Louis Riel Medal.



▲ Elijah Cadarette.

Cooking up success

Self-identified Métis completes 2-year Culinary Management program at St. Clair College in Windsor-Essex

by | MNO Staff

On October 15, 2014, self-identified Métis Elijah Cadarette graduated from the 2-year Culinary Management program at St. Clair College. In this program, students learn basic cooking fundamentals, baking skills and gain a practical knowledge of food safety and sanitation. Students also gain practical experience in a wide range of advanced cooking skills and

techniques as well as basic knowledge of viticulture and the art of matching wine and food. Elijah is grateful to have received financial support from the Métis Nation of Ontario while attending the college as well as ongoing support as he works toward his Red Seal. Tradespersons are able to obtain a Red Seal endorsement on their provincial certificates by suc-

cessfully completing an interprovincial Red Seal examination. The Red Seal Program acknowledges their competence and ensures recognition of their certification throughout Canada without further examination. Congratulations to Elijah and best wishes for all of your future endeavours! ∞

Métis Veteran Michael Hurteau awarded Louis Riel medal

submitted by **Joseph Paquette**
MNO Veterans’ Council President
MNO Staff

On December 10, 2014, the MNO Sudbury Métis Council held their Annual General Meeting. At this meeting, MNO Veteran Michael Hurteau was presented with the Batoche medal and the Louis Riel medal and accompanying certificate. Veteran

Steve Callaghan, MNO Sudbury Métis Council Secretary, was on hand to present the awards. Many thanks go out to all MNO citizens that helped to organize this presentation. Thank you for supporting our Veterans! ∞



▲ MNO Veterans Michael Hurteau (left) and MNO Sudbury Métis Council Secretary Steve Callaghan at the Annual General Meeting.

Employee Announcements

WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS AND
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STAFF IN NEW POSITIONS

Congratulations Marc St. Germain

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to announce that long-time employee and MNO citizen, Marc St. Germain is now the MNO Manager of Communications.

Marc started with the MNO in 2002 and was quickly immersed in all facets of MNO communications. He has played an instrumental role in the design and development of MNO branding and identity. Marc's efforts to create

industry standard design work with a Métis flavour has become synonymous with the MNO.

In the last several years, Marc has branched out to work on such major projects as the MNO 20th Anniversary documentary film, the MNO mobile application and numerous success story and video productions.

In his new position, Marc will oversee larger communications projects

while still providing creative direction over all MNO projects. Marc holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Wilfrid Laurier University and a post-graduate diploma in Journalism from Humber College.

Congratulations Marc on your new role in the MNO team!

— Submitted by Mike Fedyk,
Director of Communications.



Welcome Cindy Cade

We are pleased to welcome Cindy Cade to the MNO in the position of Housing Policy Administrative Assistant. Cindy will work out of the Thunder Bay MNO office.

Cindy previously worked as an Executive Assistant with the Ontario Native Women's Association providing executive operational support, human resources assistance and event planning. Prior to this, Cindy was

an Administrator for Liphook Couplers Systems Inc. and Acting Executive Director for People Advocating for Change through Empowerment.

Cindy holds an Office Administrative Executive Diploma (with honours) and is a recipient of the Canadian Millennium Scholarship and the Confederation College Student Endowment Award. A self-identified Métis,

Cindy is excited to start her new journey with the MNO and to have the chance to make a difference in the lives of Métis people.

— Submitted by Robynn Maluga-Sadler,
Senior Housing Policy Analyst

Welcome Jasmine Williams



The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Jasmine Williams as a Consultation Assessment Coordinator in the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch. She will work out of the MNO office in Toronto.

Jasmine comes to the MNO with a Bachelor of Engineering with Distinction in Mining Engineering and a minor in environmental engineering from McGill University in Montréal, Québec. Her primary responsibility will involve the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) Adaptive Phased Management

approach for the site selection related to the long-term management of used fuel.

Jasmine was the recipient of several scholarships including the National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Undergraduate Student Research Award, the Department of Mining, Metals and Materials Engineering Academic Scholarship and the McGill University Certificate of Merit 2005 for outstanding academic achievement in CEGEP studies.

Jasmine's previous professional experience includes a position as Senior Associate, Mining Operations with PriceWater-

houseCoopers LLP in Toronto, Ontario and as a Junior Environmental Engineer with Osisko Mining Corporation at their Corporate Headquarters in Montréal, Québec. Jasmine also worked for Osisko as Assistant to the Vice-President Environment and as a Student Intern in Environmental Engineering.

We are very pleased to welcome Jasmine to the MNO team!

— Submitted by Aly Alibhai,
Director of Lands Resources and
Consultation

The MNO is pleased to welcome everyone to the team!

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COUNCIL CORNER



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

MNO councils are the cornerstone of a strong foundation for the MNO in its push toward its inherent right to self-government. MNO Councils are important communication hubs who play a significant role in fostering community empowerment and development for Métis citizens living within the geographic territory of that council.

MNO Community Council election results:

Congratulations to the MNO Oshawa and Durham-Métis Council on their recent election.

Here is a list of the new and returning elected officials and their appointments:

MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council

President: Kristin Randall

Chair: Kevin Henry

Senator: Cecile Wagar

Secretary: Jeanette Ireland

Treasurer: Janet Huttman

Women's Representative: Claire Kerns

Councillor: Ted McNally

MNO High Land Waters Métis Council

President: Scott Lloyd

Chair: Marlon Lloyd

Senator: Robert Lloyd

Secretary/Treasurer: Candice Lloyd

Women's Representative: Vacant

Youth Representative: Gwen Lloyd

Councillor: Terry Connors

Councillor: Trudy Connors

Councillor: Tom Thompson Sr.

ACROSS THE HOMELAND




British Columbia

Métis Nation British Columbia and Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services Society sign Memorandum of Understanding

Source: Métis Nation British Columbia

On January 28, 2015, Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) celebrated the significant new relationship with *Lii Michif Otipemisiwak* Family and Community Services Society (*Lii Michif*) in Kamloops with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

In recognition of common interests and as an expression of the desire and intent to expand and strengthen the relationships developed between the organizations, the Parties declared their intention to work collaboratively for the betterment of Métis child and family services, programming, policy and advocacy.

The Parties will seek to work together in the following areas: to facilitate a working relationship between MNBC and *Lii Michif*; collaborate on and support *Lii Michif's* programming as it relates to Métis people in Kamloops, Merritt and surrounding areas; support programming proposals that support the intent of this relationship; and help ensure future child and family services, policies and planning by the provincial government and/or by MNBC that affect Métis constituents in the Kamloops, Merritt and surrounding areas have been reviewed by representatives of *Lii Michif* and other concerned parties prior to implementation.∞



Manitoba

Métis Economic Development Organization in Manitoba continues to grow

Source: Métis Economic Development Organization

Métis Economic Development Organization (MEDO) is a business investment and management firm working with the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) to make key business investment decisions based on generating profit and building capacity.

MEDO's vision is to foster strong, healthy and self-reliant Métis families, local communities and businesses through a variety of "for-profit" entities so that Métis quality of life is comparable to that of other Manitobans and Canadians.

Through MEDO, the MMF has been operating its own pharmacy, MEDO Care at its headquarters on Henry Street in Winnipeg for a year. The store features a large prescription dispensary along with general and health-care products. MEDO Care has exceeded expectations, grossing more than \$1 million in its first year.

The MMF is embarking on an ambitious expansion campaign to open more stores on reserves in partnership with First Nations.

For its first on-reserve location, the MMF has teamed up with Norway House Cree Nation and hopes to open the first of what will become a chain of MEDO Care pharmacies this winter. An agreement is also in place to open another store this year on Sagkeeng First Nation.∞



Alberta

Inaugural KAQUO Métis Settlements Economic Development Summit Convenes in Edmonton

Source: Marketwired

KAQUO Forestry & Natural Resources Development Corporation (KAQUO), a joint venture between several of the Métis Settlements of northwest Alberta and Active Energy Group Plc, a London Stock Exchange-listed company, held the first KAQUO Métis Settlements Economic Development Summit January 27, 2015 at The Oasis Centre in Edmonton, Alberta.

The private event - entitled "Working Together to Better Our Communities" - unites key decision makers and stakeholders from across Canada to promote long-term sustainable economic development on Métis Settlements and other Aboriginal lands in an equitable, environmentally responsible and culturally sensitive manner.

Attendees include leaders and members of the Alberta Métis communities, guests from other Métis, First Nations and Canadian aboriginal groups, KAQUO representatives and forestry experts, and senior international executives from Active Energy Group Plc.

After several years of negotiations, KAQUO was formed in July 2014 with a specific mandate: to commercialise the natural resources on the Métis lands in an equitable, environmentally responsible and culturally sensitive manner, and to encourage long-term sustainable economic development and employment within the Métis communities.∞



Saskatchewan

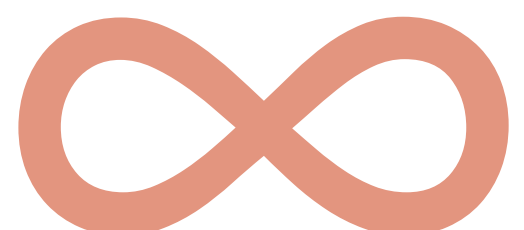
Supporting Michif language-learning tools for children

Source: Government of Canada

On December 15, 2014, the Federal Ministry of Heritage announced that the Government of Canada will provide funding to the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research.

The Government of Canada will provide \$59,700 in funding to the Gabriel Dumont Institute to translate 27 books of its early reading program into Michif-language editions with English translations. Funding is being provided through the Aboriginal Languages Initiative.

The early reading program includes three sets of nine children's books, all relating to Métis culture. The translated version will also include an audio CD with narration tracks for each book, which will allow readers to practise their pronunciation. The Gabriel Dumont Institute will produce 1,000 copies of each set—a total of 27,000 books and 3,000 CDs—which will be distributed to libraries, homes and schools across Saskatchewan.∞



Infinity Property Services is excited to announce new social housing delivery areas

Infinity Property Services (IPS) is an agency of the Métis Nation of Ontario that delivers expertise in property management, property administration, lease administration, facility management, financial management and reporting, construction administration and management, asset management and eco-energy audits.

IPS has seen significant growth over the last 12 months and we are excited about the changes taking place within our agency. IPS has expanded operations with Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) providing property management services for the Rural and Native Housing Program (RNHP). The RNHP provides affordable rental accommodations in designated rural communities to low-income families currently living in unaffordable, substandard housing.

In April 2014, OAHS established a new delivery area in Southern Ontario and modified the Northwestern Ontario delivery area (known as portfolios). The realignment resulted in a reduction of units managed in North Bay, Sudbury, Rainy River, Kenora and west of Thunder Bay areas, and the creation of the Barrie portfolio with offices in Innisfil and Owen Sound.

IPS now delivers 475 units for RNHP—a 25% increase over the previous fiscal year. For more information about this program, please visit our website at www.inifnitypropertyservices.ca.

Along with RNHP, IPS continues to offer social housing and programs for the following areas:

DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY SOCIAL HOUSING

IPS provides property management and administration for Geraldton Municipal Housing Corporation, Chateaulac Housing Incorporated, Kenogamisis Non-Profit Housing Corporation and Gerald Native Housing Corporation. IPS

is responsible for the Geraldton area, known as the Greenstone portfolio. Also included in the Greenstone portfolio is the Longlac area.

ONTARIO RENOVATES — NORTHERN REMOTE COMMUNITIES

Ontario Renovates Northern Remote Communities Program aims to assist low to moderate income homeowners in northern remote areas repair their homes to accept-

able standards while improving the energy efficiency. This contract ends March 31, 2015; however, IPS is hopeful that our contract will be extended.

ONTARIO RENOVATES – KENORA

Infinity Property Services continues to administer this Ontario Renovates Kenora on behalf of the Kenora District Services Board. Eligible repairs include structural, electrical, heating, fire safety, plumbing, septic and well, improved accessibility for persons with disabilities, and/or safety related

features that support seniors' ability to age-in-place.

For more information, please contact us at 1-800-891-5882 or 807-626-9300. For all other areas, please contact your local District Social Services Administrative Board or municipality.



ENERGY SAVING PROGRAMS

Housing Assistance Program (HAP) aims to reduce the energy burden for homeowners in need. Aboriginal Conservation Program (ACP) aims to reduce electricity consumption for Métis and urban and rural First Nations people. Eligible home improvements include lighting, electric power bars, shower-

heads, aerators, pipe wrap and tank wrap, refrigerators, freezers, de-humidifiers, and window air-conditioners, draft proofing of the building, basement, wall, and attic insulation.

IPS provides in house energy assessments for qualifying homes, installs minor energy efficient upgrades, and

arranges for major upgrades on behalf of GreenSavers. For more information, please contact GreenSaver at 1-855-591-0877 or email hap@greensaver.org.

