



# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

## PAN AM GAMES TORCH CEREMONY

MNO plays major role p.5



President Lipinski holds a lantern containing the 2015 PanAM Games flame.



A special canoe flotilla of MNO and First Nations Representatives transports the lantern to the ceremony site.



The canoe flotilla arrives at the Toronto Harbourfront for the lantern handoff.



Ojibway Elder Garry Sault passes the flame to Chief Bryan LaForme of the Missisaugas of the New Credit First Nation.

Métis Rights  
Update  
Page 3



MNO  
Achievements  
Pages 17 - 19



TYRMC AGM  
Pages 10 -11





THE  
MÉTIS  
VOYAGEUR

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**Produced by the  
Métis Nation of Ontario  
Communications Branch:**Julie Cruikshank  
Mike Fedyk  
Marc St. Germain  
Christine Roy**Contributors**Aly Alibhai  
David Barnes  
Tera Beaulieu  
Jane Brennan  
Roxanne Brisson  
Scott Carpenter  
Ms. Cripps  
Marlene Davidson  
Margaret Froh  
Greg Garratt  
Reta Gordon  
Carter Hall  
Kristie Henderson  
Anne Huguenin  
Suzanne Jackson  
Yvonne Jensen  
Mary Jessop  
Perry Kelly  
Sara Kelly  
Mark Knell  
Diane Lance  
Glen Lipinski  
Sahra MacLean  
Jason Madden  
Joanne Meyer  
Ted Norris  
David Oxby  
Joseph Paquette  
Verna Porter-Brunelle  
Loma Rowlinson  
Colin Salter  
Richard Sarrazin  
Jennifer St. Germain  
Tom Thompson  
Joelle Thorgrimson  
Donna Tremblay  
Anne Trudel  
James Wagar  
Wenda Watteyne  
Tammy Webb**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:**

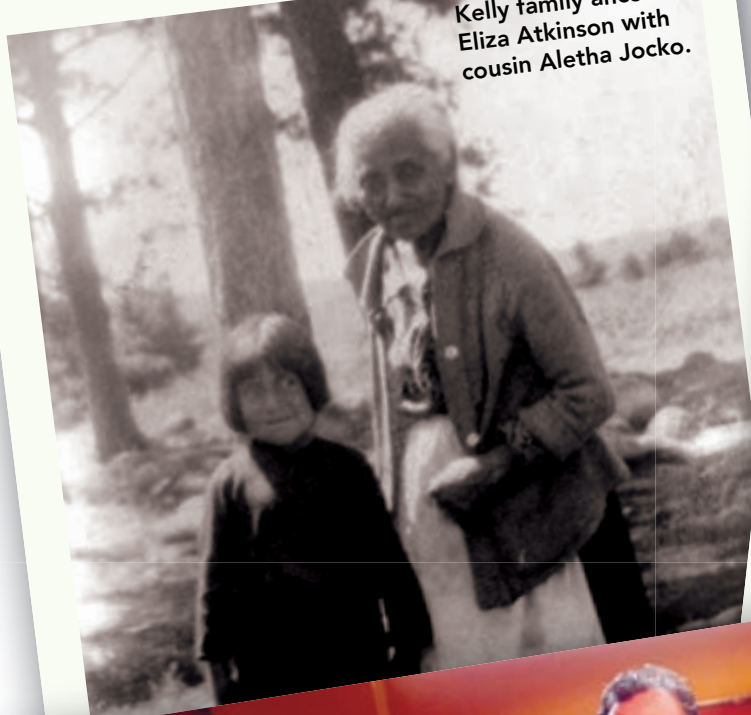
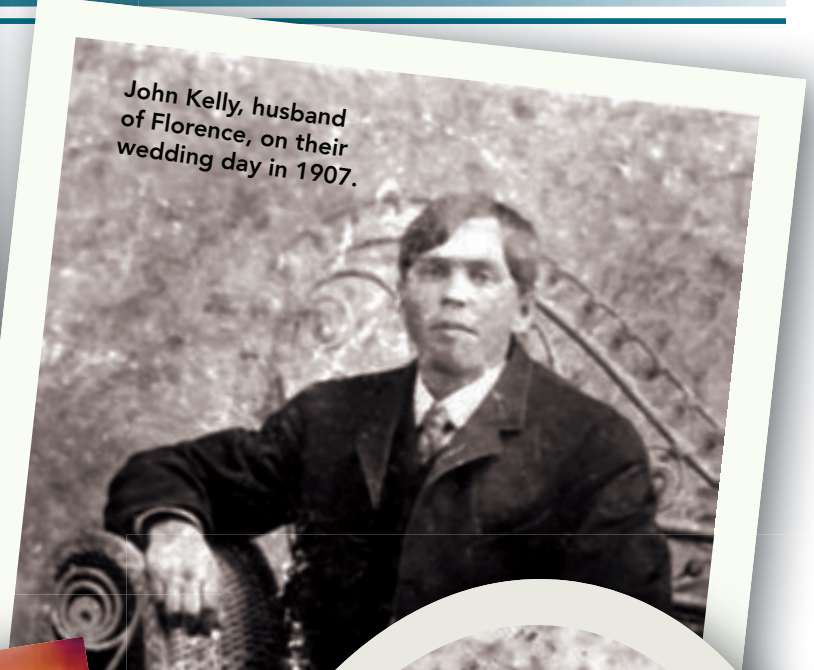
MNO encourages contributions from MNO citizens and staff. All submissions are edited to conform to the Canadian Press Style Guide as well as for grammar, repetitiousness, spelling and to accurately reflect the official names and titles of individuals, organizations, bodies and agencies referenced in 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 - 16 Submission  
deadlines:**September 4, 2015  
November 1, 2015  
January 22, 2016**Recently Moved  
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## FAMILY

Kelly family ancestor  
Eliza Atkinson with  
cousin Aletha Jocko.John Kelly, husband  
of Florence, on their  
wedding day in 1907.▲ Some of the Kelly  
family at the reunion (L-  
R) Maynard Kelly from  
Vancouver; Leonard  
Kelly from Toronto; Reta  
Gordon (Kelly), Larry  
Kelly, Lois McCallum  
(Kelly).

▲ Some of the younger Kelly descendants at the reunion.

Florence Atkinson  
Kelly, Matriarch of  
the Kelly family.

# Métis family comes together with pride

**by | Perry William Kelly**  
MNO Citizen*The following article represents the opinions of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of the Métis Nation of Ontario. The article has been edited for length.*

**M**y name is Perry William Kelly and I am Métis lawyer, a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) for three decades and the former Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) representative to the city of Gloucester, Ontario. I am also a Métis warrior who remembered every time I went into the ring, that I am descended from a people who may have been defeated at the Battle of Batoche but were never conquered.

My daughter Sydney is a Métis college student who proudly knows that her late grandfather, Donald P. Kelly was an original MNO Ottawa Region Council Senator.

We are proud to be descendants of Jack and Florence Kelly, an Irish logger/firefighter and an Algonquin woman. But ours are only a few of

the stories of a clan of Métis descendants who met at one of Ottawa's oldest public houses to celebrate our roots.

Under the watchful eyes of my aunts, MNO Senators Lois McCallum and Reta Gordon, seventy six Kelly family members came together to tell their children and grandchildren stories about where they had come from. And, to be proud of the Métis they are.

With my great-grandfather, my great-grandmother gave birth to a gang of strapping young men, many of whom proudly served their country in World War II. Their father would have been proud of their public service. Almost as proud as they were of him, who had given his life dying from the effects of a fire he fought as a member of the Ottawa Fire Department when the last of the children were mere babies and toddlers.

Like many Métis families, my aunts and uncles grew up in a household that knew of its Métis roots but rarely discussed them

out loud. My aunt Reta recalls the day my grandfather told them that the family came from Spain, to explain their flaxen hair and skin that tanned dark in the sun.

For the past thirty years, my aunts and uncles were the visible face of our family's Métis pride. Unfortunately, I have lost two of my Senator uncles in the past couple of years. And, while still healthy, whip smart and vigorous, my aunts will soon be coming to an age where they shouldn't be travelling around the country with sashes across their shoulders, waiving our flag.

To ensure that other generations would not grow up ignorant of their Métis roots and pick up the torch, my cousin Cathy organized a Kelly reunion, inviting all the descendants of Jack and Florence. Placed on a table for all to see were faded sepia toned pictures and historical artifacts.

Pictures of my great-grandparents on their wedding day, my great-grandfather Jack in his fire department uniform, and his grand-

sons in their navy uniforms. Beside these were his sons' World War II medals. All of which are reflective of our family's commitment to public service given over many generations to this country.

To ensure that our family stays connected to the MNO, Marc St. Germain graciously provided information booklets to be distributed to reunion participants and Jane Brennan ensured that our children had registration forms and information on how to register for MNO citizenship.

I can honestly say that seeing my aunt Reta on The Aboriginal Peoples Television Network the other day and my family sharing its roots are highlights of my path on this earth. We are strong, we are proud, we are Métis.

The days are long gone where any Kelly of the past generation, this generation or the next will be ashamed to be Métis Canadians. ∞



# NATION

## Ministerial Special Representative on Métis Rights appointed

The following is the text of a memo to all MNO citizens from MNO President Gary Lipinski originally distributed on June 11, 2015.

I am pleased to provide you this update on some exciting developments with respect to the advancement of our Métis rights agenda here in Ontario.

On June 4, the Honourable Bernard Valcourt, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs within the Federal Government appointed Mr. Tom Isaac, as his independent Special Representative to engage with the MNO as well as other Métis Nation governments on issues related to the section 35 rights of our communities and nation. Mr. Isaac is a well-regarded lawyer and expert in Aboriginal law and has previously written on Métis legal issues.

More specifically, Mr. Isaac is mandated to meet with Métis Nation governments as well as provinces and territories "to map out a process for dialogue on Section 35 Métis rights." This engagement will occur over the next few months and Mr. Isaac will provide a written report to Minister Valcourt in December 2015, which will include his independent recommendations on a way forward on these issues. Additional information is available on the MNO website in the "Federal Engagement on Métis Rights" section and is also available on-line at: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=984379&tp=1>.

I consider this appointment an

*"I consider this appointment an important 'breakthrough' for the Métis Nation. It is the result of all the positive work the MNO has been doing."*

- President Lipinski

important 'breakthrough' for the Métis Nation. It is the result of all the positive work the MNO has been doing at the local, regional, provincial and national levels on advancing our rights-based agenda. While we still have more work to do before we get to a formal Métis claims process to begin to deal with the rights, interests and claims of Ontario Métis communities, these issues are at least now on the Federal Government's radar.

The Provisional Council of the Mé on June 26th to 28th, 2015 in order to strategize and discuss how to best engage and develop our submissions on behalf of Ontario Métis communities.



▲ MNO President Gary Lipinski

We have already been in contact with Mr. Isaac and hope he will be able to visit a few of our communities over the next few months. We have also already invited him to the MNO Annual General Assembly so he can experience our distinct culture and see our governance structures in action.

I look forward to keeping you updated on this important initiative as we advance our Métis rights agenda - together. ∞



▲ President Lipinski with Minister Valcourt.

## Federal engagement on Métis rights

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, in the past 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 Metis Federation case to the Daniels case, the message from the courts to 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. Fortunately, we are now starting to see some progress.

November 2014:

### Meeting with Doug Eyford

In November 2014, MNO President Lipinski met with Doug Eyford, a Vancouver Lawyer appointed by the Federal Government to provide an overview and recommendations with respect to Canada's existing policy of negotiations Aboriginal rights and land claims. President Lipinski made a strong case to Mr. Eyford that Métis rights, interests and claims must be part of the process going forward.

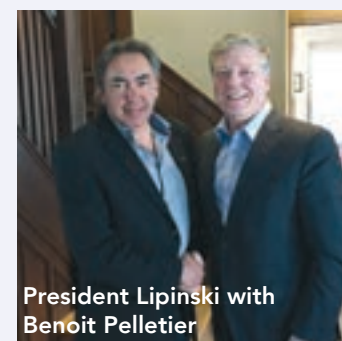


Doug Eyford

March 2015:

### Meeting with Benoit Pelletier

In March 2015, MNO President Lipinski met with Benoit Pelletier, the Federal Government Special Representative on reviewing Canada's current Specific Claims Policy. President Lipinski 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. Mr. Pelletier's report



President Lipinski with Benoit Pelletier

is expected during the summer of 2015.

April 2015:

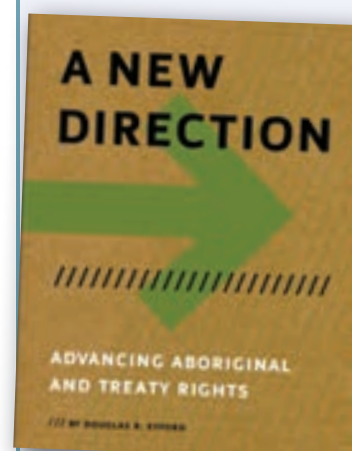
### Release of the Eyford Report

Doug Eyford released his report in April 2015. President Lipinski applauded the report as it recommends that Canada create a

"reconciliation process" to address Métis rights and outstanding claims.

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 Metis Federation to respond to the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *Manitoba Metis Federation v. Canada*.



The Eyford Report



# MNO Canoe Expedition members speak at National Me to We Day

by | MNO Staff

Although It was more than a year ago since the members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Canoe Expedition began their epic 2000 plus kilometer trek across Ontario, their astounding accomplishments continue to be a source of pride for the Métis Nation.

As regular *Métis Voyageur* readers will remember, shortly after the MNO Canoe Expedition pulled up their canoes in Thunder Bay they were invited to participate in a Me to We Day event in Kitchener.

Me to We Day events are large one-day conferences organized by Free the Children, an organization headed by Craig and Marc Keilburger, two young Canadians who believed that young people could make a difference and build a better world.

During Me to We Day events, young people hear motivational speeches from artists, musicians, political and social advocates as well as other young people who are changing the world for the better. MNO Canoe Expedition members were invited to speak at the Kitchener event because of their incred-

ible achievements during their journey. Expedition members Geneviève Routhier and Gerald Lavalée spoke at the Kitchener event and made such an impact that they were invited to speak at the National Me to We Day event in Ottawa on April 1.

The Ottawa Me to We Day event was held at Canadian Tire Centre, where NHL hockey games and Rock Concerts are held. Over 16,000 young people were in attendance and the proceedings were broadcast live on the internet. Geneviève and Gerald started their presentation with a one minute video featuring highlights of the MNO Canoe Expedition (the video can also be viewed on the MNO website) and they then addressed the cheering audience. A massive electronic sash was their backdrop as they spoke about the importance of their Métis heritage and culture.

The inclusion of the MNO Canoe Expedition members in the National Me to We Day ceremony is another example of the growing respect and stature that is being accorded Métis people and the increasing role young people are playing in the MNO. ∞



▲ MNO Canoe Expedition members Geneviève Routhier and Gerald Lavalée address National Me to We Day participants in Ottawa.

# MNO and Cambrian College sign Memorandum of Understanding

by | MNO Staff



▲ Signatories and witnesses to the MNO/Cambrian College Memorandum of Understanding. (L-R), MNO Chair France Picotte, Cambrian Graphic Arts student Roxanne Taillefer, MNO Sudbury Métis Council Senator Cecile Coutu and Cambrian College President Brian Best.

On May 14, 2015, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Cambrian College signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the College.

The MOU strengthens and formalizes the long-standing positive working relationship between MNO and Cambrian College and establishes several key areas for collaboration and partnership including joint commitments aimed at:

- improving Métis postsecondary and education and training outcomes;
- working collaboratively to establish partnerships around ongoing skills development and training;
- identifying ways to increase college recruitment, retention and graduation rates for Métis students;
- increasing Métis participation in and access to current and future Cambrian College programs and services.

MNO Chair France Picotte said “Cambrian College is the twelfth postsecondary institution in the province to recognize and address the unique needs of Métis and to agree to work in partnership to ensure that programming offered at the college addresses those needs.”

The MOU with Cambrian College is part of a larger relationship building process of bilateral partnerships with postsecondary institutions that includes an MOU signed between the MNO and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. According to Chair Picotte, “this MOU is a significant achievement for the Métis people in Ontario because it demonstrates a commitment to forge a lasting relationship between postsecondary institutions and the MNO. The agreement with Cambrian College also builds on the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, which the province renewed in 2014, for another five years.”

Cambrian College President Bill Best said: “This agreement provides a strong framework for meeting

the specific needs of Métis people through education and training, applied research, scholarships and bursaries, and recruitment and retention tactics. We are pleased to partner with the MNO to explore new opportunities and to invest in resources that will continue to build a bright future for generations of Métis.”

Also participating in the ceremony was MNO Sudbury Métis Council Senator Cecile Coutu and Roxanne Taillefer, a Cambrian Graphic Design student who is President of the Cambrian Native Students’ Association. Roxanne was encouraged to participate in the ceremony by MNO citizen and Cambrian Métis Elder Marie-Claire Vignola. Roxanne spoke of how Aboriginal programming at Cambrian College helped her connect with her cultural and spiritual heritage. She indicated she believed that the new commitments in the MNO/Cambrian College MOU would make a difference for future students as well. ∞





# MNO Plays Major Role In Pan Am Games Torch Ceremony

by | MNO Staff

Despite torrential rain, on May 30 the torch for the 2015 Toronto Pan AM Games began its journey in Canada in Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) canoes and MNO President Gary Lipinski as well as other MNO leaders played a major role in the Torch ceremony held at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre.

The torch ceremony began with the flame being transferred from a float plane to a flotilla of three canoes; two of which were the MNO canoes used at every Annual General Assembly and the 2014 MNO Canoe Expedition, and a birch bark canoe built by Marcel Labelle that belongs to the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMCM). There were MNO representatives in each canoe along with representatives of the host First Nations, the Mississaugas of New Credit, the Huron-Wendat Nation, and the Six Nations. Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Senator Joseph Poitras and MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) Youth Representative Christine Skura were in the lead canoe that carried the torch while MNO NRMCM President Derrick Pont and MNO citizens Chris McLeod and Jenna McLeod paddled in the birch bark canoe. MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu, rode in the third canoe along with other representatives of the Aboriginal partners. Several MNO citizens were paddlers in each of the canoes including MNO NRMCM Senator Gary Laframboise, Kyle Burton, Hank Rowlinson, Joanna Burt and Alicia Blore.

President Lipinski was part of the official party meeting the canoe flotilla on the shore along with Chief Bryan LaForme of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, Chief Ava Hill of Six Nations and Grand Chief Konrad Sioui of the Huron-Wendat Nation.

In his remarks during the ceremony, President Lipinski commented on the symbolism of the torch arriving by canoe, "It is fitting that the torch relay starts with canoes," he explained, "as they played such a significant role in Métis and Canadian history. Métis Voyageurs travelled the breadth of Canada in canoes very much like the ones here today. Just as our forefathers felt exhilaration as they prepared to leave for another fur trade season, the excitement that we feel today; the energy that is in the air; marks the beginning of another great adventure; the 2015 Pan AM and Parapan

AM Games! The excitement of the games will build as the torch makes its journey and is greeted by thousands of excited Canadians who want to be part of history and the spirit of these great games."

Over 41 days, a series of torch bearers will carry the flame until it reaches the opening ceremonies of the Pan AM Games on July 10, 2015. Among the torch bearers will be such notable individuals as Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield and MNO citizens Jennifer St. Germain, Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy and Bryce Johnson.

President Lipinski will also be a participant in the Pan AM Games opening ceremony and several MNO citizens are part of perfor-

*"It is fitting that the torch relay starts with canoes, as they played such a significant role in Métis and Canadian history."*

- President Lipinski

mances during the opening ceremony that are being staged by Cirque du soleil.

The MNO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pan AM/ Parapan AM Games Organizing Committee in September 2013 and since then has been heavily involved in the organization of these incredible international events. The MOU provided the MNO and its citizens with appropriate dignitary recognition, access to economic development opportunities as well as involvement in the Aboriginal Pavilion, which will feature Métis and other Aboriginal artists throughout the games.

President Lipinski concluded: "The Métis people of Ontario look forward to welcoming athletes and other visitors from the Americas and the Caribbean to the games and sharing our unique history and culture with them. The 2015 Pan AM/Parapan AM Games are a once-in-lifetime opportunity for all of us here in Ontario to come together, celebrate and share our diversity, culture and dreams." ∞



▲ A canoe flotilla containing representatives from the MNO and First Nations arrives in Toronto for the PanAm Games torch-lighting ceremony.



▲ (L-R) MNO Citizens Alicia Blore, Joanna Burt, Tera Beaulieu, Derrick Pont, President Gary Lipinski, Hank Rowlinson, Senator Joseph Poitras, Senator Gary Laframboise at the Pan AM Games torch-lighting ceremony in Toronto.



▲ President Lipinski (L) with (L-R) chief Bryan LaForme of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation (carrying the lantern), Grand Chief Konrad Sioui of the Huron-Wendat Nation, and Chief Ava Hill of Six Nations during the torch-lighting ceremony in Toronto on May 30.



# Access to Justice for Métis in Ontario

by | MNO Staff

The issue of access to justice for Ontarians is a major focus for the legal profession, the Ontario government and others involved in the administration of the Ontario justice system. There are, however, many different interpretations of what ‘access’ and ‘justice’ mean, especially for Métis, First Nations and Inuit as we argue for positive change within the justice system.

In addition to the great success the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has had advancing *Constitution Act*, 1982 Section 35 rights for Métis in Ontario, including lands, resources, harvesting and economic rights, we are now beginning to make inroads into the area of access to justice for Métis.

Whether dealing with criminal charges, provincial offences, coroner’s inquests, civil lawsuits or asserting Métis rights, the costs associated with advancing rights within the justice system are high. The courts move incredibly slowly, are full of procedural roadblocks, and are alienating to the average person. Our legal issues are often quite complicated and overlap with other issues such as health and housing. Accessing legal representation has become more and more challenging. It is expensive to hire lawyers, and finding lawyers in remote or northern areas can be especially challenging. Legal Aid Ontario is underfunded and assistance is only available to individuals who are very poor.

Adding to this, there are too few Métis, First Nations and Inuit working as lawyers, sitting as judges or serving as Crown lawyers, while Aboriginal youth and adults have long been dramatically overrepresented within the criminal justice system. We often do not see ourselves reflected in positive ways within the justice system. Numer-

*“Having a Métis presence and voice at these tables has led to greater awareness about and recognition of the Métis in this work, and that is already creating new opportunities and making a difference.”*

- Margaret Froh

ous reports from across Canada have revealed systemic discrimination within the justice system, especially for Métis, First Nations and Inuit who are adversely impacted by a system that is still rooted in racist, colonial ideologies and attitudes. All of these factors call into question whether Métis and other Aboriginal people have true access to justice in Ontario.

Margaret Froh, a Métis lawyer and MNO’s Director of Strategic Policy, Law and Compliance, is appointed to several initiatives with key organizations in the justice system in Ontario including the Ministry of the Attorney General, Legal Aid Ontario and the Law Society of Upper Canada - the body that governs lawyers and paralegals in Ontario.

Froh is a member of Legal Aid Ontario’s (LAO) Aboriginal Issues Advisory Committee which focuses on issues affecting Métis such as financial eligibility criteria to make legal aid more accessible to the working poor and middle-class Ontarians, and expanding the types of legal matters for which LAO will provide funding.

In 2013, Froh was appointed by Ontario to a committee tasked with overseeing the implementation of a report issued by retired Supreme Court of Canada Justice Frank Iacobucci, which looked at the problem of underrepresentation of on-reserve First Nations people on

Ontario juries. In that report, Justice Iacobucci described the problem of underrepresentation on the jury roll as a symptom of larger and more systemic issues that are at the heart of the dysfunctional relationship between Ontario’s justice system and Aboriginal peoples in the province.

Justice Iacobucci set out 17 recommendations in his report that range from specific technical solutions to the underrepresentation problem, to broader more systemic solutions such as mandatory training for all those who work within the justice system on the history, culture and needs of Métis, First Nations and Inuit in Ontario. The implementation committee (*Debwewin*) is comprised of First Nations and Métis community representatives, Ontario government representatives, and a retired judge. It advises the Ministry on how best to implement the recommendations and engages Métis, First Nations and Inuit communities and leaders as it develops its advice to the Ministry. *Debwewin* hopes to finalize its work by the end of 2016 upon Ontario’s full implementation of the Iacobucci Report.

In 2014, Froh was also appointed by Ontario to the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Group. This group advises the Attorney General of Ontario on justice issues affecting Métis, First Nations and Inuit, including the need for greater re-



▲ Margaret Froh, MNO Director of Strategic Policy, Law and Compliance (middle) presents gifts on behalf of the MNO to Acting Debwewin Co-Chair, Jenny Restoule-Mallozzi (Legal Counsel to the Union of Ontario Indians) and Debwewin Co-Chair, Irwin Glasberg (Assistant Deputy Attorney General) after delivering a presentation on the history of Métis in Ontario.

storative justice programs, bail supports, improving child welfare processes, ending violence against Aboriginal women and more consistent application of the principles that came out of *R. v. Gladue* -- the 1999 Supreme Court of Canada decision that directs judges to look at an Aboriginal person’s background, life experiences, and all alternatives to incarceration when making decisions on things like bail and sentencing.

Froh continues her work advising the Law Society of Upper Canada as it enhances its role coordinating the legal profession and various legal institutions in their efforts at advancing access to justice for all Ontarians, including the Métis.

“These appointments provide us

the opportunity to educate people with influence in organizations and institutions that can help to create real positive change within the justice system about the history, culture and interests of the Métis in Ontario”, says Froh. “Having a Métis presence and voice at these tables has led to greater awareness about and recognition of the Métis in this work, and that is already creating new opportunities and making a difference.”

For more information about these access to justice initiatives, contact Margaret Froh, MNO Director of Strategic Policy, Law & Compliance at [margaretf@metisnation.org](mailto:margaretf@metisnation.org). ∞

## Responsible gambling highlighted at Conference

submitted by | Ted Norris  
OARGP Coordinator

The MNO continues to provide a coordination and evaluation role for the Ontario Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program (OARGP), which is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (OMHLTC). The OARGP consists of eight members including the MNO. The other members are: Nishnawbe Aski Nation; Ontario Native Women’s Association; Independent First Nations; Kenora Chiefs; Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians; Union of Ontario Indians; and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres. Together OARGP members strive to raise awareness about problem and responsible gambling, as well as educate and inform using culturally relevant approaches.

On April 21-23, the OARGP had

a well-stocked display and information booth at the Provincial Gambling Council’s Discovery 2015 Responsible Gambling Conference.

Approximately 225 regional, national and international delegates visited the table over the course of the conference. The delegates learned about the good work of the OARGP working group and the MNO’s role in its success. OARGP continues to build and nurture relationships with like-minded groups to ensure MNO citizens, both young and old, receive the best information possible about healthy gambling choices.

The MNO has committed to be engaged in the OARGP at least until 2017 and hopefully beyond. Congratulations to the OARGP working group members for an outstanding display! ∞



▲ (L-R) – Vikki German, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and Loma Rowlinson, MNO Problem Gambling Prevention Program Coordinator at the Discovery 2015 Responsible Gambling Conference.



UPDATE

# Energy East Pipeline Project

by | MNO LRC Branch Staff

## The Energy East Pipeline Project

Energy East Pipeline Ltd. (a wholly-owned subsidiary of TransCanada Oil Pipelines Canada Ltd.) has proposed a project to develop the TransCanada Energy East Pipeline (“the Project”), which is designed to transport crude oil approximately 4,500 kilometres (km.) across Canada from Hardisty, Alberta to Saint John, New Brunswick (see map below). The Project involves the conversion of existing natural gas pipeline to enable the transport of crude oil, as well as the construction of new pipeline. In Ontario, approximately 1,928 km. of existing buried pipeline would be converted from the Manitoba border to Cornwall and 106 km. of new buried pipeline would be built east of Cornwall.

## The Communications and Engagement Funding Agreement (CEFA) with the Métis Nation of Ontario

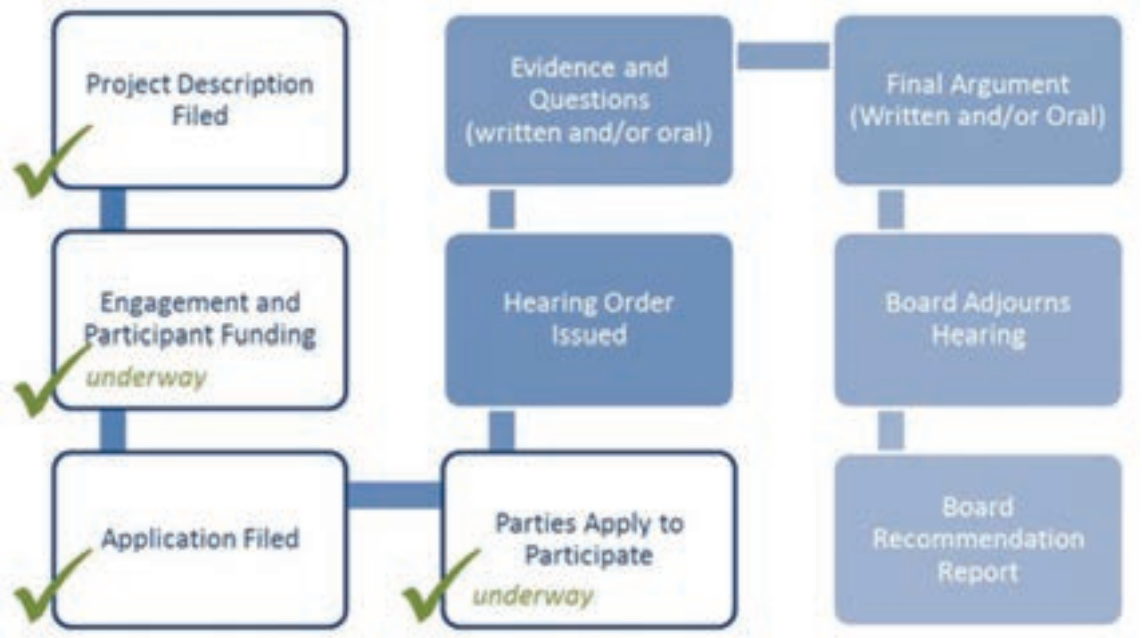
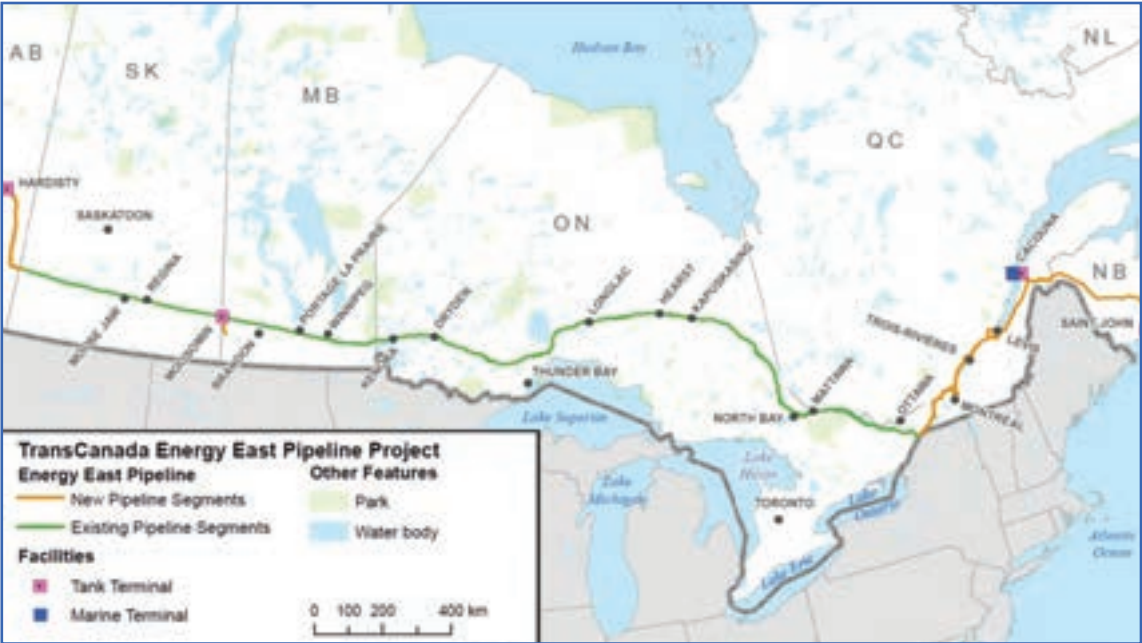
On September 22, 2014, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) announced that it signed a Communications and Engagement Funding Agreement (CEFA) with TransCanada. The CEFA sets out the process for TransCanada to engage with the MNO through its consultation framework. This unique MNO consultation framework was ratified by the 2009 MNO Annual General Assembly and includes the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultation (LRC) Branch and the MNO Regional Consultation Committees. More specifically, the MNO’s Regional Consultation Committees are made up of elected representatives from the local level (i.e., MNO Chartered Community Councils), the regional level (i.e., PCMNO Councillor) and the appointed Captain of the Hunt for each region.

These Regional Consultation Committees work with the MNO and its LRC Branch to ensure MNO

citizens are informed, engaged and consulted about projects and government actions that may adversely impact a regional rights-bearing Métis community’s rights, interests and way of life within its traditional territories. In order to ensure consultation is meaningful and effective, these MNO governance structures at the local, regional and provincial levels work together.

It is important to note that the MNO entering into the CEFA with TransCanada does not mean that the MNO endorses or supports the Project; rather, it provides a way for the MNO to identify and assess the potential effects and impacts of the Project on the rights, interests and way of life of MNO citizens. Based on the information collected and produced through the engagement process, MNO citizens and rights-bearing communities will be able to make informed decisions about the Project. Without a CEFA, the MNO citizens and communities would have no ability to properly engage or assess potential impacts from the Project in order to outline impacts to TransCanada and governments as well as defend Métis rights and interests in the future.

More specifically, as part of the engagement process with TransCanada, the CEFA enables MNO Regions 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 to be consulted on the Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment for the Project. To date, the LRC Branch of the MNO has facilitated the implementation of various aspects of the engagement process, including Regional Consultation Committee meetings with the proponent, commissioning studies on traditional Métis knowledge and land use potentially impacted by the Project, and an ongoing independent technical review of TransCanada’s Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment. The CEFA also provides capacity support for MNO Community Councils, communications and legal costs related to MNO engagement on the Project, all of which



are required to assist MNO citizens to be informed and consulted throughout the planning stages of the Project.

## The National Energy Board Regulatory Approvals Process for the Project

On October 30, 2014, Trans-

Canada filed a formal project application with the National Energy Board (NEB) (Energy East application). The Energy East application to the NEB contains 30,000 pages of project information, including the findings of the Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment of the Project. The general status of the NEB application process for the

Project is illustrated in the diagram below. The MNO has applied to the NEB to participate as an intervener. If accepted, the MNO would make oral and written submissions to the NEB hearing regarding any impacts of the Project on Métis rights, interests and way of life. ∞

# MNO and partners close debt financing

Connor Clark & Lunn and carbonfree close debt financing for SOLAR Portfolio

On May 5, 2015, Connor, Clark & Lunn Infrastructure (CCLI), CarbonFree Technology and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) announced the closing of long-term debt financing for their jointly owned portfolio of commercial-scale solar projects. The portfolio, comprised of 58 rooftop and 5 ground-mount projects located across Ontario, ranks among the largest such portfolios in Canada. The projects in the portfolio have a generating capacity of more than 18 MW DC and represent approximately \$85 million of capital cost.

A number of the projects in the portfolio are owned by BrightRoof

Solar Limited Partnership (LP), a partnership formed by CCLI and CarbonFree in 2010 to finance, develop, build and operate commercial-scale solar projects. The remainder are owned by Métis Nation of Ontario – BrightRoof Solar LP, a second partnership created by CCLI, CarbonFree and the MNO with similar objectives.

“The closing of this debt financing is the culmination of a multi-year commitment by us and our partners to the development of this diverse portfolio. We’d like to express our gratitude to our partners at CarbonFree and MNO for their leading role in the development and construction of this attractive base of assets,” said Matt O’Brien,

*“The closing of this debt financing is the culmination of a multi-year commitment.”*

- Matt O’Brien,  
CCLI President

CCLI President. “This investment is an excellent addition to our growing portfolio of high quality, long-duration infrastructure assets and reinforces our position as one of the largest owners of solar assets in

Canada.”

The proceeds of the non-recourse financing will be mainly used to fund construction costs for projects in the portfolio. The projects range in size from 93 kW to 600 kW DC and are located across Ontario, with the majority in the Toronto to London corridor. The electricity generated from the projects will be sold to Ontario’s Independent Electricity System Operator under 20-year Feed-In Tariff (FIT) contracts.

The debt financing is structured as an 18-year floating-rate term loan and an associated fixed rate swap, secured by the cash flows and assets in the portfolio. “The fact that blue-chip lenders are now comfortable with the long-term forecast perfor-

mance of solar power projects is an important step in the development of solar power industry,” said David Oxtoby, CEO of CarbonFree Technology. “It validates our strategy in developing these high-quality solar assets.”

“This financing is another step on the path leading toward the Métis Nation’s long-term goal of being able to generate enough green energy to meet the needs of every Métis household in the province,” said MNO President Gary Lipinski. “We are pleased to have achieved the next milestone in the development of this portfolio of assets as we create training opportunities, jobs and wealth for Métis communities in the province.” ∞





## MNO VETERANS' COUNCIL UPDATE

# MNO Veterans' Council reaches new milestones

based upon articles  
submitted by

**Joseph Paquette**  
MNO Veterans' Council President  
**Greg Garratt**  
MNO Veterans' Council Secretary

Anyone who has been following Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) activities over the last few years cannot help but have noticed the increasing strength and activity of the MNO Veterans' Council. While only three years ago there were only about 20 verified MNO

veterans, the number currently exceeds 60 and more applications for verifications are pending. While this increase in verified veterans is certainly an impressive milestone on its own, it is only one of many that the MNO Veterans' Council has recently reached. Other recent milestones included the

MNO Veterans' Council receiving permission to use the official Poppy insignia, the first-ever Métis/Youth Knowledge/History Exchange and for the first time since its establishment, the MNO Veterans' Council has a full Executive.



▲ **Presentation of certificate to Royal Canadian Legion: (L-R) MNO Veterans' Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy O.Ont., C.D., O.M.C., MNO Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette; Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Command President Tom Eagles, MNO Veterans' Council Chair Guy Mandeville C.D.**

## Legion grants MNO Veterans' Council permission to use Poppy symbol

The Royal Canadian Legion recently gave the MNO Veterans' Council permission to use the official Poppy insignia on the MNO Veterans' Council website. The Poppy symbol is being used on the website in "remembrance" for MNO veterans who have passed away. As the Poppy is a trademark of the Legion, special permission was required for the MNO Veterans' Council to be able to use it. As a gesture of thanks, the MNO Veterans' Council presented the Legion with a certificate and ceremonial sash when they visited Dominion Command Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in Ottawa on April 15, 2015.

The certificate and sash were presented to Legion President Tom Eagles by MNO Veterans' Coun-

cil President Joe Paquette, Veterans' Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, and Chair Guy Mandeville. "The Poppy is a trademark of the Royal Canadian Legion," said Eagles.

President Paquette spoke of the importance of acknowledging the Legion's support. "It is very important as Métis veterans that we recognize that ... [the Legion has] helped support us. It is important to recognize that and acknowledge them for that," he said.

"We are hoping [it] is a very close bond as we move forward," said Eagles. "I'm sure it will be. We've asked [the Veterans' Council] if they can identify any veterans in their community that [are] in need, because we're here to help veterans."

President Paquette said the presentation of the sash is of symbolic importance to the Métis people. "It is very reminiscent of the Métis and some of the Voyageurs ... within our history. It serves a multitude of different purposes. It is only within the past 15 to 20 years that the Métis as a nation... have stepped forward wearing their sashes with a certain amount of pride. Along with that sash, it proclaims ... this is who we are as a nation."

The Veterans' Council members said they are confident that this new bond will increase the visibility of Métis veterans. "The one thing we have very much in common is servicing our veterans and helping our veterans," said president Paquette.

## First-ever MNO Youth/Veterans Knowledge/History Exchange held in Midland

Later in April, the MNO Veterans' Council initiated one of its most successful efforts ever and one that was close to the heart of all MNO veterans. On April 25-26 in at the MNO office in Midland it held the first-ever Youth/Veteran Knowledge/History Exchange. This ground-breaking event was supported by both the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council and Bruce Power and participants included young people from ages five to 29 as well as MNO veterans, other MNO officials and current members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

During the weekend, the youth had the chance to view and even wear an array of military gear from all three services; Navy, Army and Air Force. At first the youth were a little too intimidated to try on the equipment but with the encouragement of MNO Veterans' Council members they soon became enthralled with the equipment and the stories that went with them; told in the military tradition of truth, and stretched truth!

The young people tried on webbing, gas masks and other gear and handled everything from expended rifle shells to large mortar shells. They received a real hands-on experience for what they previously had only seen and heard in movies and electronic games.

Also during the weekend, Sgt. Ray Stark, an Aboriginal Liaison Officer and Recruiter with the Canadian Armed Forces, explained the many levels within the Armed

Forces that young people can join. He provided information about careers in the Armed Forces, including opportunities for guaranteed summer jobs and educational opportunities and the 100 plus careers that can be pursued through full enlistment; as well as how training from the Armed Forces can eventually lead to great careers in civilian life.

The young people also spent time learning about the role Métis have played in military conflicts and in the building of Canada. An understanding of the saying "Lest we forget" was an important piece of learning the young people received over the weekend.

Knowledge, however, was only part of what the young people attending the Exchange received as the MNO Veterans' Council made a donation to the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council's Youth Committee during the event.

The donation is very appropriate as Métis young people and Métis veterans have always enjoyed a special bond that defies words but is tangible through the way youth and veterans interact within the Métis community. This has been a source of pride for both the youth and veterans and so it came as no surprise that the MNO Veterans' Council recognized the Youth Committee for their relationship with veterans.

The donation was presented by MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette to MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Youth Represen-



▲ **Some of the participants in the MNO Youth/Veteran Knowledge/History Exchange: Sgt. Ray Starks, MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride, Dawson Garratt, Reese Lepage, MNO Veterans' Council Chair Guy Mandeville, Juan and Rico Barrantes, Dalton Latondress, Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, MNO Veterans' Council Treasurer Chris Plummer, MNO Veterans' Council Secretary Greg Garratt, Region 7 PCMNO Councillor Pauline Richardson and MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Youth Representative Danielle Callander. Missing: Ed Hass, Aidan Cozens, Laurie Barrantes, John and Bernice Paradis.**

tative Danielle Callander. The donation to the Council's Youth Committee encourages and recognizes youth activities in the area and pays respect to the unique bond between veterans and youth. President Paquette was joined in the presentation by members of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council who work with the Youth Committee including Greg Garratt and Lenard Dusome (Ken Fraser, another supporter of the Youth Committee was absent).

This donation will help the Youth Committee plan small events or culturally related crafts within the community.



▲ **(L-R) MNO Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Youth Representative Danielle Callander, MNO Veterans' Council Secretary Greg Garratt and Lenard Dusome (a member of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council) during the presentation of a donation to the local Métis Youth Committee.**



# MNO VETERANS' COUNCIL UPDATE



## MNO Veterans' Council welcomes new Sergeant-at-Arms

Directly following the Youth/Veterans Knowledge/History Exchange, the MNO Veterans' Council held a meeting at the MNO office in Midland. In addition to the attendance of the entire MNO Veterans' Council Executive, many verified MNO veterans attended, as well as dignitaries including MNO Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt Louise Goulding and MNO Manager of Community Relations Hank Rowlinson.

During the meeting the MNO Veterans' Council Executive updated the other members present about the Council's impressive list of activities and accomplishments,

which inspired one of the veterans present, Robert Baskey, to stand up and volunteer to fill the position of Sergeant-at-Arms, the one vacant position on the MNO Veterans' Council Executive. This was another major milestone because never before in the history of the MNO Veterans' Council (established in 2001) has every position on the Executive been filled.

Robert Baskey's verification was completed shortly after the meeting and he was then able to accept the position of Sergeant-at-Arms.

Welcome Robert (Rob) Baskey!



▲ MNO Veterans and Veteran Council Executive members who attended the MNO Veterans' Council meeting April 25 in Midland: (Front left-right) Bernie Lepage; Lisa Tessier C.D., Women's Representative/LO; Dr. Alis Kennedy O.Ont., O.M.C., C.D., Senator; Guy Mandeville C.D., Chair; Daniel Moreau. (Back left-right) Chris Plummer U.E., C.D., Treasurer; Roger Ladouceur C.D.; Robert Baskey, Sergeant-at-Arms; Greg Garratt, Secretary; David Deschambault; and Joseph Paquette, President.



▲ Mr. Ross Holden, Senior Engagement Advisor/Aboriginal Relations, NWMO and Joseph Paquette, MNO Veterans' Council President.

## MNO Veterans' Council receives funding for book about Métis veterans

One of the projects discussed at the MNO Veterans' Council meeting was the upcoming book on Métis veterans that the Council plans on publishing. Representing hours and hours of work by volunteers and tentatively titled "Fighting for Canada before there was a Canada: Ontario Métis Veterans pass the torch," the book will document some of the stories, anecdotes and photos of Métis Veterans and will be an excellent resource for future generations.

Publishing a book of this nature will be an expensive venture and the MNO Veterans' Council is working hard to raise money to make the book a reality. Fortunately, some success has already been realized on

that front and was recognized at the MNO Veterans' Council meeting.

Ross Holden, Senior Engagement Advisor/Aboriginal Relations with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) attended the meeting and presented the MNO Veterans' Council with a cheque to help fund the publishing of the book. This is very exciting said President Joseph Paquette, since this initiative is the first of its kind in the province.

The MNO Veterans' Council has also received confirmation for additional funding from Hydro One and Techno Metal Post Hamilton-Durham.

President Paquette expressed the

thanks of all MNO veterans to all these sponsors that are providing the Council with the capacity to move forward with this great Métis Veteran initiative. All the sponsors will be acknowledged in the book as will the Legion for providing permission to use the Poppy symbol.

All said, April was an extraordinarily busy month of the MNO Veterans' Council but they are definitely not planning on resting on their laurels. They already have plans in the works to bring MNO veterans and youth to 100th anniversary commemorations of Vimy Ridge in 2017 in France. ∞

# MNO Veterans' Pilgrimage to Vimy Ridge in 2017

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council has formed a Vimy Ridge Pilgrimage Committee with the purpose of raising funds to permit as many MNO veterans as possible, as well as a contingent of MNO youth, to attend the 100th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, which are taking place at the Vimy Ridge monument in France in 2017.

As we all know, Métis have been fighting for Canada before there was a Canada, and so it is especially important that Métis be represented at this commemoration. The MNO Veterans' Council has already been in contact with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, who is very interested in our plans for the Pilgrimage (including the youth educational component). Ideally enough funds will be raised

so that ALL MNO veterans will be able to attend the Vimy Ridge commemoration as well as a large number of young people.

2017 is definitely Canada's year and WE should let the world know it! 2017 is Canada's 150th birthday. The battle at Vimy Ridge was the major event that got Canada recognized as a Country that can hold its own. This was at great cost and sacrifice.

The MNO Veterans' Council is looking for MNO veterans and others who support MNO veterans to consider joining the Vimy Ridge Pilgrimage Committee. Individuals with experience in successful proposal writing are particularly encouraged to join the Committee.

*Joseph A. Paquette*

**Joseph Paquette**  
President,  
MNO Veterans' Council

*"The capture of Vimy was more than just an important battlefield victory. For the first time all four Canadian divisions attacked together: men from all regions of Canada were present at the battle. Brigadier-General A.E. Ross declared after the war, "in those few minutes I witnessed the birth of a nation."*

- By Dr. Tim Cook, noted historian with the Canadian War Museum and Carleton University (from the Canadian War Museum website at [www.warmuseum.ca](http://www.warmuseum.ca)).

For more information and to express your interest in being a part of the Vimy Ridge Pilgrimage Committee, please e-mail:

**[mnovc@rogers.com](mailto:mnovc@rogers.com)**

*Lest We Forget...*

**Métis Nation of Ontario**  
Veterans' Council

Vimy Ridge Monument: Veterans Affairs Canada image



# COMMUNITY



▲ Members of the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council at their Annual General Meeting: (L-R) Councillor Jesse Thistle, Councillor Virginia Barter, Chair Todd Ross, President Tera Beaulieu, Secretary/Treasurer Marilyn Hew, Youth Representative Christine Skura and Women's Representative Kelly Campagnola.

## MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council holds successful AGM

submitted by

**Tera Beaulieu**

MNO TYRMC President

With additional information provided by  
*Glen Lipinski, MNO Community Relations Coordinator*

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) held its second Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, April 11, 2015. The AGM, which was preceded by the council's monthly business meeting was held in the Nexus Lounge at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education—which offers breathtaking views of the CN Tower, downtown Toronto, and Lake Ontario. Council President Tera Beaulieu, Chair Todd Ross, Secretary/Treasurer Marilyn Hew, Women's Representative Kelly Campagnola, Youth Representative Christine Skura, Councillors Justin Kogler, Jesse Thistle, and Virginia Barter, and PCMNO Region 8 Councillor Anita Tucker, were all in attendance.

Upon arrival, MNO citizens and Métis community members met and mingled and were invited to join in on a feast of chicken, wild rice, three sisters vegetables, bannock and salad, as well as a rich assortment of desserts.

After the AGM was officially called to order by Council Chair Todd Ross, Senator Joseph Poiras lead everyone in an opening prayer. President Beaulieu then welcomed those in attendance. In her opening remarks, President Beaulieu acknowledged the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation and offered gratitude to them and the other Indigenous peoples who have historically taken care of the land within the Toronto and York Region boundary. President Beaulieu also reflected on

the growing number of citizens in Toronto and York Region and expressed the Council's delight in having so many citizens and community members attend to learn more about the successes of the past year as well as the Council's goals for the coming year.

Shifting gears, President Beau-

*President Beaulieu ended her report by personally thanking the Council members and presenting each of them with a gift in recognition and honour of all of the hard work, dedication, and commitment they have demonstrated for their community.*

lieu kicked off the Executive Council Reports with her report on the Region 8 Consultation Committee, highlighting the key achievements of the MNO TYRMC over the past year. These achievements included hosting the MNO Canoe Expedition in June 2014; being successfully awarded an Ontario Arts Council Grant which allowed the MNO TYRMC to host a Digital Storytelling Workshop with collaborator Jennifer Lafontaine, Métis artist and MNO citizen; organizing a Voyageur Canoe Paddle excursion on Lake Ontario for the community in October 2014; hosting the first an-

nual MNO TYRMC Louis Riel Day Potluck in November 2014; participating in the Toronto Strawberry Ceremony for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in February 2015; and writing and publishing several articles detailing the Council's work.

President Beaulieu ended her report by personally thanking the Council members and presenting each of them with a gift in recognition and honour of all of the hard work, dedication, and commitment they have demonstrated for their community.

After President Beaulieu's report, Marilyn Hew presented the Secretary/Treasurer report, in which the financials for MNO TYRMC were presented along with an overview and explanation of monies received through the New Relationship Fund.

Once the Executive Council Reports were completed, President Beaulieu provided an overview of the Council's Strategic Planning Session held in July of 2014. The discussions at this session resulted in a set of workgroups as well as an internal review of past committees and a realignment with a new committee structure that reflects the strategic directions identified for the 2014-2015 year. The Councillors collectively identified seven areas of focus including cultural initiatives, health resources, youth engagement, communications, education, sustainability, and building relationships. Seven internal committees, each with a Committee Lead, have now been established



▲ MNO TYRMC citizens: Youth Representative Christine Skura and Women's Representative Kelly Campagnola.



▲ MNO Oshawa and Durham Métis Council Senator and member of the All Relations Drum Circle Cecile Wagar and MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu.





▲ Members of the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council: Front (Left-right) Constance Simmonds, Virginia Barter, Christine Skura and Marilyn Hew. Back (Left-right) Jesse Thistle, Justin Kogler, Tera Beaulieu and Todd Ross, who participated in the Governance and Finance Training.



▲ MNO TYRMC Secretary/Treasurer Marilyn Hew and Chair Todd Ross attend the AGM.

within the MNO TYRMC to effectively focus on these new directives.

President Beaulieu's introduction set up a clear segue for the Committee Leads to then present the specific objectives and tasks of each new committee. President Beaulieu started this segment off by providing an update on the Communications Committee in Councillor and Communications Lead Justin Kogler's absence. Key Communications Committee achievements included the development of a new website ([www.torontoyorkmetis.com](http://www.torontoyorkmetis.com)), Twitter handle (@TOYorkMetis), and Facebook Page, with an overarching goal of strengthening the MNO TYRMC's digital community presence.

Chair Todd Ross then provided an update on the Health Resources Committee, which included completing a health resource list for the MNO TYRMC website, identifying gaps in services/knowledge in the Toronto and York Region, and developing an educational presentation on the health needs of Métis people in the future.

The Cultural Initiatives Committee Lead, Councillor Virginia Barter, discussed the various culture and skill-based workshops the MNO TYRMC hopes to host over the next year, such as a regular jigging circle, as well as beading, finger-weaving, and drum-making workshops.

Next up was Youth Committee Lead and Youth Representative Christine Skura. Christine reported on her work with local MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators and in encouraging other Métis youth to get involved with Council activities. Christine also shared news that the MNO TYRMC has submitted a grant application to host a Métis Youth and Senator/Elders Exchange, the outcome of which is scheduled for announcement in May 2015.

Councillor Jesse Thistle, Education Committee Lead, discussed his academic research, which focuses on the historical presence of Métis in the Toronto and surrounding areas, and how he hopes to build upon and share this information with the Toronto and York Region Métis Community.

Sustainability Committee Lead, Chair Todd Ross, highlighted some of the key initiatives the Council hopes to undertake in the next year, including meeting with corporate sponsors to acquire funding to support MNO TYRMC initiatives as well as the development and sale of Council merchandise, such as a Toronto and York Region Métis sash. Finally, President Beaulieu, Lead

for the Building Relationships Committee, reviewed the MNO TYRMC's efforts to build stronger relationships with other Aboriginal agencies and groups in Toronto and York Region as well as ongoing efforts to engage with local politicians and MNO citizens.

Following the Committee Reports, AGM participants offered comments on the MNO TYRMC's strategic directions and posed questions to the Committee Leads. The floor was also opened up for any citizens who wished to make motions at the AGM.

The AGM keynote address was given by Mr. Aly Alibhai, MNO Director of Lands, Resources and Consultations. Mr. Alibhai provided an overview of the consultation process and discussed the unique circumstances that the MNO TYRMC faces with respect to the consultation process in Region 8. Mr. Kenn Ross, Senior Manager of Aboriginal Relations for the Toronto 2015 Pan AM/Parapan AM Games Organizing Committee, shared an update on the planning and scheduled activities for the Games and discussed the Aboriginal Pavilion that will be organized, as well as Métis representation in the Games.

A screening of the Métis Digital Stories produced during the Digital Storytelling Workshop followed, with participants Elise St. Germain, Jesse Thistle, Ralph Wolfe Thistle,

*Seven internal committees, each with a Committee Lead, have now been established within the MNO TYRMC to effectively focus on ... new directives.*

and Virginia Barter sharing reflections on the process of creating their own digital stories. MNO staff members Sabrina Roy and Jean Appel provided information on the programs and services offered by MNO Healing and Wellness staff.

Region 8 Women's Secretariat Representative, Pearl Gabona, and MNO staff members Shelley Gonnville, Leanne Van Buekenhout, and Beth Honsberger were also in



▲ MNO Director of Lands, Resources and Consultations Aly Alibhai (L) with TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu (R).

attendance to share information about MNO programs and services and to support the MNO TYRMC's AGM. Various informational booths and vendors were also on display, including tables from the Pan AM/Para Pan AM Games, University of Guelph, and MNO programs and services, as well a table set up by the MNO TYRMC to offer Métis specific merchandise, including sashes, firebags, spoons, pins, and infinity flags.

The AGM was concluded with a performance from Oshawa/Durham All My Relations Drum Circle, led by Senator Cecile Wagar and accompanied by performers: Kathy Morgan, Julie Turcotte, Laura Shurtcliffe, Tedine Henry, Julia McCrea, Carman Constantinou and Cindy Doucette. As each song was sung, Senator Wagar provided a teaching on its specific meaning and invited AGM participants to join in drumming, playing the spoons, singing, and even jigging along! For the final song, all AGM participants were invited to hold hands in a circle and to honour each of our community members and the beauty and vitality of our Nation. Once the final song had been shared, President Beaulieu offered closing remarks to the circle, thanking each person for joining the MNO TYRMC for the afternoon and supporting the Council in its work and initiatives moving forward. Senator Wagar offered a final closing prayer to the circle of participants and wishes for safe travels home were shared by all.

The Toronto and York Region Annual General Meeting was attended by approximately 65 people of all ages and from across the

Toronto and York Region, with some folks having traveled all the way from Simcoe! The entire afternoon was filled with great conversation, laughter, and celebration. The MNO TYRMC would like to express its sincere thanks to the MNO staff and to the MNO citizens and community members for joining in celebrating the work of its Councillors over the past year as well as providing direction and guidance for the coming year. The MNO TYRMC Councillors were inspired by the

*The MNO TYRMC would like to express its sincere thanks to the MNO staff and to the MNO citizens and community members for joining in celebrating the work of its Councillors over the past year.*

strength and vitality of the Métis community of Toronto and York Region and we greatly look forward to meeting with new citizens and connecting with old friends over the course of our work in the next year. Marsi. ∞

## ■ MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council participates in Governance and Finance Training

Just prior to the MNO TYRMC very successful AGM, council members had participated in Governance and Finance Training. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) benefits immensely from the dedicated volunteers who are members of chartered community councils like the MNO TYRMC. The MNO developed the Governance and Finance course that helps community councils perform their important work. The course is delivered by Glen Lipinski and Beth Honsberger from the MNO Community Relations team.

On April 9-10, 2015, MNO TYRMC members received the training. 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 been available in Atikokan, Credit River, Georgian Bay, Grand River, Milton, Niagara, North Bay, Ottawa, Peterborough, Sudbury, Temiskaming, and Windsor. ∞



# Healing Blankets created at the MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council AGM

submitted by | **Marlene Davidson**  
MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council President

On April 26, 2015 the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Atikokan and Area Métis Council held their Annual General Meeting (AGM), which included a potluck dinner, presentations, and a Healing Blanket workshop for children led by community council Youth Representative Chantele Gouliquer. The council has designated a special area in their office for children’s activities, which was where the healing blanket exercise took place. The purpose of the healing blankets is to help individuals regain or reaffirm their self-esteem, self-worth, and see their beauty and strength from within. The exercise involves covering the blankets with words of love and to then wrapping yourself with the blanket.

The gifting of the blanket symbolizes a “blanket of care,” which will serve as a reminder to that person that they are important, cared for and loved within the Métis Nation. Being mindful of the age of the children attending the workshop, Chantele encouraged them to draw and/or write things on the blanket that made them feel happy. Grandchildren of Senator Brian Gouliquer, Samantha and Mathew Knowles, participated in creating Healing Blankets with four other children. When Chantele demonstrated how to tie the blankets, one of the children said it would take weeks to tie her own. Overall, there was plenty of enjoyment, as the children filled their blankets with drawings of hearts, flowers, animals, and words of endearment. ∞



▲ Siblings Mathew Knowles (left) and Samantha Knowles (right) create their own healing blanket during the MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Community Council’s Annual General Meeting.



▲ Participants in the MNO Governance and Finance Training in Thunder Bay May 30-31, 2015: (Front row L-R) Patricia Obie, Lori Laforme, Megan Tiernan, Darby Staratt. (Back row L-R) Gabriel Picard, Angela Brothie, John Connor, Bryanna Scott, Karen Drake, Paul Robitaille, Derek Anderson.

# Governance and Finance Training in Thunder Bay

submitted by | **Glen Lipinski**  
Community Relations Coordinator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) benefits immensely from the dedicated volunteers who are members of 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 Glen Lipinski and

Beth Honsberger from the MNO Community Relations team. On April 30-31, 2015, the course was offered to the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council. In the past, courses have been available in Atikokan, Credit River, Georgian Bay, Grand River, Milton, Niagara, North Bay, Ottawa, Peterborough, Sudbury, Temiskaming, Toronto and Windsor. The course is a two-day seminar, usually on weekends, in a hotel or meeting hall in each council’s com-

munity. 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. ∞

# MNO contributing to development of Métis Social Work curriculum at Algoma University

submitted by | **Anne Trudel**  
MNO Education Officer

with files from Algoma University

In January 2014, the Faculty of Social Work at Algoma University in Sault Ste. Marie launched a Métis Advisory Committee with the purpose of developing a Métis Social Work curriculum that meets Algoma University’s Bachelor of Social Work’s mission to cultivate cross-cultural learning between Aboriginal communities and other communities. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was well represented on the committee by MNO Education Officer Anne Trudel, PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case and MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council Senator Brenda Powley. In addition, MNO citizen and Social Work professor Lisa Kisch served on the committee and two of the researchers on the project were Denise Richer and Bernadette Pizzey self-identify as Métis. Meetings have been taking place at both the university and in the Powley Room in the MNO office in Sault Ste. Marie. Based on the research done to-date, Richer and Pizzey presented

separately at the esteemed Eleventh International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry at the University of Illinois from May 20 – 24. Richer presented “The Contemporary Experiences of Métis People in Northern Ontario,” which focuses on Métis childhood, way of life, history, family structure, education, politics, language, connection to the land, and the richness of Métis culture. Pizzey will be presenting a poster board titled “Stanley is a Kind Man”, which will examine an Indigenous man’s transformation from being an abuser in an abusive relationship, to a healthy and kind-loving husband, father, and son. His transformation occurs after visiting his local Indigenous Friendship Centre where he is introduced to the “I’m a Kind Man” project. Their findings will help future social workers to have a greater understanding of the unique needs of Métis people while expanding their ability to practice anti-oppressive social work. ∞



# Our Pride, Our Stories, Our Future:

## Aboriginal youth conference in Halton

submitted by | **Suzanne Jackson**  
MNO Clear Waters Métis Council Chair

On April 30, the Halton Public and Catholic School Boards in cooperation with the Halton Aboriginal Educations Advisory Committee (AEAC) held the Our Pride, Our Stories, Our Future conference for self-identified Métis, First Nations and Inuit students in the two school boards. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was represented on the AEAC by Suzanne Jackson, the Chair of the MNO Clear Waters Métis Council.

The school boards have been encouraging Aboriginal students to self-identify for several years and received feedback from parents and students that they would like the self-identified Aboriginal students to have the chance to meet and interact with other Aboriginal students. Based on the feedback,

the school boards organized this conference.

Highlights of the conference included a keynote address from Talitha Tolles. Ms. Tolles was formerly a Youth Representative on the MNO Credit River Métis Council and now she is a Me to We speaker and facilitator with Free the Children, an international youth organization that seeks to make a difference in the lives of young people. MNO Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette also attended as a Métis Elder.

Draws were held as part of the conference and Suzanne Jackson donated a hand drum that she had created herself. The winners of the hand drum were, appropriately, two Métis sisters: Carolyn and Danielle Lacka. ∞



▲ (L-R) Suzanne Jackson (Chair of the MNO Clear Waters Métis Council), self-identified Métis students Carolyn and Danielle Lacka and Nick Bertrand (Instructional Program Leader: First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education for the Halton District School Board).



▲ Talitha Tolles (centre) with First Nations Elder Steve Paquette (left) and MNO Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette at the Halton Conference.



▲ Excited citizens of the MNO North Channel Métis Council prior to the arrival of the Pan AM Torch Relay: (L-R) Yvonne Jensen, President; Alex McCoy; Taylor McNally, Youth Representative.

# MNO Council participates in Pan AM Torch Relay in Blind River

by | MNO Staff

On June 2, the Pan AM Torch Relay reached Blind River where citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Channel Métis Council were able to participate in this historic activity that leads up to this summer's Pan AM and Parapan AM Games.

The Algoma Paddlers Canoe and Kayak Club carried the torch in the Blind River portion of the Relay. They transported the torch in two canoes with their oldest paddler, 89 year old Clarence Paris, holding the torch in the lead canoe.

The Paddlers also invited the MNO North Channel Métis Council to participate in the torch relay. MNO citizen Alex McCoy paddled in the lead canoe while MNO North Channel President Yvonne Jensen and Youth Representative Taylor McNally paddled in the second canoe.

Some 32 people participate in the torch relay in Blind River and it was an exhilarating experience for all involved. President Jensen summed it up best when she said: "It was a great day!" ∞

# MNO brings awareness to Blind River Public School

submitted by | **Ms. Cripps**  
Grade 8 teacher, Blind River Public School

On April 22, 2015, Grade 8 students at Blind River Public School had the opportunity to host Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Channel Métis Council President Yvonne Jensen, and MNO North Channel Youth Representative Taylor McNally. During their visit, President Jensen and Representative McNally educated the students about Métis history and culture, and used the Faceless Dolls Project to raise awareness of the abuse and violence of Aboriginal women. Grade 8 student Alyssa K., said,

"The presentation was very good and well explained; it was very cool learning new things about the Métis people."

The students created a Faceless Doll exhibit, which will be housed in the school, recognizing the many lost, murdered, and abandoned women across the country. Student Tevin D., said, "I think the Faceless Dolls project is a good idea because it [raises] awareness of [the abuse of] Aboriginal women."

The second activity allowed students to express their creativity as they created Métis Dot Art. It was

a very relaxing and enjoyable activity to conclude the cultural presentation. Many students enjoyed the opportunity to interactively learn about the culture, and strategies that can be used to end abuse and violence towards women. Representative McNally and President Jensen provided a fulfilling experience that the students will remember as they move forward to their secondary school years. The school is very thankful for the community partnership with the Métis Nation of Ontario. ∞



▲ Grade 8 students create Métis Dot Art at Blind River Public School with MNO North Channel Métis Council President Yvonne Jensen.





▲ PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle, Villageois Vice-President Victor Brunelle, Villageois President Rosita Des Roches, Villageois Treasurer Shirley Desroches, Villageois Secretary Louis Maheu, Villageois Advisor Claire Boudreau.

# Values and Traditions of Our Ancestors presented to retirement community

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

On April 7, 2015 Provisional Council Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle presented the board of directors of the Le Villageois retirement residence with the MNO book *Values and Traditions of Our Ancestors*. Le Villageois is located in Lafontaine, and is in MNO Region Seven. It offers retirees the opportunity to live comfortably, and is managed mostly by volunteers, social clubs,

and people taking part in community living. According to Senator Porter-Brunelle, a high portion of Villageois residents are Métis, and a Métis flag hangs in the foyer of the residence as an expression of their pride. Senator Porter-Brunelle presented the book so that it would be available for the residents of Le Villageois, as well as the people of Lafontaine who come to play cards

and take part in activities. Senator Porter-Brunelle has copies of the Métis Voyageur newspaper delivered to the residence regularly, where they are greatly appreciated. Values and Traditions of Our Ancestors tells the story of how modern generations are working to maintain and continue building Métis heritage; it is a valuable addition to reading material at Le Villageois. ∞



▲ Kevin Muloin (right) with his hunting partner Nick Kaplanis.

# A successful hunt for Kevin

submitted by | **Cam Burgess**  
PCMNO Region 2 Councillor

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, staff member and avid hunter Kevin Muloin downed his first bear recently with a bow and arrow. “In an effort to reduce bear predation of moose calves in the area that we hunt moose I harvested this

male black bear estimated at more than 400 pounds,” explained Kevin. “In addition to helping to control predation of moose we will enjoy the extra meat in the freezer and Nick is planning on having the hide made into a rug.” ∞

# MNO citizen rebuilds canoe as 70th birthday project

submitted by | **Donna Tremblay**  
Additional information from Wikipedia.org

Denis Tremblay, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and member of the MNO North Bay Métis Council, is a long-time contributor to the *Métis Voyageur* and avid collector of fur trade artifacts and Métis history. He has recently acquired some truly unique items for his collection: two twenty five foot fibreglass canoes that he believes were used in the Centennial Voyageur Canoe Pageant. The Centennial Voyageur Canoe Pageant was held as part of Canadian Centennial celebrations in 1967. It was a canoe race that started on May 24, 1967 in the Rocky Mountains. Ten teams representing eight provinces and the two territories competed. The teams paddled and portaged 5,283 kilometres in 104 days by using six man shifts per team. They arrived in Montreal on September 4. “Another great find,” Denis says of the canoes. “I found them in poor condition, but I am celebrating my 70th birthday by rebuilding them! Great fun!” Denis hopes to have one of the canoes ready in time for the MNO Annual General Assembly. “They will be reborn,” he says. ∞



▲ Denis Tremblay working on refurbishing one of the Centennial canoes.

# The Owl

By Anne Huguenin, MNO Citizen



The night skies are mine to adore  
I spread my wings and freely soar.  
I am peaceful in my silent flight,  
Royal, resplendent, especially at night,

Sound enhanced, my ears so in tune  
The trees are my friends, and so is the moon.  
I watch while nature scurries about  
Below my talons without a doubt.

Wisdom is not all that makes one wise,  
I hear my owlets’ hunger cries.  
I clutch, amass and grasp up, too  
Young plumage ever changing hue.

Soon the skies will be yours to wander  
A great noble nocturnal hunter.  
Rest oh wise one, siesta in light.  
By darkness comes your silent flight.





▲ Richard Sarrazin (centre) accepts the Mary Pickford Trophy on behalf of the Trailsmen Rod and Gun Club.

## MNO Captain of the Hunt accepts Conservation Award on behalf of Trailsmen Rod and Gun Club

submitted by | **Richard Sarrazin**  
MNO Sudbury Métis Council President

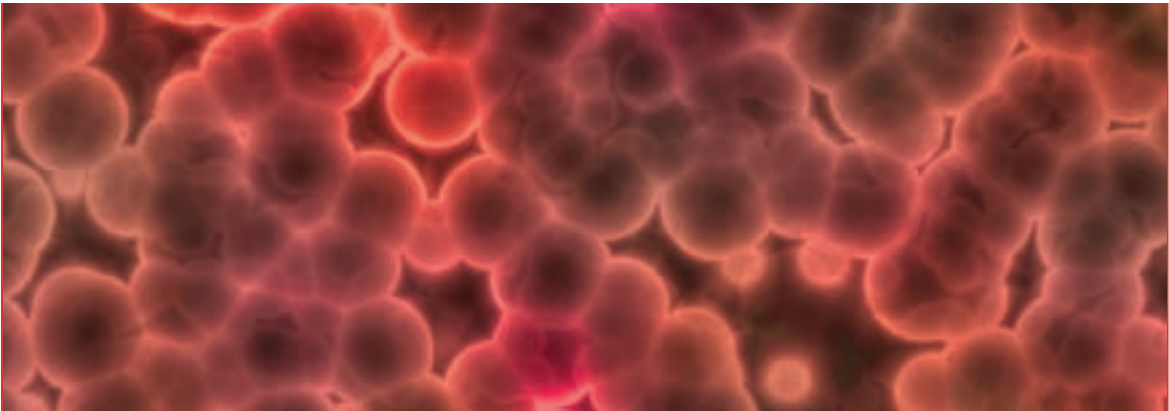
Additional information from ofah.org

Richard Sarrazin, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Sudbury Métis Council and Captain of the Hunt for Region 5, recently accepted the Mary Pickford Trophy on behalf of the Trailsmen Rod and Gun Club.

The Trailsmen Rod and Gun Club is an organization of 80 members based in Val Caron that promotes the conservation of wild life, forest, water, fish as well as ethical hunting. The award was presented at the 87th Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) Annual General Meeting and Fish and Wildlife Conference held March 20-21 in Mississauga.

The Mary Pickford Trophy is presented to the OFAH member club considered to have done the

most conservation work over the past year. Named after the late actress and avid angler, this award recognizes the spirit and determination of OFAH conservationists. Although several deserving clubs were nominated, it was the Trailsmen Rod and Gun Club who walked away with the award for the third time. As the judges noted, this club was successful in meeting and exceeding a long list of achievements in 2014, notably the more than 2,000 volunteer hours that went into its Walleye cultivation efforts. Other achievements included the installation of an underground electric feed, the completion of the initial phase of construction on its gun and archery range and significant pond maintenance projects. ∞



## CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS: NOSM study in Kenora region seeks origin of increased invasive bacterial infections in Aboriginal peoples

submitted by | **Joelle Thorgrimson**  
NOSM Medical Learner

*The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) signed a Collaboration Agreement On May 25, 2011 which will allows the two parties to work more closely together. This shared commitment is focused on providing education which is responsive to the Métis people and communities of Northern Ontario, and on highlighting their complementary resources and objectives with respect to research, education, and expertise.*

In healthy people, some bacteria reside within the body without causing any disease. However, sometimes these bacteria can enter sterile body sites where they are not supposed to be, for example, blood stream, causing serious diseases such as otitis (ear infection), pneumonia (lung infection), or meningitis (brain lining infection). Bacteria called *Haemophilus influenzae* A (HiA) cause severe bacterial infections in North American Aboriginal populations with much higher incidence compared to the general population. The reason why is unknown. Several cases of such infections have been reported from Kenora, Northwestern Ontario.

Third year medical learner Joelle Thorgrimson, postdoctoral researcher Dr. Eli Nix, and professor Dr. Marina Ulanova at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) are trying to find out why Aboriginal people have higher infection rate of HiA. One answer to this question may be the immune system state.

REFERENCES:  
Eli B. Nix, Kylie Williams, Cox, A. D., St. Michael, F., Romero-Steiner, S., Schmidt, D. S., ... Ulanova, M. (2015). Naturally Acquired Antibodies against *Haemophilus influenzae* Type a in Aboriginal Adults, Canada. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 21(2), 273–279.  
Tsang, R. S. W., Bruce, M. G., Lem, M., Barreto, L., & Ulanova, M. (2014). A review of invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* disease in the Indigenous populations of North America. *Epidemiol. Infect.*, 142, 1344–1354.<http://doi.org/10.1017/S0950268814000405>.

To address this questions, Joelle is inviting healthy participants over the age of 18 of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal ancestry, to donate a small blood sample (volume of a table spoon). The blood samples will be analyzed in NOSM research laboratory to quantify the immune system protective factors, i.e. antibody levels, against the bacteria HiA. The reason why she wants to study the immune system of healthy people is because such people should normally have protective antibody levels. However, healthy participants cannot have diabetes, obesity, chronic renal failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), non-prescription drug use, alcoholism, cancer, liver cirrhosis, chronic heart disease, and/or medical corticosteroids use because such conditions can affect the normal antibody levels in the blood. If we find low levels of protective antibodies in healthy people living in Kenora, it will be very important knowledge that will help to prevent this infection. A new vaccine is now under development in Canada and it can be used in the future to prevent HiA infections.

**Blood draws will be held at the Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig Health Access Centre (WNHAC), 212 Fourth Ave. S. on Tuesday June 30 and Wednesday July 29 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.**

Email Joelle at [thorgrimson@nosm.ca](mailto:thorgrimson@nosm.ca) if you any questions.

## NWMO community information session held in Region 4

by | MNO Staff

On March 7, 2015 the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) hosted a community information session in Blind River, Ontario. The event was held to inform the MNO communities in Region 4 about the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) Adaptive Phased Management plan and site selection process.

The NWMO has developed a proposal for the long-term storage of Canada's existing used nuclear fuel which aims to prioritize environmental, social, and technical elements. Of the twenty-one municipalities initially engaged in site screenings, nine communities have been retained by the NWMO for further suitability studies. Both

Blind River and Elliot Lake communities will be subject to advanced, more detailed regional assessments. The other communities being considered as potential site candidates are: Ignace, White River, Manitouwadge, Hornepayne, Huron-Kinloss, South Bruce and the Municipality of Central Huron.

By inviting MNO citizens from Region 4 to a community information session, the MNO hoped to ensure that NWMO's plans are being heard and understood by the Métis community. This meeting was also seen as an opportunity for the MNO to hear concerns and respond to questions from the MNO community with respect to NWMO's plan and to document such information in order to plan future meetings and

### The NWMO has developed a proposal for the long-term storage of Canada's existing used nuclear fuel

follow-up events.

Over fifty MNO citizens attended the community information session. Members from both the North Channel and Historic Sault Ste. Marie community councils were in attendance, including council Presidents: Yvonne Jensen of North Channel and Kim Powley of Historic Sault Ste. Marie. Art Bennett, Region Four Captain of the Hunt, also attended. MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie's Métis Council Senator, Ms. Brenda Powley, provided opening prayer. Introductory remarks

by the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region Four Councillor, Ernest Gatten, highlighted current regional mandates and shed light on future endeavors for the region.

Four representatives were on hand from NWMO: Ross Holden, Senior Engagement Advisor in Aboriginal Relations; Joe Gaboury, Director of Aboriginal Affairs; Alexander Blyth, Adaptive Phase Management Geoscientist; and Norman Sandberg, Relationship Manager. The NWMO team are currently in a

learning phase, during which they hope to collaborate with the Blind River and the Métis community to gain understanding about the area, along with local perception of the project. The NWMO presentation was followed by a group lunch and a community discussion facilitated by Regional Councillor, Ernest Gatten.

Additional community information sessions will be held as the NWMO site selection process advances. MNO citizens may contact MNO staff member Jasmine Williams at [JasmineW@metisnation.org](mailto:JasmineW@metisnation.org) to participate in this important dialogue. Any comments or concerns are welcomed and important to the MNO. ∞



The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) was established in 2002 in accordance with the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act to assume responsibility for long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. The selected approach for the long-term management of used fuel is known as Adaptive Phased Management (APM), which has as its end-point the safe containment and isolation of used nuclear fuel in a deep geological repository (DGR). The NWMO is currently working with nine interested communities in Ontario to identify a suitable site for the construction of a DGR, and is engaging with Métis and First Nation peoples, communities and organizations to explain the project, and to learn from them.



# MNO engaged in NWMO site selection process

## NWMO Engagement of Métis and First Nation peoples

The NWMO is committed to ensuring the project will only proceed with meaningful involvement of the interested community, potentially affected Métis and First Nation peoples, and other communities in the surrounding area working in partnership to implement it. "The NWMO acknowledges and respects the unique status and rights of Aboriginal peoples – including Métis peoples," said Bob Watts, NWMO Associate Vice President of Aboriginal Relations. At the same time, the NWMO recognizes that Aboriginal communities have unique priorities and processes that need to be understood in order to make certain that Aboriginal people and communities with an interest in the project have an opportunity to be involved in the site selection and engagement process. "The NWMO has sought to develop its processes and plans with the involvement of Métis people; laying a foundation for ongoing consultations and engagement that are respectful of traditional practices and approaches to decision-making."

## Métis Nation of Ontario and NWMO

On 1 September 2014 a *General Relationship Agreement* (GRA) was signed by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and NWMO. The GRA outlines the terms and conditions of the engagement of MNO citizens by the NWMO, and provides funding for:

- MNO staff support;
- an expert review of the MNO's engagement with NWMO;
- an NWMO Workshop prior to the 2015 MNO Annual General Assembly in Midland; and
- development of communication related products.

In addition to the GRA, NWMO has also provided further capacity to directly engage the Regional MNO Communities with a potential host community identified within or adjacent to their Traditional Territory. This capacity provided by NWMO will permit:

- MNO elected officials to attend a site tour of a used nuclear fuel interim storage facility;
- MNO elected officials to attend a Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) workshop; and
- facilitation of regional Community Information Sessions.

Annual updates on APM prior to the MNO 2015 Annual General Assembly in Midland, Regional Consultation Committee briefings, regional Community Information Sessions, and a close working relationship with the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch have provided excellent opportunities to share information on this work. Community meetings in 2015 and ongoing field work will build on this foundation.

## Next Steps

For communities that continue to the next step in the site selection process, the next phase of work involves more intensive community learning and engagement. Through field work, more detailed studies and broadened engagement, Phase 2 assessments expand upon work completed in Phase 1. The NWMO works with interested communities, potentially affected First Nation and Métis communities and surrounding municipalities

to explore the suitability of an area to host the project through fieldwork, more detailed studies and broadened engagement. Engagement activities are designed to explore potential for the project to align with the vision and objectives of the area and to implement the project in partnership. Indeed, the NWMO is committed to ensuring the project fosters the wellbeing and sustainability of the area, consistent with its vision for the future.

As individual studies are completed, the NWMO will gradually narrow its focus to areas with strong potential to be suitable for hosting a repository. It is expected to take several more years to complete the necessary studies to identify a preferred site and an informed and willing host.

Questions about the NWMO and APM may be submitted to the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch of the MNO at:  
[NWMOcomments@metisnation.org](mailto:NWMOcomments@metisnation.org)





# ACHIEVEMENTS

## MNO support leads to impressive career in interior design

by | MNO Staff

David Guy Barnes became a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in 1996, and in 1997 he attended an MNO meeting in Toronto where he learned about new MNO training initiatives, whereby funding would be available to support Métis people pursuing their education and career goals. David couldn't help but think that this was his chance to go back to school and further his educational goals. He also recognized, however, that both he and his family would have to make sacrifices if he was to return to school. He was 36 years old at the time and was already married with two children.

The more he thought of the sacrifices his family would have to make, the more David had second thoughts. He asked family members for their opinions. Many agreed that it was a good idea but David's grandmother was particularly encouraging. So, with the support of his family, David enrolled in the International Academy of Design (IAD) and was accepted on January 2, 1997, an auspicious day, as it was also his grandmother's birthday.

David was very successful at IAD,

*"This long path from Carpenter to Interior Designer could not have been accomplished without the support of my family and the help of the Métis Nation of Ontario."*

- David Barnes

where he received many scholarships and awards, even achieving the highest Grade Point Average in his program. David went on to receive certificates for perfect attendance, was chosen on numerous occasions to represent the IAD at functions and in his final year won the IAD's highest scholarship. In his fourth year he was accredited with the Foundation for Interior Design Education Research (FIDER) and graduated with honours in 2000. David then went on to receive his accreditation as a Registered Interior Designer exactly 10 years from the date of his acceptance into IAD (again his grandmother's birthday).

Since his graduation David has had an impressive career. He has completed work for the Government of Ontario, including renovating over 40 floors of government buildings in Toronto. David has developed land and designed and built large lakefront cottages on Lake Simcoe and his clients have included doctors, CEO's, architects and even other designers. In 2005, David started up a company specifically to design and build retail stores across Canada and the United States and has completed over 100 builds, some as large as 30,000 square feet.

In 2012, David was chosen from among his peers to travel to Denmark as a guest of the Danish Foreign Ministry to tour the country and meet local designers and manufacturers. The trip was a true adventure for David as he loves to travel but rarely has the time.

David is a member of the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business and his company is registered and certified as an Aboriginal company. He is an avid Native art collector



▲ David Barnes (centre) with his parents Guy and Flo Barnes on the day he graduated from the International Academy of Design.

many of David's designs are influenced by and feature Aboriginal art. According to David: "The silence of my designs allows the art to speak."

Cheryle, David's wife of 35 years still marvels at the how his family's sacrifices paid off. "This long path from Carpenter to Interior Designer could not have been accomplished

without the support of my family and the help of the Métis Nation of Ontario, which funded my education and allowed me to attain the goals I could not have reached on my own," said David. ∞

## Métis youth accepted into prestigious program

by | MNO Staff

Two Métis youth have recently been accepted into the prestigious Indigenous Women in Community Leadership Program at Coady Institute in Saint Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Kirstie Henderson and Deidre Thompson were selected from among 120 applicants from across Canada. Indigenous Women in Community Leadership is an award-winning program that supports First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in building their capacities to be strong leaders and agents of change capable of strengthening and contributing to the development of their communities.

Kirstie Henderson is a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen who worked as an MNO Summer Youth Cultural Interpreter in the summer of 2012 and has also been actively involved in the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council in Midland. Kirstie will receive a full scholarship for the certificate program and the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council is supporting the project Henderson will be undertaking as part of her studies.

"I am proud to share this with the

MNO and the Métis community," stated Henderson, "as I am so overjoyed of my successes and want to prove that we can do great things when we set our minds to them."

Henderson, who currently lives in Victoria Harbour but who grew up in Fonthill, Ontario, already is quite accomplished. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in English at York University and a Master of Science in Secondary Education at Niagara University. She is an Ontario Certified teacher with experience working in Adult Education, specializing in English, Social Sciences and Native Studies.

Deidre Thompson is the former acting President of the MNO High Land Waters Métis Council and served as Youth Representative on the Council for five years. She is currently an MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator at Loyalist College and has attended past MNO Annual General Meetings. She is well-known across the MNO for her dedication to the Métis cause and her enthusiasm for promoting all things Métis. Deidre is the daughter of PCMNO Region 6 Councillor Tom Thompson.

Congratulations to Kristie and Deidre! ∞



▲ Kirstie Henderson.



▲ Deidre Thompson.





▲ Self-identified Métis artist Monique Bedard.

# Métis Artist succeeds with the support of the MNO

by | MNO Staff

Monique Bedard is a 26-year-old self-identified Métis artist from Courtright, Ontario. Monique creates her art under the name Aura, and has been deeply and passionately involved in the visual arts for eleven years.

In 2006, she began a formal study of visual arts at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario. After three years of studying in London, she moved to Lethbridge, Alberta, to complete a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the University of Lethbridge. After graduating in 2010, Monique returned to Ontario where she began instructing group art lessons with children, adolescents, and adults.

Monique is grateful for the support of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), for assisting with the funding for her post-secondary education. She is currently employed as a Lead Artist and Workshop Facilitator at Seventh Generation Image Makers of Native Child and Family Services Toronto.

Monique resides in Toronto, where she is working towards the completion of her thesis for the Graduate Art Therapy program of the Toronto Art Therapy Institute. She completed her practicum hours at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, Youthdale Treatment Centres, Toronto District School Board, and Anishnawbe Health Toronto.

As an Aboriginal artist Monique is very inspired by the journey of healing. Through the holistic approach of sharing stories through the creation of art, she fulfills her aim to empower people by honing in on strengths and resiliencies of individuals. In the future, Monique intends on building art projects and workshops through collaboration to engage in unity and transformation. She truly believes she is fulfilling her life's purpose.

For more information about Monique and her art visit the following website: <http://auralast.wix.com/auralast>. ∞

# MNO helps citizen complete his education

by | MNO Staff

Michael Carroll is a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen from Whitby who received financial help from the MNO to complete the last year of his Nuclear Engineering degree from the University of Ontario: Institute of Technology.

Michael had always had a natural affinity for science, specifically nuclear physics and he knew by the time he was in high school that his career choice would be in a field that relied on these disciplines. He had completed three years of his four year program in Nuclear Engineering by 2012 but was feeling some financial strain as he approached in his final year of school. "The tuition and associated costs of the program were quite expensive and the workload was demanding. It was not possible to work full time

to cover the costs while completing the schooling," he said.

Faced with this situation, Michael reached out to the MNO office in Toronto, which was able to provide him with tuition and funding for books. This allowed him to maintain focus on his program by minimizing the stress finances can place on an intensive, full-time academic schedule in a demanding field like nuclear engineering. Ultimately, Michael was successful, graduating from his program and securing employment with Bruce Power as a Component Engineer. "Through the financial help from the MNO, I was able to devote more time to my studies and successfully complete my degree. My life has improved greatly. I now have a salary and am looking forward to saving for a down payment for my own house." ∞



▲ MNO Citizen Michael Carroll.



▲ Métis lawyer Jason Madden receiving the Dianne Martin Medal for Social Justice Through Law from Lorne Sossin, Dean of Osgoode Hall Law School.

# Métis lawyer receives Social Justice Medal

by | MNO Staff

On May 4, 2015 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and noted Métis lawyer Jason Madden received the Dianne Martin Medal for Social Justice Through Law in a ceremony at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto.

Dianne Martin (1945-2004) graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1976 and went on to become one of Canada's first leading female criminal lawyers. She joined the Osgoode faculty in 1989 where she co-founded the Innocence Proj-

ect. She was a passionate advocate for justice and an inspirational teacher who had the courage to challenge the justice system to ensure equal treatment for all.

The Dianne Martin Medal for Social Justice Through Law is awarded to members of the Canadian legal community who have exemplified Dianne's commitment to law as an instrument for achieving social justice and fairness. This year Madden received the Medal to recognize his contributions in the areas of Métis rights law in both Ontario and across the Métis homeland. ∞

# Métis woman enjoys career in film and media

submitted by | **Jade Bourbonniere**  
MNO Education & Training Operations Coordinator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Alison Rheame first approached the MNO in 2013 when she was struggling to make ends meet. She had to work several part-time jobs in order to make enough money to pay for school, and the stress of tuition was difficult to bear. The MNO assisted Alison with her tuition so that she could attend Humber College's Film and Media Production Program. Upon completion of her fourth and final year, she graduated with honours with Bachelor of Applied Arts.

Currently, Alison is the Membership Manager for Women in Film and Television-Toronto (WIFT-T). WIFT-T is a not-for-profit organization focusing on the professional development of women in the media industry. Alison focuses on membership benefits, outreach and retention, coordination of events, and program content sessions. Through school and work, Alison has discovered her leadership and



▲ MNO Citizen Alison Rheame.

social skills, which makes connecting with a large number of people very rewarding.

Coming from a family of media professionals, Alison's passion for media development and events came naturally and she enjoys assisting women with their professional development and advancement.

The financial support from the MNO allowed Alison to focus on her school work and she is forever grateful to the MNO and its staff for helping her along the way. ∞





▲ Brianne Gosselin and her family at the first annual Evening of Applause at Timmins High and Vocational School. (L-R: Sophie Dallaire, Melissa Bernier, Anne-Marie Cantin, Brianne Gosselin, Luc Bruis-sières, Pierre Bouchard and Louise Taillefer).

# MNO citizen is a student who makes a difference

by | MNO Staff

**M**étis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and Region 3 Representative on the MNO Youth Council Brianne Gosselin is the recipient of the Student who Makes a Difference Award.

Brianne received the award on March 25, 2015 at the Timmins Local Immigration Partnership's first Annual Evening of Applause, which was held at the Timmins High and Vocational School. The

event was held as part of the United Nations International Day for the Elimination for Racial Discrimination and was also part of a three-month initiative that involved raising awareness and promoting tolerance. There were three award categories, which included: Students who Make a Difference, Best Anti-Racism/Tolerance Poster and the inaugural inductions into the Human Rights Wall of Fame. ∞

## MNO helps citizen jump-start his career in social work

by | MNO Staff

**W**hen Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Dennis Woodcock found himself out-of-work after 25 years working in factories and warehouses, he approached the MNO office in Toronto to see if he could get assistance changing his career path. Now Dennis is a recent graduate of Humber College in the Social Service Worker program where he received his Honours Diploma and he works as a Client Support Worker (CSW) Trainee at the Native Men's Residence's Sagatay Transitional Housing Unit.

Dennis recounts that when he

first visited the MNO office, he was surprised at how enthusiastic and helpful the staff were. "I was concerned that all the education and retraining courses would be geared towards more youthful applicants exclusively, but nothing could have been further from the truth. Between the MNO, my family, my friends and the Aboriginal Resources Centre at Humber College, I had all the support a person could hope for."

In his role as a CSW at Sagatay, Dennis is a member of a care team that works with Aboriginal men to help them reach their goals in education, employment and hous-

ing. On a daily basis, Dennis deals with everything from in-take of new clients, providing clients with a friendly face to come to when they need to talk and helping direct clients to resources on any number of issues. "I very much enjoy the work I am doing and the co-workers and clients at Sagatay, Dennis explained, "It is very rewarding to be able to help people on many levels and the reason I am able to do this now is because the MNO helped me to achieve my goals through education. It took a lot of hard work to get this far, and my journey is far from over, but I am grateful to be [here] at this point in my life." ∞



▲ MNO Citizen Dennis Woodcock at his graduation ceremony.



▲ Chasity King.

## Métis youth wins bronze medals at nationals

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

**S**elf-identifying Métis youth Chasity King won a gold medal in the provincial Youth Bowling Canada (YBC) Championship in February, which qualified her to represent Northern Ontario in the National Championships May 1-3 in Toronto.

This is Chasity's fourth time bowling her way to the Nationals. In 2013, as a bantam, she gold medaled her way to the provincial level for the Canadian Tenpin Federation (CTF) Nationals in Calgary, where she won two bronze medals. In 2014, again as a bantam, Chasity took another gold medal at the

provincial level sending her to Winnipeg for the YBC Nationals, where she won a silver medal for the team event. Chasity also gold medaled her way, in 2014, as a bantam at the provincial level and bowled at the CTF Nationals in Sault Ste. Marie she finished fourth in her division.

At the 2015 YBC national tournament, Chasity claimed a bronze medal in the girl's team combo and also won a bronze medal in the junior division singles by rolling a 229, her personal best, in a tie breaker against British Columbia.

Chasity's aunt, MNO Labour Market Manager Tammy Webb is very proud of her niece! ∞



## ACROSS THE HOMELAND



*"We call those lands the Métis Homelands. The Homelands stretch from the lakes and rivers of Ontario; cross the wide prairies, traverse the mountains into British Columbia and into the northern reaches of the Northwest Territories. They include the hills and valleys of the north-central American States."*

- From the Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose



▲ Emergency Responder training through MNBC and JIBC.



▲ Conlin Delbaere-Sawchuk of the Métis Fiddler Quartet performs with his siblings Nicholas and Alyssa.



▲ Métis Artist Leah Marie Dorion and City of North Battleford Director of Galleries Leah Garven.



▲ The Fight at Seven Oaks, 1816 by Charles William Jefferys: Library and Archives Canada image.

## ■ British Columbia

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) continues to show strong leadership in forging partnerships that provide opportunities for Métis community members. MNBC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) and it was through this partnership that the Aboriginal Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Program was delivered in Métis communities across British Columbia.

The customized EMR program was developed and implemented by MNBC, the JIBC and received support from Enbridge Northern Gateway and included a Paramedic in Industry course, Hydrogen Sulphide Awareness training and faculty-led support for students taking the Emergency Medical Assistant Licensing Board exams. These specific course components were included to provide students with an enhanced opportunity to work in industrial medical settings in addition to the career route with BC Ambulance Service.

Source: Métis Nation British Columbia

## ■ Alberta

Over 1,800 people got a sampling of Métis culture on May 22 at the Fort McMurray Métis Festival.

The sixth-annual festival was held during the day at the Métis grounds in Gregoire, featuring campfires, games, Métis cuisine and music. Organizer Renee Stanley said the turnout was a mix of former residents and newcomers.

"We had one young student ... who's doing a canoe trip to Fort Chip," she said. "He got a lot of information, he's coming back next week."

Some of the musicians included the Asham Stompers, the Métis Fiddler Quartet, Beverly Lambert, known as Métis Bev, and the Kelsea Scout Band, headlined by local eight-year-old Kelsea Boostrom.

"(The) music was amazing," an organizer said. "Kids, elders were up jigging and dancing. Any time there's fiddle music it's going to be a good time."

Source: Fort McMurray Today

## ■ Saskatchewan

Interdisciplinary Métis artist Leah Marie Dorion is excited about a selection of her art becoming part of the permanent collection of the prestigious Allen Sapp Gallery in North Battleford.

Like Sapp, Dorion says, she teaches people about relationship to land and family. Her teaching is done through Métis art, which is the perfect complement to Sapp's Aboriginal art, she says. It's a different generation and a different palette, but features the same kind of land-based learning and the intergenerational family model.

Dorion, a teacher, painter, filmmaker and published writer who holds Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees, has donated most of the original illustrations for three of her children's books to the Allen Sapp Gallery – *The Giving Tree, Relatives With Roots* and *Diamond Willow Walking Stick*.

Source: Battlefords News-Optimist

## ■ Manitoba

Work began in May to recognize the Battle of Seven Oaks, one of the most seminal events in Canadian history. The battle was the worst of several between the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) and the North West Company (NWC). It happened on June 19, 1816 when Métis men with the NWC, led by Cuthbert Grant, were travelling to sell a load of pemmican in defiance of HBC edicts.

The Battle of Seven Oaks Monument National Historic Site at Main Street and Rupertsland Avenue in Winnipeg will become an interpretive park. Construction will be finished this summer and an event marking the bicentennial of the Battle of Seven Oaks is planned for June, 19, 2016. The new park is expected to cost \$350,000, with funding coming from the province, federal government, City of Winnipeg, Manitoba Metis Federation and the Winnipeg Foundation.

Source: Winnipeg Free Press

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# Birth Announcements



Photo by Jennifer Bailey

desmond joseph KELLY

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Sara Kelly and husband Colter Kelly are proud to announce a new member of the Métis Nation! Desmond Joseph Kelly was born on April 9, 2015

at 2:39 am, weighing eight pounds and fourteen ounces. Proud grandparents include MNO citizen Carol David as well as Michel David, Martha and Tim Kelly, and Shelly and Bruce McIntyre. ∞



ella FRANCE

Grandparents Hank and Loma Rowlinson are happy to announce the birth of their granddaughter Ella France, who was born at seven pounds four ounces on March 27, 2015. Her proud parents are Scott (Rowlinson) France

and Brittany Mitchell. Ella's aunts and uncles are: Ashley, Caitland and Shelbey Rowlinson, A.J and Dalton Mathias, and Dakota and Austin Rowlinson. ∞



## MNO citizen Terry Connor



Terry Conner, a long-time citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) High Land Waters Métis Council, passed away peacefully at the Kingston General Hospital on June 2, 2015. He was 55 years old. He will be remembered by his family; son to Jim and Trudy, brother (in-law) to Jeff and Julie and uncle to Phillip and Emily; and cherished always as a loving and kind person.

Friends and relatives were received at the Milestone Funeral Centre. Pastor Rob Heyman officiated and many kind words were shared by all who spoke. Terry was an avid trapper and hunter as well as a life-long naturalist. He served on the MNO High Land Waters Métis as a Councillor for the last three years as was highly respected. He was a very proud MNO citizen.

Appreciation goes out to all who

took part in the care of Terry during his illness, to those who supported the family in a time of grief and to all who sent sympathy and condolence to the family with the many cards, phone calls and messages. Thank you.

Terry was a devout Christian with a strong faith. After a long battle with cancer, he will finally walk with God. ∞

## MNO citizen Michelle Dorion



Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Michelle Dorion was tragically killed on May 7, 2015 when a car struck her motorcycle. She worked as a Parole Officer in Gravenhurst at Beaver Creek Institution and she lived in Bracebridge with her six year old daughter, Peyton. She was a well-liked person; always smiling and helping whenever she could. Over one thousand people attended her celebration of life on May

23. The celebration included an honour guard from her fellow parole officers as well as police from Barrie. Michelle had been an MNO success story as she had received funding from the MNO to help support her education. During the celebration MNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle presented her parents with a sash and her daughter Peyton with a child sash, which had a Métis guardian angel pin attached to it. It is hoped that the gift of the sash

will help Peyton keep her Métis heritage close.

Michelle will be deeply missed by her little girl Peyton, her parents, Lauretta and Mike Dorion, her brother Jason and his wife Michelle, her nephew as well as many other family members and friends. ∞

submitted by MNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle

## MNO citizen Agathe G. Moran



Agathe Moran, who was the first person to hold a Métis Nation of Ontario citizenship has passed away.

Born in Timmins, Ontario on September 23, 1944, Agathe passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving family. Much loved wife of Tom Moran, mother of Nicole Ferguson and Kevin Moran. Sadly missed by her grandchildren Peter and Amanda, Daughter of the late Augustin & Leonie Lafond (nee

Rozon). Sister of the late Bernie, Roch (Janice Lafond), Leona, Bill Struk, Marguerite and Raymond (Virginia). Also sadly missed by her in-laws; James (Louise) Moran, Alexander (late Anne) Lynch, Allan and Lydia Lynch, Norman and Rona Lynch. Agathe (Aggie) will be missed by many nieces, nephews, friends, neighbours and special friends Mona, Gwen and Lucienne. She was a lifelong volunteer and member for Ontario Special Olympics - Timmins and

Toronto, as well as Timmins Community Living and Joan Caron Camp for the developed and mentally challenged. Aggie was also the receiver of Timmins Volunteer of the Year. In keeping with Aggie's wishes, cremation has taken place. A Memorial Service was held at Centennial Free Methodist Church, Belleville on Friday June 5, 2015. If desired, donations to the charity of your choice or Centennial Free Methodist Church would be appreciated. ∞



# BUILDING THE MNO TEAM



*The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is excited to welcome eight new staff members and announce that four staff members have either moved into new positions or returned to the MNO after an absence.*

## MNO Healing and Wellness

*Submitted by Wenda Watteyne, MNO Director of Healing and Wellness*

### Sahra MacLean

Violence Against Aboriginal Women Coordinator, Ottawa



After a successful year as an Education Officer with the MNO Education and Training Branch, Sahra has moved to the Healing and Wellness Branch as the Violence Against Aboriginal Women Coordinator, where she will be a big part of the new “Honouring Métis Women is Part of Our Culture” education campaign.

Even before working for the MNO, Sahra was well-known in Métis circles as an MNO Infinite Reach facilitator who directed her considerable enthusiasm to support many worthwhile Métis heritage and culture projects. Prior to working for the MNO, Sahra held the position of National Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Student's Aboriginal Caucus. Working with Aboriginal students across Canada, Sahra developed campaigns to address affordable education and gender-based violence on post-secondary campuses. Sahra is excited to bring her passion for working with Métis communities to her new position.

### Lucy Fowler

Victim Services Coordinator (Northern Region), Thunder Bay



Lucy is also already well-known throughout the MNO as she has been part of the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program and an MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator at Lakehead University. Her background is in education, with a focus on Indigenous education. She is an active volunteer in the community and has been recognized for her efforts towards building bridges between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Thunder Bay.

She looks forward to translating her passion for her culture, the MNO and all its citizens into the Victim Services position.

## MNO Education and Training

*Submitted by Jennifer St. Germain, MNO Director of Education and Training*

### Dustin Schultz

Employment Developer, Timmins



Dustin has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Lakehead University and is currently completing a Master of Arts in Canadian Studies at Carleton University in the Aboriginal People and The North stream. Dustin has valuable understanding of the issues facing Aboriginal communities gained through his studies of Aboriginal Law and Aboriginal Resurgence.

As part of his graduate studies, Dustin conducted research on Aboriginal-mining relations in Northern Ontario, focusing on the Impact and Benefit Agreements and community-based land-use planning. This research has provided Dustin with knowledge on how private partnerships are initiated, developed, and managed. Dustin takes great pride in his work and brings with him an enthusiasm to assist Métis people achieve their employment goals and aspirations.

### Rae-Anna Gardner

Supervisor of Labour Market Projects, North Bay



Rae-Anna began her career with the MNO in 2012 as a Project Developer and transitioned to the position of Project Coordinator for the MNO Navigating Employment Pathways Project (NEP). Rae-Anna is now the Supervisor of Labour Market Projects and as part of her new role she will be overseeing the new MNO NEP Youth Project.

Rae-Anna holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education from Nipissing University and has experience in managing an Adult Education Centre and teaching abroad. Rae Anna's enthusiasm to help the Métis people is the driving force behind the excellent work she does for the MNO.

### Jackie Lachnit

Career Development Facilitator, North Bay



Jackie worked as a Projector Developer with the MNO NEP program for two years and is returning to the MNO as the Career Development Facilitator for the MNO NEP Youth Project. She is very familiar with MNO NEP programming, community contacts, and client needs. Jackie's previous experience includes over ten years as a job search advisor, facilitator, and program manager for an employment resource centre, which was funded by both the federal and provincial governments.

### Colleen Wells

Career Development Facilitator, Sault St. Marie



Colleen has a diploma in Liberal Studies (Teaching) from the Sault College of Applied Arts and Science. She also has several years of experience in the tourism, hospitality and customer service sectors. She hopes to help others achieve their goals by sharing her experiences and skills through the MNO NEP Youth Project. Colleen self-identifies as Métis, and is excited to learn more about Métis culture. She has a passion for teaching and learning and she cannot wait to see what the next year will bring.

## Heidi Kimberly-Elstub

Employment Councillor Sudbury



Heidi is an MNO citizen with a passion for her culture and traditions. She is looking forward to supporting the Métis community.

Heidi brings administrative experience, entrepreneurial start-up and management expertise to the MNO, which will prove to be an asset as she assists Métis people achieve their employment and training goals.

## MNO Registry

*Submitted by Jane Brennan, MNO Registrar and Director of Registry*

### Katarzyna (Kasia) Kozyra-Kocikowska

Processing Clerk, Ottawa



After a very short absence, Kasia is back working in the MNO Registry in a new position. She had previously worked for the MNO for two years as a Registry Intake Assessment Officer.

Kasia holds a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts in Polish Philology from the University of Warsaw. She specialized in Polish Language Studies and Polish Literature and minored in Media Communications.

In her studies to obtain Canadian citizenship, Kasia learned about Métis history and that with her previous employment with the MNO have given her great interest and understanding of the Métis people.

## MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations

*Submitted by Aly Alibhai, MNO Director of Lands, Resources and Consultations*

### Linda Norheim

Manager of Lands, Resources and Consultations



Linda has a Master of Environmental Studies from York, a Master of Public Policy and Administration from Ryerson and a Bachelor's in Political Science from Western. As part of her graduate studies, Linda completed courses in Aboriginal Law and Policy, which provided her with a very valuable understanding of the issues facing Aboriginal communities.

During her graduate studies, Linda delivered a seminar on the Duty to Consult and Accommodate Aboriginal Peoples and wrote a paper on the subject, which analyzed the policies of Ontario and Manitoba in respect of the Duty to Consult.

Before coming to the MNO, Linda worked for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment within their Access and Service Integration branch, and their Environmental Approvals branch, which gave her knowledge and experience regarding the processes of duty to consult and accommodate Aboriginal Peoples.

Linda has gained considerable professional experience while working overseas. Those positions included: Trainer, Consultant and Project Facilitator for the Estonian Center for Health Education and Promotion in Tallinn, Course Facilitator for the National Health Service in the United Kingdom, and as Project Manager and Communication Officer for the British Medical Research Council in Gambia, West Africa. Linda has also worked with the University of Toronto Centre for Health Promotion as a Health Improvement Facilitator.

Métis Nation  
of Ontario

*See page 23 for even more new staff members!*



# BUILDING THE MNO TEAM

Continued from page 22.

**MNO Finance**  
Submitted by Mary Jessop, MNO Director of Finance

**Najla Noor**  
Accounts Payable Officer, Ottawa



Najla is a recent graduate of the Telfer School of Management at the University of Ottawa where she holds an Honours Bachelor of Commerce degree with a specialization in Accounting. She brings accounts payable and tax expertise to the MNO and she is looking forward to using her skills to support MNO citizens and communities.

**MNO Information, Technology and Communications**  
Submitted by Mark Brunzell, MNO Manager of Information, Technology and Communications

**Austin Tarin**  
Help Desk Analyst, Ottawa



Austin took two courses at Algonquin College in Ottawa to help him understand the unruly and hair pulling issues of the computer world. Working for the Best Buy Geek Squad for many years helped hone his ability to comprehend and translate statements like “The Internets aren’t Googleing” or “The cup

holder tray on my desktop won’t open.” He takes pride in breaking the mold that all Geeks are cave dwelling Gollums, so come talk to him about music or go head to head with him reciting Simpsons or Seinfeld quotes.

**MNO Communications**  
Submitted by Mike Fedyk, MNO Director of Communications

**Christine Roy**  
Communications Assistant, Ottawa



Christine has a diploma in both radio broadcasting from Canadore College and journalism from Algonquin College. A former Layout Editor for the Algonquin Times, she and her colleagues were first place recipients of

the Canadian Community Newspaper Association (CCNA) and Ontario Community Newspaper Association (OCNA) 2014 awards for General Excellence for a campus newspaper. Her most memorable articles included an interview with Susan Hays from Global News Toronto for BayToday.ca and spending the night by herself at the Old Ottawa Jail Hostel for Glue Magazine.

*The Métis Nation of Ontario is pleased to welcome everyone to the team!*

# 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



# 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.

Since the last *Métis Voyageur*, the following MNO community councils have had elections. Thanks and congratulations goes to all the candidates who participated in these elections and to the new councils listed below:

MNO Northern Lights Métis Council	
President Urgel Courville	Youth Representative Jessica Mageau
Chair Lucille Nelson	Councillor Sheila Skidmore
Senator Eugene Contant	Councillor Aurel Courville
Secretary/Treasurer Jamie Mageau	

MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council	
President Andy Dufrane	Youth Representative Harrison Hodgson
Chair Christa Lemelin	Councillor Debra Malandrino
Senator Terry Bloom	Councillor Brad Hodgson
Treasurer Terra Knapp	Councillor Luke Thompson
Women's Representative Taryn Blackstock	

MNO Timmins Métis Council	
President Alain P. Lefebvre	Councillor Yolande Longpre
Chair Jacques Picotte	Councillor Frances Kennelly
Secretary/Treasurer Sasha Dolbec	Councillor Jycelin Lefebvre
Senator Pierre Lefebvre	Councillor Eric Talon
Councillor Douglas Hull	
Councillor Alain G. Lefebvre	

The MNO would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected council members and thank all council members for their time and dedication to the citizens of the MNO.



CELEBRATE WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# AGA 2015



THE 22<sup>ND</sup> MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY • AUGUST 22-24, 2015 • MIDLAND, ONTARIO

Every year, the citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) hold our Annual General Assembly (AGA) where we gather together with our friends, family and colleagues to conduct the business of the Nation, showcase our rich culture, pass on our traditions to younger generations and celebrate our stories.

**The 2015 MNO AGA will be hosted by the Region 7 MNO chartered community councils in Midland.** The President and PCMNO's welcome to the AGA will be held the evening of Friday, August 21 with the arrival of the voyageur canoes. The formal AGA will begin on Saturday, August 22, continue all day Sunday before wrapping up around noon on Monday, August 24.

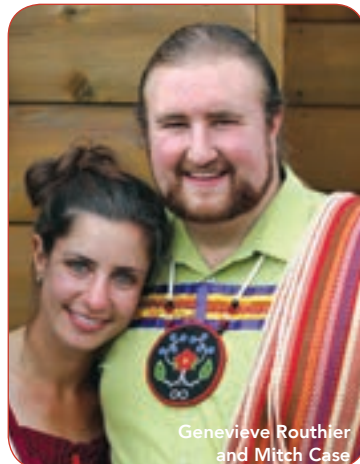
**Rich in Métis history and situated on the beautiful Georgian Bay, Midland is a wonderful location for this year's AGA.** The venues for the AGA include the impressive North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre, the Best Western Highland Inn and Conference Centre and Peterson Park.

One of the highlights of this year's event is the MNO Dinner and Dance, which this year will include a concert from award-winning singer/songwriter and MNO citizen Amanda Rheaume. During the AGA Amanda will also be performing—for the first time—a song inspired by the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose* entitled "We Aspire," which will be featured in MNO television commercials later in 2015.

More details about the AGA will be posted on the MNO website in coming weeks.



Midland Harbour



Genevieve Routhier and Mitch Case



Amanda Rheaume



A complete AGA schedule is posted on the MNO website at:

**[www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)**

## THE SUZANNE ROCHON-BURNETT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Bob  
McKAY  
Thunder Bay  
2014

Brenda  
POWLEY  
Sault Ste. Marie  
2013

Marlene  
GREENWOOD  
North Bay  
2012

Olivine  
BOUSQUET-TIEDEMA  
Oshawa  
2012

Gordon  
CALDER  
Fort Frances  
2011

Pauline  
SAULNIER  
Penetanguishene  
2010

Louise  
GOULDING  
Moon Island  
2009

Richard  
SARRAZIN  
Sudbury  
2008

Reta  
GORDON  
Ottawa  
2007

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

The 2014 recipient was Senator Bob McKay, a Métis Knowledge Holder who has been involved in the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council for over 17 years. Senator McKay has spent countless hours promoting Métis culture and heritage and in particular working with schools to teach young people about the Métis.

The 2015 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented at the MNO Annual General Meeting (AGA) in Midland, August 22-24. If you know of a dedicated MNO citizen who deserves to be considered for the award, please think about nominating them.

More information about the *Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award* and **nomination forms** are available in the AGA section of the MNO website at: **[www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)**