



MARCH BREAK CAMP 2015

MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp participants. From left to right: Brittany Bazinet, Gabe Picard, Paul Robitaille, and Heather Van Wyck.



Métis students embrace their culture and make lifelong connections during four-day retreat *See pages 3 - 5*



Métis artist helps design TO2015 medals

Page 10

Strawberry Ceremony seeks justice for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women

Page 11

Métis youth honoured for her achievements

Page 17

THE
MÉTIS
VOYAGEUR

APRIL 2015, NO. 85

**Produced by the
Métis Nation of Ontario
Communications Branch:**Julie Cruikshank
Mike Fedyk
Marc St. Germain
Sara Kelly
Roxanne Brisson**Contributors**Tera Beaulieu
Rachelle Brunelle-McColl
Julie Druker
Kelly Campagnola
Cherie Dimaline
Colin Field
Dr. Alis Kennedy
Jennifer Lafontaine
Christa Lemelin
Sahra MacLean
Joanne Meyer
Beverley Newton
Jennifer Parkinson
Amanda Pont-Shanks
Verna Porter-Brunelle**Submissions:****Communications Branch**
Métis Nation Of Ontario
500 Old St. Patrick Street, Unit D
Ottawa ON K1N 9G4
MikeF@Metisnation.org**Publication #:** Pm 40025265**Submission Policy:**

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

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:**May 15, 2015
September 4, 2015
November 1, 2015**Recently Moved
or Moving Soon?**

Don't forget to change your address with the Registry so that you will continue to receive your Voyageur and updated information from the MNO.

Call 1-855-798-1006 ext 2 or send an email to
Registry@metisnation.org

Youth enjoy a bonfire at the 2015
Métis Nation of Ontario Infinite Reach
March Break Camp

NATION



by | MNO Staff

This March break, 23 Métis high school students, six Infinite Reach facilitators and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff gathered in Mattawa to embrace their Métis culture and heritage at a retreat filled with jigging, campfire socials, wolf howls and cultural activities.

"It's a unique experience. There is nothing like this that I've ever come across before," said MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator Gabe Picard. "It brings so many people together from so many different backgrounds that have a shared

history and a shared sense of identity and really creates a sense of family and community. As well, it's really fun!"

Held at the Canadian Ecology Centre, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Infinite Reach March Break Camp is a four-day retreat that offers a chance for youth to connect.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other Métis youth who are going through the same experiences as you," said returning participant Chantelle Gouliquer from Atikokan. "It also gives you insight on what to expect when

you are going into post secondary education."

The MNO Infinite Reach Network is comprised of Métis post-secondary students who have the common goal of working together to enhance their post-secondary experience. The program eases the transition of Métis high school students to post-secondary by creating a community where they can share experiences and support one another in their academic pursuits.

Gabe explained that the MNO Infinite Reach Network is "a way

to create a network within your community and within your college of other Métis learners, and provide support and assistance to each other and to let your school community know who the Métis people are."

Throughout the camp students participated in Métis cultural activities, including a workshop on Métis music and dance led by MNO Education Officer Anne Trudel; a viewing of the documentary *How the Fiddle Flows*, which explores the question of what it means to be Métis; and a presentation by 2014 MNO Canoe Expedition

participant Gerald Lavallee, who spoke about the once-in-a-lifetime adventure that he took part in this past summer.

Students also participated in activities that allowed them to connect with their Métis roots and nature such as a trapping workshop led by MNO Mattawa Métis Council President Nelson Montreuil. MNO Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Coordinator Katherine Stewart-McNeil also led a workshop on Métis way of life and traditional knowledge studies.

(Cont'd on page 4)



▲ MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp participant Heather Van Wyck enjoying the outdoors.



▲ PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle (L) and MNO Education Officer Anne Trudel (R) playing traditional music.



▲ March break campers learning traditional dances.

MARCH BREAK CAMP 2015



March Break Camp participants got to experience nature and tap into their Métis pride through workshops and snowshoe hikes

(Cont'd from page 3)

A favourite camp activity for many of the participants was the snow shoe hike. “Just being outside in the woods with the nature surrounding us, it’s just amazing,” said Sudbury student Melanie-Rose Frappier. “This is my third year here at the Infinite Reach March Break Camp, and every time I get to learn new things.”

Participant Alexandre Fox McCoy had never had the opportunity to go snow shoeing before. “We really got to enjoy the nature setting [and] really get in touch with [our] nature side,” he said.

MNO Victims Services Coordinator Marsha Depotier and MNO Violence Against Aboriginal Women Coordinator Sahra McLean led two Healing and Wellness sessions. They focussed on Métis healing blankets and the Faceless Dolls project—an art project originally developed by the Native Women’s Association of Canada that has been customized for the MNO to commemorate the lives of

missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. These workshops embraced one of the main themes of the camp—honouring Métis women and one’s self as a Métis person. Cobourg student Hannah Bazinet enjoyed the healing blankets workshop, which she said has helped her come to terms with some of the stuff I’ve been dealing with as a teenager.”

This year also included workshops on Youth Suicide Prevention led by MNO Consultant and Toronto and York Region Métis Council President Tera Beaulieu. Tera is currently completing her PhD in Counselling and Psychology at the OISE-University of Toronto. Her research examines the supports and challenges of Métis traditional knowledge in addressing the life transition needs (mental health, education and employment) of urban Métis homeless peoples.

One of her goals is to help youth build and maintain self-esteem and pride in who they are as Métis

“This is my third year here at the Infinite Reach March Break Camp and every time I get to learn new things.”

- Melanie-Rose Frappier



▲ MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp participants Melanie-Rose Frappier (L) and Taylor Cosman (R).



▲ MNO Infinite Reach March Break campers participate in a traditional knowledge workshop.

people and realize the strength they can draw from their communities. Tera said that “one of the most beautiful things about participating [in the camp] is really the sense of community and belonging that emerges organically when you bring Métis people together in a circle or in a room.”

Bringing Métis youth together at events like this camp is key, according to Tera, as it allows them to listen and learn from one another and build a sense of connection and community.

“From a health and wellness perspective we know that those are critical pieces to achieving health and wellbeing,” said Tera. “It helps in breaking down that sense that I am alone, or I am isolated in my experiences of being bullied or experiencing abuse or not really being sure where I should go in the next step of my journey with respect to education. Having everyone sit

“Having everyone sit together, [the youth] get to learn from one another and feel validated in their different experiences.”

- MNO Consultant and Toronto and York Region Métis Council President Tera Beaulieu

together, they get to learn from one another and feel validated in their different experiences.”

Students also participated in workshops that provided them with an overview of the future job market, and information on various post-secondary opportunities and potential funding. March Break Camp participants also took part in a resumé writing workshop led by MNO Interim Supervisor of Labour

Market Projects Rae-Anna Gardner.

PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle and Métis Knowledge Holder Joe Paquette were also in attendance. Every morning they led the group in prayer and shared Métis culture and heritage with the students. MNO Manager of Education and Special Projects Scott Carpenter says that bringing Métis youth and elders together at events is essential.

“We have our elders who are sharing their stories, and from our youth come different types of questions that we have not asked in the past, so it challenges us to think beyond what we’ve known and encourages us to keep learning,” he explains. “The MNO is looking to our youth for the future. We’re proud of who they are and what they’re going to be able to bring to the Nation as we move forward.”

(Cont'd on page 5)



▲ MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp participant Paul Robitaille works on his Faceless Doll project.

MARCH BREAK CAMP 2015



▲ The 2015 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp participants with MNO staff and volunteers. (Left to right) Back row: Joel Camilleri; Kevin Watson Jean-Luc Harrisson; Gabe Picard; Rebekah Trudel; Melina Mandoshkin. Middle row: Joe Paquette; Jade Bourbonnière; Taylor McNally; Britney Bazinet; Katelyn Ransom; Taylor Cosman; Ezra McCaveney; Carolyn Lacka; Hailey Green; Desiree Demers; Victoria Spiers; Luke Perrault; Matthew Bombardier; Verna Porter-Brunelle; Victor Brunelle. Front row: Alexandre Fox McCoy; Paul Robitaille; Helen Tracey; Mélanie-Rose Frappier; Hannah Bazinet; Heather Van Wyck. Missing from photo: Chantale Gouliquer; Josh Bushey; Ishmael Van Der Rassell.



Campers made life-long connections with students and facilitators from throughout the province

(Cont'd from page 4)

According to Joe Paquette, the camp gives youth “an idea on how the ancestors related to the land. They come away from the camp not only with good positive exposure but also with that sense of belonging, that continuance of lineage, that ancestral connection to that land that sustains us all.”

Each day concluded with the students gathered around a campfire to unwind. On the final night, the campers joined together for a wolf howl in hopes of hearing nearby wolf packs answer their calls. At the end of the week it was clear that many great friendships and connections had been made, not just with each other, but with the Infinite Reach Facilitators, MNO staff and community members.

As the camp came to a close, Senator Porter-Brunelle observed that many of the participants were getting teary-eyed but told them:

This is not the end – you can go back to your communities and share what you learned. Be proud of what you learned.”

- MNO Senator **Verna Porter-Brunelle**

“This is not the end—you can go back to your communities and share what you learned. Be proud of what you learned.”

“I’ve met people all the way from Atikokan close to Thunder Bay, to Hamilton,” said Melanie-Rose. “After this program I know that we will still keep in touch because you really make great friendships here.” ∞



▲ Joe Paquette (L) and Matthew Bombardier enjoying the outdoors at the MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp.

A short video on the March Break Camp has been posted on the MNO website. Look for the March Break Camp icon on the MNO website home page at www.metisnation.org.



Photo by Ke Ning

▲ Métis Nation delegates participate in National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. (L-R) Clément Chartier, MNC President; Muriel Stanley Venne, MNA Women Representative; Melanie Omeniho, WMN President; Angie Crerar, Métis elder; Jennifer Lord, MNO Manager of Victim Services; Clara Morin-Dal Col, Provincial Chair for Métis Women BC; David Chartrand, MMF President; and France Picotte, MNO Chair.

Métis Nation delegates participate in National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

by | MNO Staff

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Chair France Picotte and MNO Manager of Victim Services Jennifer Lord were among the leaders that met on February 27, 2015 in Ottawa at the Marriott Hotel to discuss needed action to prevent and address violence against Indigenous women and girls. The event was organized by several indigenous groups, including the Native Women's Association of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations.

The Métis Nation delegation was composed of Métis National Council (MNC) President Clément Chartier, MNC Vice-President and Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) President David Chartrand, Women of the Métis Nation (WMN) President Melanie Omeniho, Métis

Elder Angie Crerar, Métis Nation of Ontario Chair France Picotte, MNO staff Jennifer Lord, Provincial Chair for Métis Women BC Clara Morin-Dal Col, Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Women representative Muriel Stanley Venne, and MNC Communications Officer Ke Ning.

The Roundtable opened with prayers by Algonquin Elder Peter Decontie, Métis Elder Angie Crerar, and Inuit Elder Sally Webster, followed by presentations from four representatives who were selected from the Peoples' Gathering—a public event held on February 26 where participants discussed solutions and made recommendations to end violence against Indigenous women and girls. The presentations provided general context and reflection on the themes for discussion and

recommendations for action. The Roundtable discussion focused on three themes: prevention and awareness, community safety plans and protocols, and policing measures and justice responses.

Delegates of the National Roundtable committed to continue working together to coordinate actions to prevent and end violence against Indigenous women and girls, including the commitment to hold a second National Roundtable to be held in 2016. They also adopted the Framework for Action to Prevent and Address Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls, and accepted the offer by Premier Selinger that a national conference on policing and justice be held prior to the 2016 session. ∞

President Lipinski attends the Métis Economic Development Symposium

by | MNO Staff

On March 18, 2015, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski attended the Métis Economic Development Symposium III (MEDS) in Winnipeg alongside the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and MNO Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Joanne Meyer.

Each symposium brings together Métis organizations, governments and industry leaders to build new relationships that will enable Métis to fully share in economic development opportunities across Canada.

"The Métis Nation of Ontario is pleased that the Métis Economic Development Symposium provided the opportunity to highlight the progress we have made working together with the Government of Ontario," said President Lipinski. "The achievements we have realized through the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, the Métis Voyageur Development Fund, green energy contracts and other initiatives are making a difference for Métis in Ontario as well as

strengthening the whole Ontario economy."

The MNO and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs have built a strong relationship while working together to make concrete progress on meaningful employment and business development for Métis people across the province. By working in partnership with one another, they are ensuring that Métis people have the opportunity to succeed and fully participate in the workforce and the economy.

"This symposium is a great opportunity to learn new ideas and initiatives, and share the work we've done with the Métis Nation of Ontario," said the Honourable David Zimmer. "We are committed to working together to ensure that Métis people have every opportunity to succeed and play an ever more significant role in the economy."

At the symposium, the Honourable Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, and the President of the Métis National Council, Clément Chartier, signed an Economic Development Accord. ∞



▲ MNO President Gary Lipinski speaks at the Métis Economic Development Symposium in Winnipeg.



▲ Special guests attend the Northern Leaders Conference. (L-R) Mayor Alan Spacek, Kapuskasing and President of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); Mayor Christian Provenzano, Sault Ste. Marie; Grand Chief Isadore Day; Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines; Mayor Dave Canfield, Kenora; Honourable David Oraziotti, Minister of Government and Consumer Services; Mayor Steve Black, Timmins; Tim Pile, PCMNO Secretary/Treasurer; and Mayor Brian Bigger, Sudbury.

Northern leaders meet to discuss Northern Ontario Growth Plan

by | MNO Staff

On February 12, 2015, a group of municipal, provincial and First Nations leaders gathered at Sault Ste. Marie's Delta Hotel to discuss the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, 2011. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was represented by PCMNO Secretary/Treasurer, Tim Pile.

The long-range, 25-year Growth Plan was announced by the province on March 4, 2011 and is designed to diversify the region's traditional resource-based industries, stimulate new

investment and entrepreneurship, and nurture new and emerging sectors with high growth potential. The Growth Plan's policies are built upon six themes, which contribute to the region's long-term sustainability and prosperity: economy, people, communities, Aboriginal peoples, infrastructure and environment.

The MNO's participation in this event is another indication of the MNO's growing role in Ontario and the esteem the MNO is held in by all levels of government. ∞



▲ The Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, with MNO representatives at the 2015 PDAC. (L-R) MNO KMC President Joel Henley, PCMNO Region 3 Councillor Marcel Lafrance, Minister Gravelle, PCMNO Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund, MNO KMC Secretary Nina Henley, PCMNO Region 5 Councillor Juliette Denis, and PCMNO Region 4 Councillor Ernie Gatien.

MNO builds relationships with Ontario's leading mineral developers

by | MNO Staff

The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) is a national association representing the mineral exploration and development industry. The association's convention is the world's largest annual gathering of the mineral industry, focusing on exploration, discovery and development of new mines and innovative developments. The 2015 PDAC Convention was held March 1-4 at the Metro-Toronto Convention Centre.

The Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) presence at the PDAC

conference built upon the MNO's mandate to foster new relationships with mining companies operating within the Métis Nation's traditional harvesting territories. Mineral proponents impacting the lands and waterways traditionally used by MNO's historic, rights-bearing Métis communities have the Duty to Consult and Accommodate with the MNO.

"Mineral exploration and development is an important part of Ontario's economy and MNO's increased involvement with mineral proponents promises new opportunities for Métis people to

benefit from potential education and training programs, as well as employment for Métis citizens and businesses," said President Lipinski.

The MNO was well-represented at the conference by MNO Kenora Métis Council (KMC) President Joel Henley, MNO KMC Secretary Nina Henley, and PCMNO Regional Councillors Marcel Lafrance, Juliette Denis, Theresa Stenlund and Ernie Gatien.

"We have already begun to see exciting opportunities arise from our relationships with several mineral developers and we look forward to more," said President

Amanda Rheume to perform at Toronto Pan Am Games

by | MNO Staff

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Citizen Amanda Rheume is the newest Métis artist to be added to the lineup of entertainers performing at the Toronto 2015 Pan Am / Parapan Am Games (TO2015) Aboriginal Pavilion. Rheume is set to perform at the Garrison Commons (adjacent to Fort York) on July 26, 2015. Earlier this month, it was announced that Métis fiddler Sierra Noble will also be performing at TO2015.

"I am excited to be included in this great event," said Rheume. "It is great that Métis performers like myself are being included. I see this as a great opportunity to let people from all over the Americas learn more about our story."

Creating meaningful Aboriginal participation is a focus of TO2015. The Aboriginal Pavilion



▲ MNO Citizen Amanda Rheume will play at the 2015 TORONTO Pan Am Games.

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.

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. ∞

MNO and Ministry of Transportation take part in information exchange meetings

by | MNO Staff

On March 13, representatives from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) from Regions One, Two, Three and Four, and the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) met at the DaVinci Center in Thunder Bay for an information exchange meeting. On March 21 another information exchange meeting took place in Toronto with MNO representatives from Regions Six, Seven, Eight and Nine.

For both information exchange meetings, MTO representatives presented information on

understanding MTO's class environmental assessment, and other topics relevant to the Regions in attendance.

MNO Associate Director of Education & Way of Life Dr. Brian Tucker presented information on the MNO Traditional Knowledge Study Process and Director of Intergovernmental Relations Joanne Meyer presented information on the consultation process with MNO communities and the MNO's new corporation—Infinity Investments LP. ∞



▲ On March 21, 2015, Derrick Pont (right), Niagara Region Métis Council President, presented *Values & Traditions of our Ancestors* to Greg Tokarz (left), MTO Director of Aboriginal Relations.



▲ Representatives from the Métis Nation of Ontario Regions One, Two, Three and Four, and the Ministry of Transportation attend an information exchange meeting in Thunder Bay on March 13.



▲ Representatives from the Métis Nation of Ontario Regions Six, Seven, Eight and Nine, and the Ministry of Transportation attend an information exchange meeting on March 21.



▲ The MNO Sudbury Métis Council at the Governance and Finance training. Back row. (L-R) Daniel Boulard, Councillor; Robert Coutu, Councillor; Richard Sarrazin, President; Heidi Elstub, Councillor; Bill Lefebvre, Councillor; Denis Lefebvre, Councillor. Front row. (L-R) Maurice Sarrazin, Chair; Bernadette Picco, Women's Representative; John Haiste, Councillor; Cecile Coutu, Senator.



▲ The MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council at the Governance and Finance training. Back row. (L-R) Janet Huttman, Treasurer; Ted McNally, Councillor; Jeanette Ireland, Secretary. Front row. (L-R) Claire Kearns, Women's Representative; Kristin Randall, President; Cecile Wagar, Senator



▲ The MNO Temiskaming Métis Council at the Governance and Finance training. Back row. (L-R) Michel Dupuis, Liliane Ethier, President; Tina Nichol, Secretary/Treasurer. Front row. (L-R) Karen Beland, Councillor; Tyler Twarowski, Lorette McKnight.



▲ The MNO Grand River Métis Council at Governance and Finance Training: Jennifer Parkinson, President; Leslie Anne Muma; Bridget Brown; Barb Lair; Carol Levis, Senator.

Governance and Finance Training strengthens community leadership

by | MNO Staff

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Relations team was busy throughout February and March, with team members Glen Lipinski and Beth Honsberger delivering four Governance and Finance Training courses.

The MNO developed the Governance and Finance course to help community councils perform their important work, which is of immense benefit to MNO citizens. Hard-working council members spend hundreds of hours building and strengthening their Métis communities every year; the Governance and Finance training helps them become more successful in fulfilling important leadership roles.

During the weekend of February 21-22, the course was delivered to the MNO Sudbury Métis Council. From February 28 to March 1 the MNO Temiskaming Métis Council participated. From March 14 to 15

the course was offered to the MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council, and from March 28 to 29 members of the MNO Grand River Métis Council received the training.

The Governance and Finance course is a two-day seminar, usually held on weekends at 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. In the past courses have taken place in Atikokan, Credit River, Georgian Bay, Milton, Niagara, North Bay, Ottawa, Peterborough, Toronto, and Windsor. ∞

MNO supports recommendations from Canada’s Special Representative on Comprehensive Claims Policy

by | MNO Staff

On April 7, 2015, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski applauded a recently released report on the renewal of Canada’s comprehensive claims policy, which recommends that Canada create a “reconciliation process” to address Métis rights and outstanding claims. A copy of the report is available at: www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

The report, prepared by Vancouver-based lawyer Doug Eyford, provides an overview of recommendations with respect to Canada’s existing policy for negotiations on Aboriginal rights and land claims across Canada. In November 2014, President Lipinski met with Mr. Eyford to outline the MNO’s concerns with Canada’s current refusal to deal with Métis rights, interests and claims. The MNO also provided written submissions to Mr. Eyford.

By and large, over the last three decades, this federal policy has excluded Métis, despite repeated

“As the home of the historic Powley case, we welcome Mr. Eyford’s recommendations.”

- MNO President
Gary Lipinski

Supreme Court of Canada cases recognizing Métis rights and claims such as the Powley case (2003) and the Manitoba Métis Federation case (2013). In arriving at his Métis-specific recommendations, Mr. Eyford wrote:

Despite succeeding more than 30 years ago in their quest for constitutional recognition, the Métis regard Canada as having failed to accept their status as an Aboriginal group with constitutionally protected rights. The 1986 Policy, like its predecessors, is silent on Métis rights, and the Interim Policy does not specifically address their interests either. Any rights recognition obtained by the Métis has been in the courts, and there have been several successes in recent years. ... [Métis] want to negotiate settlements of their

outstanding claims against the Crown for “broken promises and unfulfilled obligations.” ... Canada must do more in its relationship with the Métis to ensure their section 35 rights are appropriately recognized and can be meaningfully exercised.

Specifically, Mr. Eyford made the following two Métis-specific recommendations:

1. Canada should develop a reconciliation process to support the exercise of Métis section 35(1) rights and to reconcile their interests.
2. Canada should establish a framework for negotiations with the Manitoba Métis Federation to respond to the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in *Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada*, 2013 SCC 14.

“As the home of the historic Powley case, we welcome Mr. Eyford’s recommendations,” says MNO President Gary Lipinski. “It is well past the time to deal with



▲ Vancouver-based lawyer Doug Eyford is the author of a recently-released report on the renewal of Canada’s comprehensive claims policy.

Métis rights in relation to land and resources as well as address outstanding Métis claims outside of the courts. Currently the Métis have no other place to go, and Mr. Eyford rightfully recognizes this cannot continue.

“We are optimistic that Minister Valcourt will listen to the advice of his

independent Special Representative and begin to work with the MNO on these important issues. Further, with the Supreme Court of Canada set to hear the appeal in *Daniels v. Canada* in October this year, the federal government will no longer be able to deny its constitutional responsibility to advance these issues.” ∞

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



A WONDERFUL WAY TO
PROVIDE VALUABLE
FEEDBACK TO OUR
COMMUNITIES

MNO President Lipinski Meets with Canada’s Special Representative on Specific Claims

by | MNO Staff

On March 13, 2015, MNO President Gary Lipinski met with Benoit Pelletier who has been appointed as the Federal Government’s Special Representative in the ongoing review of Canada’s current Specific Claims Policy. Mr. Pelletier is a former Minister in the Quebec Government and is currently a professor at the University of Ottawa. Mr. Pelletier’s report to Canada on its Specific Claims Policy will be finalized in the summer. Additional information about the ongoing review of Canada’s Specific Claims Policy is available on the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada website at: www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

At the meeting, President Lipinski provided an overview of the MNO’s governance structure, the Powley case, the existence of Métis rights throughout the province as well as the histories of the outstanding Ontario Métis community claims that exist. President Lipinski’s presentation emphasized that Canada’s ongoing exclusion of Métis from both the Specific and Comprehensive claims processes was inconsistent with decisions from the Supreme Court of Canada, the rule of law and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The MNO is optimistic that Mr. Pelletier’s report will raise the need for Canada to finally create a policy that allows for outstanding Métis claims to be addressed. ∞



▲ MNO President Lipinski with Special Representative Pelletier.

COMMUNITY

Métis artist helps design TO2015 medals

by | MNO Staff
With files from toronto2015.org

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and visual artist Christi Belcourt played a key role in the development of the medals that will be awarded at the upcoming Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games (TO2015). The medals were unveiled at the Royal Ontario Museum in a ceremony on March 3, 2015.

The artwork on the medals tells the rich story of the “People’s Games” through a beautifully layered design that expresses the values of inclusion and diversity, and highlights Aboriginal traditions of welcoming guests and cherishing the beauty of the natural world.

The medal combines artistry and storytelling with the Royal

Canadian Mint’s innovative production process. Braille is used to identify Toronto 2015—a reflection of TO2015’s commitment to accessibility, and the first time it has ever been applied on both Pan Am and Parapan Am Games medals.

Christi Belcourt’s work demonstrates a deep respect for the traditions and knowledge of her people. The majority of her art explores and celebrates the beauty of the natural world and traditional Indigenous world-views on spirituality and natural medicines. Christi is a past recipient of awards from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Chalmers Family Fund and the Métis Nation of Ontario. In

2013, her stained glass piece, *Giniigaaniimenaaning*, was installed in the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. Currently she is organizing the community based project Walking With Our Sisters to honour murdered or missing Indigenous women and girls.

The TO2015 competition medals were on temporary exhibition at the Royal Ontario museum from Saturday, March 14 through Sunday, March 29. During the Games, they will be available for public viewing at the Royal Canadian Mint pavilion at CIBC Pan Am Park. The Pan Am Games will run from July 10–26 followed by the Parapan Am Games August 7–15. ∞



▲ The Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games gold medal.

Métis digital stories for healing, connection and community

submitted by | Jennifer Lafontaine
MNO Citizen

Over four Saturdays in November 2014, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) partnered with Community Story Collective artists Jennifer LaFontaine (an MNO citizen) and Emmy Pantin on the Métis Digital Storytelling Project.

“I think the benefit of digital storytelling is three-fold: it brings Metis people together, shows us how similar we are in our lives, and it will help preserve what being Métis means to us in 2014 for future generations,” explained Jennifer.

At the workshop, six community members learned how to create two to five-minute videos that were life story based. Community members ranged in ages from 20 to 60, which provided the opportunity for multi-generational sharing and learning.

Each session opened with cultural teachings from our Knowledge Keepers, who shared medicine, smudged, sang, told stories and gave teachings on politics, identity, mental health, spirituality and community. One community member said that “the Knowledge Keepers were so

inspirational; they gave me ideas for my own story and reassured me that I belonged in this space.”

The digital storytelling component of the workshop began with a storytelling circle. Participants shared stories of addiction, homelessness, losing our sense of place, reunification with family, denial of culture, two-spirited identity, residential schools, historical research and finding community.

Within the circle there was a constant affirmation of identity, with many participants feeling that they are always measuring “how Métis” they are, or what right they have to claim this cultural identity. One community member noted that they “learned that many urban Métis people struggle with and are insecure in their identity as a result of colonization.”

After the storytelling circle each participant crafted a script, recorded their voices telling their story and then created storyboards to plan the visual and audio elements. Participants also received a video-editing lesson. With support from the artists, every participant successfully completed their video.

On Saturday November 15, 2014, the MNO TYRMC hosted a

Louis Riel Day potluck filled with jiggling, fiddling and a special screening of the digital stories. Over 60 people attended the event, including all of the storytellers along with many family and friends. Every storyteller also had the opportunity to speak to the audience about their experiences with the digital storytelling project. The entire community was very accepting and encouraging and honoured every storyteller.

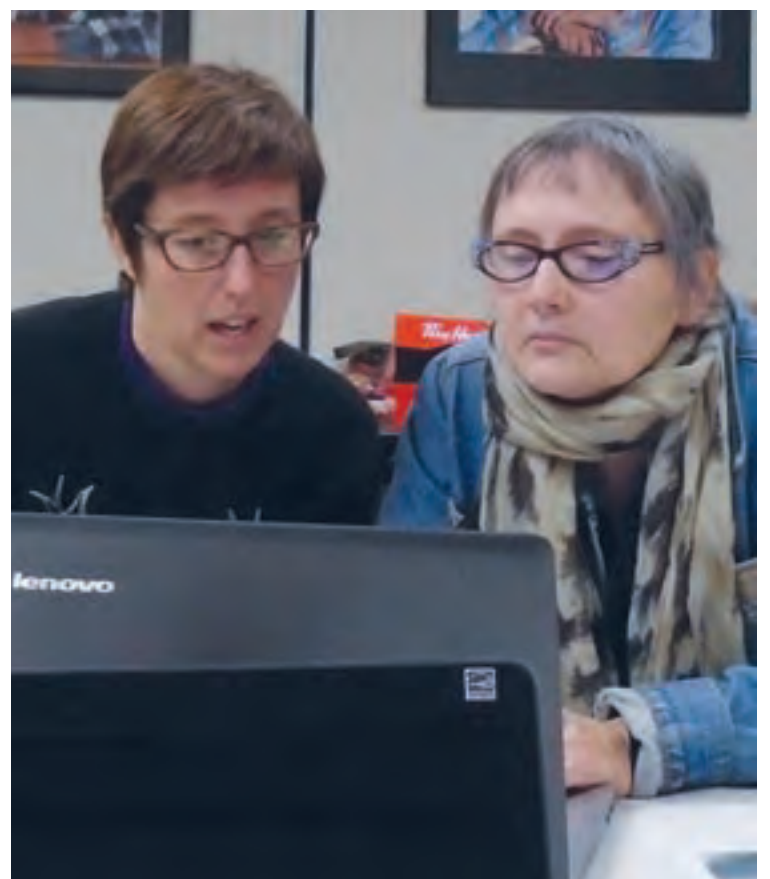
A community member wrote to the council after the event saying, “thanks for a wonderful afternoon. It was indeed a celebration of many things—good food, meeting new friends, music, dancing, sharing...[we] enjoyed it all. The digital stories were particularly moving. The sharing of our stories helps us understand one another and appreciate the long roads some have travelled.” Digital storytelling organizers noted that little reminders such as this are the reason for going on these shared journeys for healing, connection and community.

The digital stories were screened at the MNO TYRMC Annual General Meeting on Saturday, April 11 at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. They will also be added to the MNO TYRMC website in the upcoming weeks. This project was made possible through the generous support of the Ontario Arts Council.

The organizers would like to thank the following Knowledge Keepers for providing guidance

and support for this project: MNO Veterans’ Council President Joseph Paquette; Constance Simmonds; Dr. Lynn Lavallee and MNO Veterans’ Council Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, O.Ont., C.D., O.M.C. They would also like to thank the following MNO TYRMC members who volunteered their time to help make this project such a success: President

Tera Beaulieu, Secretary/Treasurer Marilyn Hew, Interim Chair Todd Ross, Women’s Representative Brenda Stewart, Councillor Derek Johnstone, and Youth Representative Christine Skura. ∞



▲ Jennifer LaFontaine (left), MNO citizen and Métis Digital Storytelling Project organizer, sits with Toronto York Métis Councillor Virginia Barter during the workshop.



▲ (L-R) MNO TYRMC Chair Todd Ross, PCMNO Region 8 Representative Anita Tucker and MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu at the Toronto Strawberry Ceremony for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.



▲ A demonstrator raises the Métis flag during the Strawberry Ceremony for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Toronto.

Strawberry Ceremony seeks justice for Canada's Missing and Murdered Indigenous women



MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council participates in Toronto demonstration

submitted by **Kelly Campagnola**
MNO TYRMC Women's Representative
Tera Beaulieu
MNO TYRMC President

On February 14, 2015, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council joined 500 other demonstrators, including the MNO Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network at the University of Toronto, in seeking justice for Canada's missing and murdered Indigenous women.

The Toronto Strawberry Ceremony was organized by native youth sexual health network No More Silence, and sex workers' rights organization Maggie's Toronto, and was endorsed by nearly 100 other organizations in the city of Toronto.

The Strawberry Ceremony has been held for the past 10 years on February 14 to raise awareness and honour Indigenous women who have been murdered or who have gone missing. The Toronto gathering is held in solidarity with a vigil that was originally organized by a group of women approximately 25 years ago in Vancouver's Downtown East Side. Similar gatherings are now held across Canada on February 14 bringing together thousands of Indigenous peoples and Canadians.

There is a growing awareness that Indigenous women in Canada continue to go missing or be murdered at a disproportionate rate, with minimal or no action being taken by the Canadian government. Events like the Strawberry Ceremony bring awareness to the systemic nature of gendered violence, poverty, racism and colonialism in Canada.

The gathering occurred outside of the Toronto Police Headquarters and was followed by a march organized by the Native Men's Residence of Toronto. The Strawberry Ceremony was led

by Elder Wanda Whitebird and included prayers for the women and their families, drumming, jingle dress dancing, and the sharing of strawberries, water and tobacco for all those in attendance.

One of the primary purposes of the gathering is to provide community support and healing for the families in attendance whose loved ones are missing or have been murdered. Gathered individuals heard family members speak about the devastating loss of their beloved mothers, sisters, cousins, aunts and daughters, along with their calls for action to bring an end to this dark period in our history.

While the organizers recognized that February is out of season for a ceremony involving strawberries, they shared that the violence that Indigenous women are experiencing also significantly disrupts traditional ways of life.

According to Statistics Canada, First Nations women are three and half times more likely to be victims of violence than non-Aboriginal women and are seven times more likely to be murdered. While the authors are not aware of similar statistics that document the rates of violence and death of Métis women specifically, the personal stories shared by Métis women at various gatherings and events indicate that all Aboriginal women remain at an increased risk of violence and death.

In a report issued last May, the RCMP stated that while Aboriginal women make up 4.3% of the population, they account for 16% of female homicides and 11.3% of missing women. This year alone, three young Aboriginal women in Toronto lost their lives.

Organizers of the event said that they will continue to push

for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women. Many at the rally also demanded that Prime Minister Stephen Harper order a national inquiry into murdered and missing Aboriginal women—a move that the Assembly of First Nations, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and federal opposition leaders Justin Trudeau and Thomas Mulcair have voiced their support for.

The Prime Minister's response to the demand for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women is that the issue "should not be viewed as a sociological phenomenon", but rather as crime, and should be dealt with as such. However, many activist organizations take the approach that crime is an inherently sociological phenomenon, shaped by historical and social processes.

The Conservative government

In a report issued last May, the RCMP stated that while Aboriginal women make up 4.3% of the population, they account for 16% of female homicides and 11.3% of missing women.

has also cut funding to the Sisters in Spirit initiative by the Native Women's Association of Canada in 2010—the landmark research project that brought the crisis of missing and murdered Aboriginal

women to the public's awareness.

The MNO TYRMC proudly endorsed and attended the Strawberry Ceremony along with other Aboriginal agencies, groups, and peoples in the city. The Council took time to make various signs that were held at the Strawberry Ceremony to raise awareness and honour the women who are no longer with us and remain missing.

The dire numbers released by the RCMP demonstrate that there are powerful historical and systemic forces at play, which cannot be ignored. The MNO TYRMC is committed to drawing attention to Aboriginal women's issues and we will proudly and solemnly lend our voice to speaking out against the ongoing tragedies and join in the emerging healing efforts dedicated to missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada. ∞



▲ MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu and another demonstrator hold signs as they participate in the Strawberry Ceremony in Toronto.



▲ The MNO High Land Waters Métis Council at a nomination and information meeting in Northbrook on January 31, 2015. (L-R) Back row: Tom Thompson Sr., Deidre Thompson, Gwendalyn Lloyd, and Robert Lloyd Sr.; Front row: Terry Conners, Marlon Lloyd, Candace Lloyd and MNO staff Hank Rowlinson.

MNO High Land Waters Métis Council Meeting

by | Julie Druker
Adapted from an original story that appeared at frontenacnews.ca

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) High Land Waters Métis Council (HLWMC) held a nomination and information meeting on January 31, 2015 at the Northbrook Lions Community Hall. The meeting was attended by 30 people. The meeting's dual purpose was to attract new members and to nominate representatives for positions on the council.

The MNO HLWMC, which was established seven years ago, is one of the MNO's 29 Métis community councils. Its members represent the area that stretches east to Perth, west to Peterborough, south to Kingston and north to Bancroft. MNO HLWMC members strive to bring Métis awareness to their communities and to let members know what services are available to them.

Present at the meeting were

MNO staff Amanda Cox, Tracey Dale, and Hank Rowlinson. Rowlinson gave an overview of current issues facing the MNO at the provincial and national levels and stressed the importance of community involvement.

Deirdre Thompson, MNO HLWMC Acting President, said that she hopes to see membership numbers increase as a direct result of the recent meeting in Northbrook. She said that for a long time Métis people struggled with an identity that considered them "too white to be Aboriginal and too Aboriginal to be white. We are trying to let people know that we exist and that we have rights as Aboriginal people." President Thompson said that the long-term goal of the MNO HLWMC is to spread awareness that the Métis are a distinct Aboriginal group.

The formal nominations for

the MNO HLWMC for 2015 wrapped up Saturday's meeting in Northbrook. Scott Lloyd and Catherine Thompson were nominated for President; Marlon Lloyd and Benjamin Saulnier were nominated for Chair. Secretary-Treasurer Candace Lloyd and Youth Representative Gwendalyn Lloyd were acclaimed. The Councillors nominated and elected by acclamation were Terry Conners, Tom Thompson Sr. and Gertrude Conners. The position for Women's Representative is still open.

The MNO HLWMC elections took place at the Northbrook Lions Community Hall on March 8. Results will be published in the next issue of the *Voyageur* (Issue no. 86) in the *Council Corner* section. For more information, please visit: www.metisnation.org/community-councils. ∞

MNO council hosts community potluck

by | MNO Staff

On January 31, 2015, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) held a community potluck to introduce the newly elected council members. Special guests included: PCMNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride, PCMNO Region Nine Councillor and Captain of the Hunt Peter Rivers, MNO Clear Water Métis Council (CWMC) President Jerry Clarke, and MNO Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) President Richard Cuddy, and CWMC and CRMC citizens.

President Clarke gave a presentation on the upcoming Métis Rendezvous, which will take place September 12, 2015 in Tillsonburg. The Métis Rendezvous is a joint effort between the MNO CRMC and the MNO GRMC.

MNO citizens and guests enjoyed good food, laughter and music during the afternoon. Entertainment was provided by Rajan Anderson on fiddle and Kim Anderson on keyboard. MNO GRMC Chair Barbra Ricard Lair taught everyone some jigging steps. ∞



▲ Métis children participate in jigging at the MNO Grand River Métis Council community potluck.



▲ Upper Grand District School Board teachers practice traditional Métis dot painting. Workshop participants also got the chance to try loom beading and how to make dream catchers.

Métis culture in the classroom

submitted by | Jennifer Parkinson
MNO Grand River Métis Council President

Teachers from the Upper Grand District School Board participated in Aboriginal Art workshops organized by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). Teachers were taught Métis Dot Art by Marie-Louise Larivière, MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator at Wilfred Laurier University, as well as loom beading and how to make dream catchers by MNO Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) Chair Barbra Ricard Lair. At the end of the workshop, the teachers brought these skills back to their classrooms.

Stephanie Jordan, a teacher from John McCrae Public School, particularly enjoyed learning Métis

Dot Art and taught her students this craft. The students' beautiful artwork will be submitted to the museum for *Zoongeheshkwaad*—student art inspired by First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture and art. Their artwork will be on display at the Wellington County Museum in Elora during the Aboriginal Heritage Festival, which runs from April 30, 2015 to May 2, 2015.

Stephanie also invited Jennifer Parkinson, MNO GRMC President, into her classroom to teach students about Métis culture and history. The students learned to jig, play the spoons, and had the opportunity to feel different types of furs, hides and traps. ∞

MNO council shares Métis history and culture with Niagara students

submitted by | **Amanda Pont-Shanks**
MNO Niagara Region Métis Council Councillor

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC) has been busy educating students in the Niagara region about Métis history, culture and way of life. Council member Amanda Pont-Shanks shared her culture with her kindergarten class at Central Public School in Grimsby. She talked about her sash, its uses, what it means to her and what each colour represents.



▲ MNO NMRC President Derrick Pont with his grandson Holden Shanks.

She also talked about the Métis flag and the voyageurs. Her students loved hearing about Métis travels and even made their own canoe in the block centre.

MNO NRMC President Derrick Pont presented to the primary grades at Jacob Beam Public School in Beamsville. He talked to the students about the life of a Métis fur trapper and shared his traditional knowledge of Métis history and way of life. He gave a very interactive presentation where students were allowed to touch and feel furs, try on regalia, and ask questions about the Métis in Ontario.

Among the attendees included President Derrick Pont's grandson, Holden Shanks (grade two), who was thrilled to have his grandpa share his heritage with his class. When Holden was asked, "what is your favorite thing about being Métis?" He responded, "being in parades with grandpa!"

The MNO Niagara Region Métis Council presents to many schools across Niagara. Council members also sit on various education advisory committees such as Brock University and Niagara College. ∞



▲ Amanda Pont-Shanks with her kindergarten class at Central Public School in Grimsby, Ontario.



▲ (L-R) Barbra Ricard Lair, MNO GRMC Chair; Isaac Murdoch, Anishinaabe Knowledge Keeper; Colinda Clyne, UGDCB Aboriginal Liaison; Christi Belcourt, MNO citizen and visual artist; Jennifer Parkinson, MNO GRMC President.

A day with Christi Belcourt and Isaac Murdoch

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

On March 5 the Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) Aboriginal Liaison, Colinda Clyne, organized a day of learning for the teachers of the UGDSB. The guest speakers were Christi Belcourt, a well-known Métis visual artist and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, along with Anishinaabe Knowledge Keeper Isaac Murdoch.

The session began with MNO Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) President Jennifer Parkinson and

Clyne welcoming the speakers. GRMC Chair Barbra Ricard Lair presented a pair of moccasin vamps to Christi Belcourt for her *Walking With Our Sisters* initiative. Christi and Isaac filled the morning with presentations, while the afternoon was filled with activities that included open discussions with the presenters, and small group discussions on how to integrate First Nation, Métis and Inuit culture into classrooms. It was a very informative and enriching day for everyone who attended. ∞

A special donation to La Maison Rosewood Shelter

submitted by | **Verna Porter-Brunelle**
PCMNO Senator

This past November and December, PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle spent many hours making comfort blankets at Georgian College in Midland. On December 11, 2014, Senator Porter-Brunelle and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Honourary

Senator Audrey Vallee presented the comfort blankets to La Maison Rosewood Shelter—an emergency women's shelter in Midland. A total of six blankets and four small children's blankets were presented to Annick Brown, Supervisor at La Maison Rosewood Shelter. ∞



▲ PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle (left) and MNO Honourary Senator Audrey Vallee show their comfort blankets.



▲ Workshop participants showing off their healing blankets.



▲ Patricia Taylor with her blanket.

Métis Women's Circle participates in Healing Blanket Workshop

by | MNO Staff

On February 28, 2015, the Georgian Bay Métis Women's Circle participated in a Healing Blanket Workshop facilitated by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)

staff members Tracy Bald and Lisa Talbot. Healing blankets are created by using the 'tie blanket making' technique. The exercise started by writing words of strength and

healing on the inside of the blanket. The side that has words on it is then turned to the inside and the blanket tied together. The healing blanket symbolizes the healing process by wrapping strength, support and

comfort around a victim. Patricia Taylor with the Georgian Bay Métis Council stated: "The Georgian Bay Métis Women's Circle would like to thank Bruce Power for the funding that made the Healing

Blanket Work Shop possible. A special thank you to Tracy Bald and Lisa Talbot for the care, knowledge and consideration taken for this wonderful workshop." ∞

Obituaries



MNO citizen Normand 'Norm' Guerin

This obituary was originally published in the Métis Voyageur #83 but failed to reference Mr. Guerin's daughter, Joanne Dupuis. We apologize for this error. Below is the corrected article:

In loving memory of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Normand "Norm" Guerin, it is with great sadness that the family announces his passing at the Toronto General Hospital on Thursday October 2nd, 2014 at the age of 76 years. Beloved husband of Aline Guerin (Cappadocia) (nee Gagnon). Loving father of Joanne Dupuis (Claude). Step father of Douglas (Sue), Gary (Chris) and Ron (Cathy). Cherished grandfather to Kevin (Melissa) and Eric (Cassie). Dear brother of Gilles (Pau-

line), Donald, Denis (Helene), Noelline (Reginald), Luke and Christina (Josh). Step grandfather of Tyler (Brooke), Dylan, Daniel, Amy, Mike and Laurie. Step great grandfather of Kaia. Predeceased by his parents Henri and Lillian (nee Langlois) Guerin. Norm will be remembered for his sense of humour as well as his love and passion for living. He enjoyed travelling, spending time with his family and friends and living life to the fullest. A celebration of life was held in Noelville on November 8, 2014. ∞



MNO citizen Normand Gelinas

In loving memory of Métis Nation of Ontario citizen Normand Gelinas; it is with heavy hearts that the family announces his passing at the South Centennial Manor on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at the age of 60 years. Loving husband of 40 years of Maria (nee Loranger), and cherished father of the late Roger Gelinas (1974), Steve (Jessica Kuzmich) Gelinas of Iroquois Falls, and Michel Gelinas also of Iroquois Falls. He also leaves his step grandchildren: Rylan and Mackenzie.

Normand is also survived by his siblings: Don (Esther) Gelinas of Iroquois Falls, Conrad Gelinas of Iroquois Falls, Robert (Lynn Piney) Gelinas of North Bay, and Lucille (Doug) Corbett of North Bay as well as his sisters-in-law: Lynda Gelinas of Iroquois Falls and Christine Gelinas of Iroquois Falls. He was predeceased by his Parents Roland and Isabella Gelinas, his step-father Armand Gagnon, his siblings Linda (the late Leon) Gelinas, Jackie (the late Bob) LaBrash, Gaston Gelinas and Simon

Gelinas as well as his sister-in-law Marilyn Gelinas. In keeping with Norm's wishes, cremation has taken place. In memoriam, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Society of Timmins (cheques only please) and would be appreciated by the family. To leave a message of condolence, make a donation or light a memorial candle; please visit www.abitibifuneralservicesltd.com. ∞



ACHIEVEMENTS

Métis adventurer walks across Georgian Bay

submitted by **Rachelle Brunelle-McColl**
MNO Employment Developer
Adapted from an original article by
Colin Field that appeared at
mountainlifemag.ca

Scott Parent, son of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff member and citizen Jo-Anne Parent who works in the MNO office in Midland, embarked on a unique adventure this past month:

For the last few years, stand-up paddleboard adventurer and Fathom Paddle Guiding owner Scott Parent's dream has been focused on crossing Georgian Bay on a stand-up-paddleboard during the winter. Often considered the sixth Great Lake, Georgian Bay is a huge expanse of water. The weather didn't co-operate in the winter of 2014, but in 2015, with record low temperatures, the ice was set. Together with Zane Davies of Explorer's Tread, they set off on March 11, 2015 to do something that had never been done before.

While Parent is no stranger to the Bay (he paddled across it in 2011) or to paddling in the icy winter waters, this excursion tested all of his and Zane's skills. With ice-climbing tools, modified paddleboards, dry suits, ski poles and more, their motley collection

of gear from a variety of different sports all proved invaluable.

Leaving from Cape Croker, they first needed to traverse a one kilometre stretch of open water – a section they'd spent the previous week perfecting their systems on, destroying a paddleboard in the process. They spent the first night camped on the ice, drifting nearly two kilometres as they slept. At daybreak they awoke beside a river of water that hadn't existed the previous night.

From Cape Croker it was a 55 kilometre paddle and hike before reaching the lighthouse on Double Top Island in the Western Islands, and another 27 kilometres to get off the Bay.

With temperatures above zero during the three days they were on the ice, they finally arrived at 12 Mile Bay on March 13, 2015. ∞



© Scott Parent Photo

▲ Scott Parent making his way across Georgian Bay.



© Scott Parent Photo

▲ Scott Parent paddles through the frozen waters Georgian Bay.

MNO Senator invested into Order of Ontario

by | MNO Staff

On February 3, 2015, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, invested 26 extraordinary Ontarians into the Order of Ontario during a ceremony at Queen's Park. Included on this list was Dr. Alis Kennedy, C.D., O.M.C., Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council Senator. Senator Kennedy was recognized for being an inspiring Métis leader and passionate advocate for veterans, Francophones and Aboriginal peoples.

"I am proud to formally welcome these 26 remarkable people into the Order of Ontario. Their diverse and significant contributions have had an impact on the lives of millions of Ontarians, improving our quality of

life, making our communities stronger and positioning this province as an international centre of excellence in many endeavours," said Her Honour.

Dr. Kennedy has spent her life shattering barriers and challenging the status quo, reminding us too, that tolerance, acceptance and generosity are values that we must never take for granted. With an impressive résumé, she is dedicated to the advancement of Aboriginal people, advocating for those particularly in difficulty with the law and violence against women. She served 13 years in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Dr. Kennedy has shared her skills for over 40 years on three continents volunteering with a multitude of organizations. An inspiring speaker,

leader and advocate for veterans and a role model for Aboriginal youth, Dr. Kennedy demonstrates that anything is possible with resolute determination.

The Order of Ontario is the province's highest official honour. It recognizes any current or former long-time resident of Ontario who has demonstrated a high level of individual excellence and achievement in any field benefiting the people of Ontario or anywhere in the world. ∞

► Dr. Alis Kennedy (right), C.D., O.M.C., MNO Veterans' Council Senator, and the Speaker of the House, the Honourable Dave Levac (left), attended the Queen's Park ceremony where Dr. Kennedy was invested into the Order of Ontario.



MNO citizen named Writer in Residence

by | MNO Staff
With files from torontopubliclibrary.ca

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Cherie Dimaline has been named Toronto Public Library's first Writer in Residence – Aboriginal Experience, with a focus on exploring and celebrating the Aboriginal experience in Canada. She has accepted a four month residency at North York Central Library from March to June 2015.

Cherie Dimaline is an author and editor from the Georgian Bay Métis community, who was named the 2014 Emerging Artist of the Year, Ontario Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Arts. Her first book, a collection of short stories, *Red Rooms*, was published in 2007 and won the Anskohk Fiction Book

of the Year Award. Her novel, *The Girl Who Grew a Galaxy*, published in 2013, was shortlisted for the 2014 Burt Award. She is also the editor of both *FNH Magazine* and *Muskrat Magazine*.

"Cherie's appointment reflects a strong and growing commitment to storytelling in the Aboriginal voice, supporting the Library's role in nurturing and building on the rich legacy of oral histories and traditions associated with Toronto's past," said City Librarian Vickery Bowles.

Cherie shared her plans for the residency at March 2015 public event in the North York Central Library auditorium. Attending guests included the Honourable

MPP for Willowdale and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer, and Deputy Minister for the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs Deborah Richardson.

Stephanie Pangowish and Josh Smoke, traditional drummers and singers, performed at the event, with readings from novelist Lee Maracle and poet Giles Benaway.

During her four month residency, Cherie will meet individually with aspiring writers to review submitted manuscripts and lead a series of panel discussions and workshops. The workshops will explore topics such as the importance of Indigenous storytelling and the challenges and resources for multicultural Toronto

writers and poets. Writers will also have an opportunity to learn more about grants and public reading.

Cherie's residency will usher in a month of Aboriginal programming at the library in June 2015 that will celebrate Aboriginal culture in film, music, art, dance and literature at branches across the city. It will also serve as a public forum for issues of national interest, including a panel on Canada's missing and murdered Aboriginal women hosted by the CBC's Michael Enright.

The theme for June's programming, developed by Cherie, is *Giganawendamin Dibaajimowinan: We Keep the Stories*. ∞



▲ MNO Citizen Cherie Dimaline.



▲ Cherie Dimaline and guests attend a public event in the North York Central Library auditorium. (L-R) The Honourable David Zimmer, MPP for Willowdale and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; Cherie Dimaline; Giles Benaway; Lee Maracle; guest; and Deborah Richardson, Deputy Minister for the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

The financier of Choice for

Métis

Entrepreneurs in Ontario

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

Rates & security
customized
to promote Métis
business success

Contributions
for business plans
and ongoing
support

Métis
VOYAGEUR
Development Fund

mvdf.ca

1-855-798-0133



Photo by Tessa Buchan, courtesy of the Ontario Heritage Trust

▲ The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (left) with Mélanie-Rose Frappier (centre); and Maria Topalovich, Board Member, Ontario Heritage Trust (right) following the presentation of the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards.

One Métis youth, many achievements

by | MNO Staff

Mélanie-Rose Frappier is a self-identifying Métis who is very involved with the community. She is proud of her francophone and Métis heritage, and has always enjoyed learning about the traditions of her Métis culture. She was given the opportunity to learn more about Métis history as a participant of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Infinite Reach March Break Camp, which she has been a participant of for the past three years.

Mélanie-Rose was asked by her school, École Secondaire du

Sacré Coeur, to be the sole student representative for the Aboriginal Advisory Education Committee, which she accepted. This position allowed her to play an integral part in creating the first Aboriginal Studies course to be offered in the French Catholic School Board.

Mélanie-Rose is in grade 12, and is involved in a range of youth, community and cultural activities that have led to a long list of honours, including most recently the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Youth Achievement this past February. She was presented with the award at a ceremony at Queen's Park in Toronto on February 27th. 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.

Even prior to being selected for the Heritage Trust Award, Mélanie-Rose had an impressive portfolio. Last year, she received the prestigious Canada's Top 20 Under 20 Award, which recognizes the exceptional leadership, innovation and achievements of 20 young people under the age of 20 from across the country. She is a recipient of the National Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award and the Gathering Our Voices Aboriginal Youth



▲ Mélanie-Rose was recognized as a YWCA Woman of Distinction for her work as a volunteer, a leader, and an agent for change in her community.

Award, both of which recognized her outstanding leadership qualities and her dedication to improving her community. Last fall she participated in the Aboriginal Youth Panel at Toronto WE Day where she shared her pride in her Métis heritage.

Mélanie-Rose's community involvement includes countless volunteer hours and youth leadership roles in a number of organizations, and in 2013 she was chosen to be Youth Ambassador of Canada to the United States Embassy.

Mélanie-Rose was also chosen as a Top 30 Global Teen Leader with Three Dot Dash for her work in creating It's Cool to Be Healthy—a non-profit organization that

I'm so honoured to be recognized as a powerful woman in my community, [and] that I've had an impact on other girls my age."

- Mélanie-Rose Frappier

educates students on the benefits of exercise and proper nutrition.

Now she can add another one to her list -- YWCA Woman of Distinction for her work as a volunteer, leader and change agent. She is being recognized for creating

the program It's Cool to Be Healthy, which has provided information to 25,000 students about living a healthy life.

The award will be presented May 1 at the 9th Annual Women of Distinction Awards Gala. Mélanie-Rose is in impressive company. Five other women and an organization will also receive the honour.

Mélanie-Rose, who was nominated by her mother, Huguette Trotter-Frappier, called it an "amazing experience" to be part of such a group. "I'm so honoured to be recognized as a powerful woman in my community, [and] that I've had an impact on other girls my age." ∞

► Mélanie-Rose created the It's Cool To Be Healthy program.



Employee Announcements

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

Welcome Dale Legge



The Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Dale Legge to the Ottawa MNO office in the position of Human Resources Coordinator.

Dale is a recent graduate of Algonquin College in the Human Resources Certificate program. His studies were funded in part through the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy program. Dale will also receive his Business Administration Diploma majoring in Human Resources in April. He brings over 12 years of experience in the Human Resources field with multinational and private corporations.

As an MNO citizen, Dale is looking forward to helping the MNO continue to grow, provide support for all areas of the organization and to learn more about his Métis heritage and culture.

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

— Submitted by Beverley Newton,
Manager of Human Resources

Welcome Roxanne Brisson



Roxanne Brisson recently obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Communication with a minor in Psychology from Carleton University. Roxanne has communication experience within the entertainment industry and private sector. She is excited to learn more about Métis culture as well as Aboriginal peoples generally.

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

— Submitted by Mike Fedyk, Manager of Communications

*The MNO is pleased to
welcome everyone to the team!*

ACROSS THE HOMELAND



■ British Columbia

MNBC launches Keeping My Culture Alive Contest

Source: Métis Nation British Columbia

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) has launched a series of Métis Youth Cultural Employment Connections (MYCEC) events all over British Columbia. These events will provide training opportunities for Métis youth in their communities through leadership development and the preservation of strong Métis identities.

To promote MYCEC events and showcase youth attendees, the MNBC has created a contest called #KeepingMyCultureAlive. Métis youth who attend MYCEC events across BC have the opportunity to enter the contest and win an iPad Mini 2 or other exciting prizes.

To enter the contest, Métis youth must attend a MYCEC event in their area and actively engage in the training and cultural elements of the event. Entrants simply need to express on MNBC's Facebook page what the most meaningful aspects of the event were to them and provide a brief description why. This event is a great way to engage Métis youth and promote Métis culture.∞



■ Manitoba

Festival du Voyageur brings out Winnipeggers on Louis Riel Day

Source: CBC News

In Manitoba, Louis Riel Day is a designated provincial holiday, which this year fell on February 16. Despite very cold temperatures over 20,000 Winnipeggers chose to spend Louis Riel Day with family at Festival du Voyageur where they were able participate in a wide variety of cultural events with live music and wares for sale. Among those who took part in festivities was Métis citizen and Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman and his family.

In the Voyageur Apprenticeship Workshop, there were demonstrations, arts, crafts and skills on display, commonly associated with voyageur times. Nancy Gouliquer was an instructor at the workshop, and taught festival-goers how to make traditional Métis slippers.

"I really enjoy sharing my Métis heritage," she said. "My friend Chantel is also Métis and we try and develop projects that can be done in short workshops. But we would still show you some of the traditional things that the Métis have done and can still be incorporated into our life today."∞



■ Alberta

Edmonton Métis Dancers celebrate 30 years

Source: Edmonton Métis Dancers

The Edmonton Métis Dancers was formed in 1985 by Georgina Donald to preserve Métis dance and music, and to teach them to the younger generations to ensure that they will continue to survive as a way for the Métis people to express pride in their culture.

On June 16, 2015, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Edmonton Métis Dancers, the *Dances of Rupertsland* will be held at the Royal Alberta Museum. The event will tell the story of the creation of Métis dance and music in Western Canada and will feature the Edmonton Caladonian Dancers, LaGiron-dole Francophone Dancers, and some of the Edmonton area's finest First Nation dancers.

Edmonton Métis Dancers have won many championships including nine group competitions at *Back to Batoche Days* in Saskatchewan, and current Edmonton Métis Dance member Brent Potskin is a seven time Canadian Red River Jig Champion. The Edmonton Métis Dancers currently include three generations of the Donald family: grandfather, father, sons, daughters and grandchildren; a true family tradition.∞



■ Saskatchewan

Gabriel Dumont Institute has expansion plans

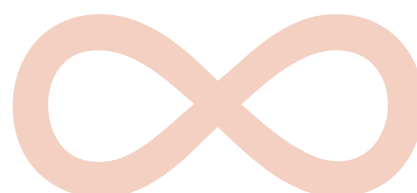
Source: CBC News

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) in Saskatchewan wants to bring more beauty and culture to 22nd Street, where its Saskatoon campus is located. According to its Executive Director Geordie McCaffery, the GDI has been growing and now occupies four buildings along 22nd Street.

"We do have a lot of buildings," said McCaffery. "We've taken the strategic approach of acquiring smaller properties, owning and paying them off over time."

"We buy a building, own it, and then fix it up, renovate it, and make it look really nice," said McCaffery. "(We) improve that student experience and make [our campus] a source of pride for the Métis community and then move on to expand."

"We're trying to improve the face of 22nd street and so a centre of excellence is just that next logical step in making this a nice place and a place people can be proud of."∞



Métis Nation
of Ontario ∞

choose health

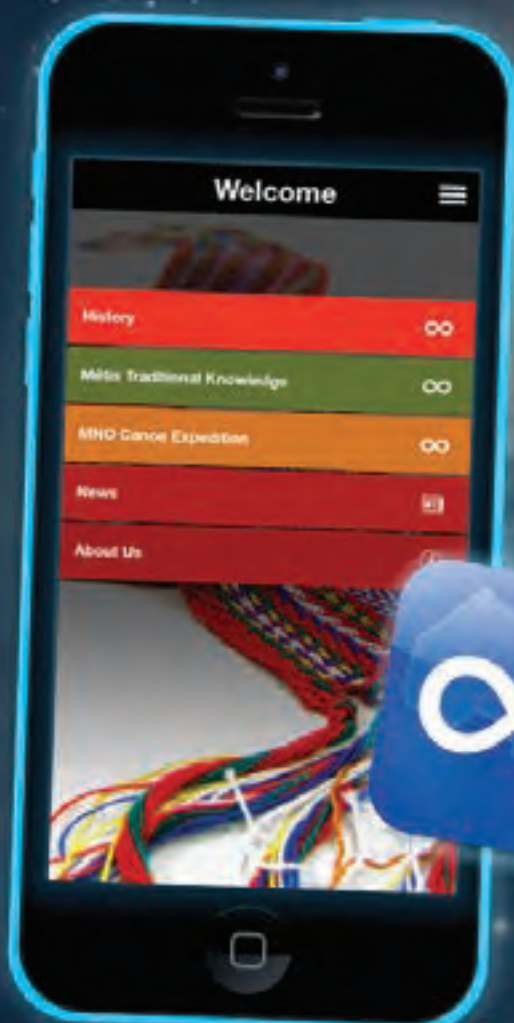
stay active ■

live smoke free ■

regular screening & health checks ■

eat healthy traditional foods ■

maintain a strong mind, body & spirit ■

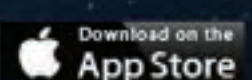
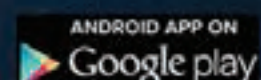


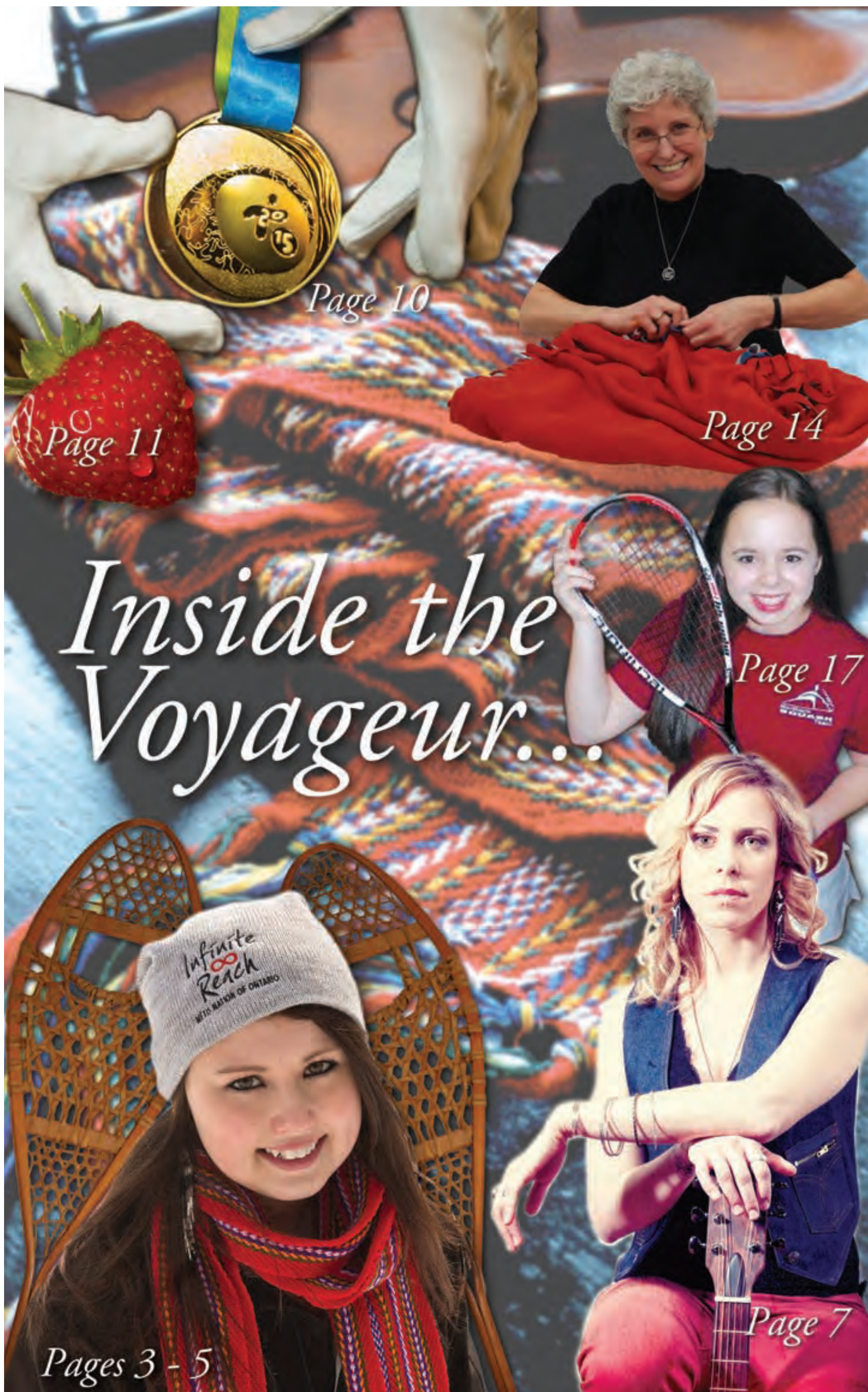
Download the MNO App today!

Now available

for all iOS and Android smartphones
and tablets and lets you explore the
past, present and future of the Métis
people in Ontario.

A must-have for all MNO
Citizens and friends of the MNO!





Page 10

Page 11

Page 14

Inside the Voyager...

Page 17

Page 7

Pages 3 - 5