



FEDERAL ELECTION 2015 PAGES 11-13

ISSUE NO. 88, DECEMBER 2015

# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

LOUIS RIEL DAY • NOVEMBER 16

**"Working together  
we will achieve  
reconciliation"**

◀ Métis Nation of Ontario  
President Gary Lipinski  
speaks during November  
16th Louis Riel Day  
ceremonies at Queen's Park  
in Toronto.

Celebrations across the province ▶



**The MNO  
Secretariat Act**

Page 2

**Remembrance  
Day**

Pages 14 & 15



**Amanda Rheaume  
launches  
PledgeMusic  
Campaign**

Page  
29





# THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

DECEMBER 2015, NO. 88

## Produced by the Métis Nation of Ontario Communications Branch:

Julie Cruikshank  
Mike Fedyk  
Marc St. Germain  
Christine Roy

## Contributors:

Katie Baltzer  
Vance Badawey  
Virginia Barter  
Tera Beaulieu  
Christi Belcourt  
Alicia Blore  
Mary Anne Blore  
Jade Bourbonnière  
Rachelle Brunelle-McColl  
Barbara (Boese) Bucko  
Joanna Burt  
Dana Carson  
Shelly Claus  
Jackie Courville  
Urgel Courville  
Chanchette Dimitri  
Eric Dupuis  
Liliane Ethier  
Ron Gignac  
Ginny Gonneau  
Reta Gordon  
Luke Grandmont  
Rene Gravelle  
Shawna Hansen  
Nancy Hatch  
Nina Henley  
Linda Horn  
Anne Huguenin  
Yvonne Jensen  
Mary Jessop  
Alis Kennedy  
Linda Krause  
Marc Laurin  
Grant Lecky  
Ethan Lefebvre  
Jaime Lefebvre  
Richard Lefebvre  
Mike Lepine  
Glen Lipinski  
Jason Madden  
Sarah Marusyk  
Sharon McBride  
Alvin McKay  
Rick Meilleur  
Mandy Montgomery  
Patti Moreau  
Bill Morrison  
Jennifer Nicholson  
Ted Norris  
Joseph Paquette  
Robin Pilon  
Jordi Playne  
Joseph Poitras  
Amanda Pont-Shanks  
Amanda Rheame  
Melanie Rose  
Valerie Routh  
Bryanna Scott  
Melissa St. Amant  
Darby Starratt  
Elise St. Germain  
Jennifer St. Germain  
Jim Stranks

## Submissions:

Communications Branch  
Métis Nation Of Ontario  
500 Old St. Patrick Street, Unit D  
Ottawa ON K1N 9G4  
MikeF@Metisnation.org

Publication #: PM40025265

## 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:

January 22, 2016  
March 18, 2016  
May 20, 2016  
September 9, 2016  
November 4, 2016  
January 27, 2017

## Recently Moved or Moving Soon?

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

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



## BREAKING NEWS

# The Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act is the first Métis-specific legislation ever introduced in the Ontario Legislature

On December 1, 2015, *Bill 153: The Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act* was introduced into the Ontario legislature. At the time the Voyageur went to print, the bill had not been voted on but the vote likely took place by the time this paper reached most MNO citizens. This bill is historic because it is the first piece of Métis-specific legislation ever introduced in the Ontario legislature. A copy of this bill, along with updates on its progress and additional background information on the legislation, is available on the MNO website at [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org).

This bill is a very positive and exciting development in our ongoing quest to advance Métis rights, self-government and reconciliation in Ontario. It is a result of the hard work and dedication of Métis leadership at the local, regional and provincial lev-

*This bill is a very positive and existing development in our ongoing quest to advance Métis rights, self-government and reconciliation in Ontario.*

els working-together-to put Métis issues and the MNO increasingly on the map in this province.

More specifically, the proposed legislation comes from repetitive and unanimous calls from the MNO Annual General Assembly--the highest governing authority within the MNO where all MNO citizens have a voice--to secure provincial legislation that recognizes the MNO's unique governance structure. These types of resolutions were passed in 2001, 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2014.

Most recently, following a presentation on the MNO's discussions with the Ontario government on this legislation, the 2015 MNO Annual General Assembly passed a unanimous resolution, which provided clear direction to the MNO's governance structures at the local, regional and provincial levels to advance the goal of achieving provincial MNO legislation. ∞

## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SESSION ∞



**January 16 & 17 9:30 am - 4:30 pm**

**First Nations House – University of Toronto  
563 Spadina Avenue, third floor  
Toronto**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has hosted a number of Youth Engagement Sessions across Ontario this fall. These sessions were held in North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay. If you are a Métis youth between the ages of 15 to 29, we invite you to attend MNO Youth Engagement Sessions in your area! During these sessions, we would like to hear about your insights and experiences as a Métis youth in high school, post-secondary school and in finding employment.

This is a great opportunity to meet other Métis youth, learn about your community, hear about the resources that are available and provide recommendations that will help other youth along their path! Some highlights you can expect from the sessions include cultural activities, learning to jig, networking with education and employment resource people and so much more.

Giveaways, lunch and snacks will be provided.

**Please register by January 13**

**Lee-Anne Van Buekenhout**

MNO Partnerships and Projects Coordinator  
[lee-annev@metisnation.org](mailto:lee-annev@metisnation.org)



# Louis Riel Day 2015

NOVEMBER 16th

## Working together we will achieve reconciliation

Every year, Métis from across the Homeland remember the anniversary of the unjust execution of Louis Riel on November 16, 1885, by holding Louis Riel Day events. Although Louis Riel Day commemorates one of the great tragedies of Canadian history, it is also a day to celebrate Métis culture and the continuing progress of the Métis towards taking their rightful place within Confederation.

Many Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) chartered community councils held flag raisings, feasts and cultural celebrations to recognize Louis Riel Day and, as in the past, provincial ceremonies were held at Queen's Park in Toronto. Provincial ceremonies take place at Queen's Park because the "Northwest Rebellion" monument and the Legislative Building are both located there.

Ironically, the Legislature is where a price was put on Louis Riel's head and the monument recognizes the Canadian soldiers who fought in the Northwest Resistance against the Métis. During the Louis Riel Day ceremony, however, they are the focal points for honouring Riel and the monument is reverentially draped with Métis symbols including a portrait of Louis Riel.

Weather for this year's provincial ceremony was unseasonably warm and many expressed thanks to the Creator for sparing participants the cold that often marks November 16. Over 100 people were in attendance from the Toronto area as well others from across the province, including some individuals who came from as far away as Thunder Bay, Fort Frances and Kenora.

As in the past, events started with a flag raising ceremony in front of the Legislature. This year for the first time ever, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, attended the ceremony and

with MNO President Gary Lipinski, raised the Métis Nation flag while a crowd of MNO citizens, dignitaries and guests looked on and cheered enthusiastically.

Following the flag raising ceremony, the participants formed a procession led by members of the No. 10 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and accompanied by Métis fiddler Alicia Blore. The No. 10 Legion Branch has been participating in Louis Riel Day ceremonies for 15 years and their dedication and service was, as always, greatly appreciated.

The procession made its way to the "Northwest Rebellion" monument where speakers addressed everyone assembled. MNO Chair France Picotte MCed the ceremony and set a positive tone by welcoming everyone and acknowledging the many guests and dignitaries. In addition to Her Honour, other guests included: the Honourable Dave Levac, the Speaker of the Ontario Legislature; the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; the Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines; the Honourable Helena Jacek, Minister of Community and Social Services; the Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry; and several Members of the Provincial Parliament (MPP) including Norm Miller, the PC Aboriginal Affairs

continued on page 4



▲ The No. 10 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has participated in Louis Riel Day ceremonies for 15 years.



▲ This year for the first time ever, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell (left) attended the ceremony.

<p>MNO Chair <b>FRANCE PICOTTE</b></p>  <p>"Remember to be proud of who you are."</p>	<p>PCMNO Senator <b>VERNA PORTER-BRUNELLE</b></p>  <p>"Louis Riel's contribution was not just to the Métis but to the Canadian nation." (Quoting former Prime Minister Paul Martin)</p>	<p>MNO Executive Senator <b>RETA GORDON</b></p>  <p>"Stay united like our ancestors did." (Quoting a Métis slogan from 1887)</p>	<p>PCMNO Vice-Chair <b>SHARON McBRIDE</b></p>  <p>"Think about our ancestors and their struggles and be grateful."</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



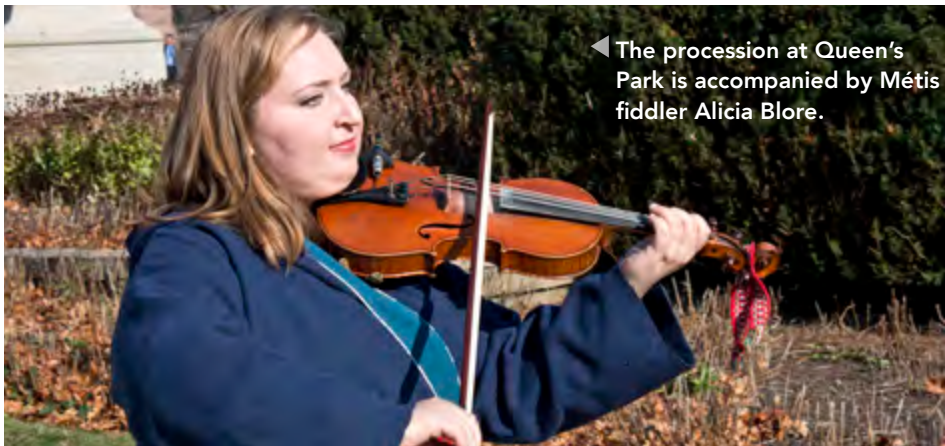
# Louis Riel Day 2015



MNO President Gary Lipinski raises the Métis flag while Lieutenant-Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell looks on.

▲ The Honourable Dave Levac, Speaker, presents a Louis Riel Day certificate of recognition to President Lipinski.

▲ Dignitaries and members of the PCMNO. From left PC Aboriginal Affairs Critic Norm Miller, Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle, Vice-Chair Sharon McBride, Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, Minister of Northern Development and Mines Michael Gravelle, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer, President Gary Lipinski, Lieutenant-Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Senator Reta Gordon, Chair France Picotte.



◀ The procession at Queen's Park is accompanied by Métis fiddler Alicia Blore.

continued from page 3 ...

Critic and France Gélinas, the NDP Aboriginal Affairs Critic; as well as Arthur Potts and Grandville Anderson. President Lipinski commented that it boded well for the future that the assembled group represented all of Canada's political parties.

Among the speakers at the ceremony were Her Honour, Speaker Levac, Minister Zimmer, President Lipinski, Chair Picotte, MPPs Miller and Gélinas as well as PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle, Executive Senator Reta Gordon, MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride, Jean Teillet, the great grand-niece of Louis Riel, and MNO citizen Joanna Burt, who represented Métis youth (for a selection of remarks from all the speakers please see page 3).

The theme that emerged in the remarks from most of the speakers concerned the process of reconciliation that has been emerging recently, which is really simply embracing

ideas and values that Louis Riel had always espoused and was trying to achieve. Minister Zimmer, for example, stated: "Today we acknowledge Louis Riel's contributions to building Canada and recognize and respect the history, culture and identity of Métis people. It is also an important opportunity to build on the process of reconciliation between Canada and the Métis Nation, and to celebrate the achievements of Métis people."

MPP Miller commented that Louis Riel was "a tireless advocate for equality," who played an important role in the history of Canada, while MPP Gélinas stated that Riel brought forward values "we more or less take for granted now." Speaker Levac pointed out that Riel had initiated the first human rights code in North America because "... he worked to protect the rights of everyone – he was someone who had a vision for all people." Lieutenant-Governor Dowdeswell explained that Riel helped lay down the framework for minority rights and as a result was a champion

Her Honour  
**ELIZABETH DOWDESWELL**  
Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario

The Honourable  
**DAVE LEVAC**  
Speaker of the Ontario Legislature

The Honourable  
**DAVID ZIMMER**  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

**NORM MILLER**  
PC Party Critic for Aboriginal Affairs



"Although it [Louis Riel Day] commemorates the tragedy of his death it also celebrates the continuing vibrancy of the Métis people."



"I am Métis and proud of it."



"The vision we have today is the same vision Louis Riel had 150 years ago."



"We use this day ... to celebrate the ongoing contributions the vibrant Métis community makes to our great and diverse province."



# Louis Riel Day 2015



◀ MNO veterans lay wreaths at the Northwest Rebellion monument. From left: Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette and Chair of the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council Todd Ross.

of not only Métis rights but of diversity in general.

In her address, Jean Teillet also discussed reconciliation and related it to her most recent project, which is to write a popular history of the Métis Nation. She described how members of her family had saved hundreds of unpublished letters from Louis Riel as well as other letters written by Métis to newspapers and government officials asserting their culture and rights. She encouraged those in attendance to follow this example and pick up pens and write to make their voices heard. "Today," she said, "we don't pick up guns; we pick up pens."

This year's presentation from a representative of Métis youth was made by Joanna Burt. Joanna has become well-known across the MNO as a facilitator with the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program, her wonderful singing voice and ambition to become an opera singer. She shared some of the personal struggles of her life and how the ex-

ample of Louis Riel steeled her to keep going despite many challenges. "Remember Louis Riel's determination and remember you have a thousand ancestors backing you. Knowing this makes your dreams worth fighting for," she said. (For Joanna's complete remarks see page 9).

As is tradition, President Lipinski was the final speaker. He explained that although Riel was a true visionary who represented many things to many people he was also a family man who made the ultimate sacrifice for what he believed. He pointed out that if Canada had embraced Riel's vision that the nation would have reached its current place where it is finally beginning to embrace reconciliation much sooner. "Canada could have been on a different trajectory," he pointed out, "and would have been ahead of its time."

President Lipinski also spoke optimistically about the future indicating that we "... are moving more swiftly towards reconciliation." The MNO's long-standing positive re-





lationship with the government of Ontario is the foundation for that optimism but the recent federal election has also put in place a government that has made significant commitments to the Métis. President Lipinski pointed to the recently released mandate letters from Prime Minister Trudeau to his Ministers as another example of the strength of the new government's commitment to the Métis (see more on mandate letters on page 12). Working together we will achieve so much; we will achieve reconciliation," he concluded.

Other highlights from the ceremony included a wonderful opening prayer from Senator Porter-Brunelle and Senator Gordon's moving description of the death and burial of Riel. Vice-Chair McBride also reflected on the experiences of Métis families, including her own, who were forced underground by the events of 1885 and Speaker Levac presented President Lipinski with a certificate officially recognizing Louis Riel Day across Ontario.

The ceremony ended with the laying of wreaths of remembrance on the Northwest Rebellion monument. The wreaths were laid by executive members of the MNO Veterans' Council: President Joseph Paquette and Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy and by the Chair of the MNO Toronto York Region Métis Council Todd Ross.

In her closing remarks, MNO Chair Picotte encouraged participants to not put their Métis identity in a jar for a year and leave it on a shelf. Instead she said: "Go out and be the best Métis you can be and ... have fun."

With the ceremony complete for another year, the participants then moved to the Sheraton Centre Hotel where they enjoyed a Métis feast. MNO citizens and friends of the MNO enjoyed the delicious food at the feast and revelled in the comradeship of their Métis brothers and sisters making it the perfect end to another successful provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony. ∞

<p><b>FRANCE GÉLINAS</b> NDP Party Critic for Aboriginal Affairs</p> 	<p><b>JOANNA BURT</b> Representing Métis Youth</p> 	<p><b>JEAN TEILLET</b> Great grand-niece of Louis Riel and renowned Métis lawyer</p> 	<p><b>MNO President GARY LIPINSKI</b></p> 
<p>"Today is a celebration of everything that you have achieved and looking forward to everything being fully achieved."</p>	<p>"Riel came back to Canada to stand up for his people; even though the odds were against him, he came back."</p>	<p>"Make your voice heard."</p>	<p>"We still seek what Riel sought; that the Métis take their proper place in Confederation."</p>



# Louis Riel Day 2015



▲ The Métis flag flying at Confederation Park in Kingston.



▲ The MNO Niagara Region Métis Council at the flag-raising ceremony in Welland.



▲ The Métis flag flying outside Paterson Hall at Carleton University.



▲ Mayor Cam Guthrie and MNO Grand River Métis Council President Jennifer Parkinson.



▲ MNO citizens Norris Pyette (left) and Willard Folz (right).



▲ Métis folklore singers Renée Fournier and Linda Gagnon perform at Collège Boréal.



▲ Raising the Métis flag at Confederation College.



▲ Jenna and Kylie Camire playing the MNO Running the Rapids board game.



▲ A healing blanket workshop at Wilfrid Laurier University.

## Louis Riel Day across the province

To commemorate Louis Riel Day, MNO citizens and communities held events across the province to recognize the many contributions of the Métis to Canada, to celebrate Métis culture and to highlight Métis achievements.

**1 - Kingston** Thanks to MNO citizen Alvin McKay's efforts, Kingston's mayor proclaimed November 26 to be Louis Riel Day. The Métis flag was raised at two locations on Louis Riel Day. At Confederation Park near City Hall, the Métis flag remained flying for the entire day while at the intersection of Princess Street and Division Street, the Métis flag flew for the remainder of the week.

**2 - Niagara Region** The MNO Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMCM) organized four flag-raising ceremonies this year. For the first time, the Métis flag was raised in four major cities within the Niagara region. Members of the MNO NRMCM attended the first ceremony in Port Colborne followed by St. Catharines. In Niagara Falls, the Métis flag remained on display for the rest of that week. In Welland, it was the first Louis Riel Day ceremony for Mayor Frank Campion who was very excited to attend.

**3 - Carleton University** MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators Karly Wilson and Jordyn Playne hosted a Louis Riel Day celebration at Carleton University on November 16 with cultural crafts, including finger weaving and embroidery. The highlight of the celebration was the raising of the Métis flag at Paterson Hall. It was the first time an Aboriginal flag was raised on campus.

**4 - Guelph** On November 14, a Métis flag-raising ceremony took place at City Hall in Guelph, where Mayor Cam Guthrie was presented with a Métis sash. Mayor Guthrie stated he was nearly moved to tears from receiving such a gift. He said he was proud that the Métis flag was flying at City Hall and also acknowledged Louis Riel as a Canadian hero.

**5 - Sault Ste. Marie** Two Métis veterans were recognized on Louis Riel Day and presented with the Louis Riel Commemorative

Medal. MNO citizens Norris Pyette and Willard Folz were both presented with the medal as well as the Louis Riel Certificate

**6 - Sudbury** Collège Boréal in Sudbury held a Louis Riel Day cultural celebration where Métis folklore singers Renée Fournier and Linda Gagnon performed on campus.

**7 - Thunder Bay** The MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council, MNO staff and MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators gathered at Confederation College on November 16 to raise the Métis flag. Louis Riel Day celebrations launched Confederation College's Aboriginal Awareness Week activities. MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators provided Métis activities including dot art, games and finger weaving. MNO staff hosted a display and spoke with students about Métis culture and history

**8 - Kenora** The MNO Kenora Métis



# Louis Riel Day 2015



▲ The Métis flag held by community members in Dryden.



▲ Members of the MNO Northern Lights Métis Council hold up the Métis flag.



▲ North Bay Mayor Al McDonald (right of flagpole) reads the Riel Day proclamation.



▲ MNO Grand River Métis Council President Jennifer Parkinson (left of flag) and Ward 10 Councillor Sarah Marsh (right of flag) at Kitchener City Hall.



▲ Honoured guest and Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer (third from left) plays the wooden spoons during a Métis jig.



▲ MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator Katie Baltzer (left) teaches Métis jigging at the University of Windsor.



▲ Raising the Métis flag in Fort Frances.

Council hosted an event-filled day after Senator Karen Cederwall raised the Métis flag at City Hall. Workshops such as Métis dot art, finger weaving and making medicine bags were among the activities. A hay tossing competition brightened things up, along with Métis jigging lessons from MNO citizen Terri Forster and her two children.

**9 - Waterloo** MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator Melissa St. Amant organized a Louis Riel Day celebration at Wilfrid Laurier University. Melissa hosted a healing blanket workshop and over 10 community members and students attended, including Jennifer Parkinson, President of the MNO Grand River Métis Council. Melissa also cooked up some fry bread for everyone to enjoy

**10 - Dryden** Members of the MNO Northwest Métis Council invited everyone to take part in the raising of the Métis flag at Dryden City Hall followed by a Come and Go lunch at the MNO office.

**11 - Cochrane** On November 15, the MNO Northern Lights Métis Council raised the Métis flag at Town Hall. The day also included their Annual General Meeting, a special luncheon and some family fun at the bowling alley for people of all ages.

**12 - North Bay** At North Bay City Hall, special guests Mayor Al McDonald and newly elected Liberal MP Anthony Rota participated in the Métis flag-raising ceremony. MNO North Bay Métis Council Secretary and Treasurer Denis Tremblay spoke of the sig-

nificance of the flag to the Métis and of Louis Riel's dedication, courage, and how he paid the ultimate price for what he believed in: his people.

**13 - Kitchener** MNO Grand River Métis Council President Jennifer Parkinson along with over 90 Grade 7 and 8 students from St. Anne Roman Catholic Elementary School attended a Métis flag-raising ceremony at Kitchener City Hall. They were joined by Ward 10 Councillor Sarah Marsh.

**14 - Toronto** On November 16, the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council participated in a flag-raising ceremony at City Hall, followed by a celebration. Special guests during their event included Ward 19 Councillor Mike Layton and Ontario Minister

of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer, who participated in Métis jigging and enthusiastically played wooden spoons.

**15 - Windsor** MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators Katie Baltzer and Dana Carson organized a Louis Riel Day event at the University of Windsor. The event included Métis dot art lessons, a dream catcher workshop and Métis jigging lessons.

**16 - Fort Frances** The Town of Fort Frances proclaimed November 16 to November 20 as Louis Riel Week. On Louis Riel Day, the community gathered to raise the flag at Town Hall, followed by a feast of wild rice soup and bannock, fiddling and a bit of jigging at the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council's Hall.



# Louis Riel Day 2015



▲ From left: PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative Jennifer Nicholson, MNO TYRMC Secretary-Treasurer Marilyn Hew, MNO TYRMC Women's Prerepresentative Lindsay DuPré, MNO TYRMC Chair Todd Ross, MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu, Senator Constance Simmonds, MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride, MNO France Picotte, PCMNO Councillor for Region 8 Anita Tucker, PCMNO Executive Senator Reta Gordon.

## Toronto Métis Celebrate Riel Day

by  
MNO Staff

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) celebrated Louis Riel Day this year at two fantastic events!

On Saturday, November 14, the MNO TYRMC hosted its second annual Louis Riel Day Celebration, preceded by the council's monthly business meeting, in the Nexus Lounge at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. The venue offered breathtaking views of the CN Tower, downtown Toronto and Lake Ontario. Council President Tera Beaulieu, Chair Todd Ross, Secretary-Treasurer Marilyn Hew, Senator Constance Simmonds, Women's Representative Lindsay DuPré, Youth Representative Christine Skura and Councillors Justin Kogler and Virginia Barter were all in attendance.

Upon arrival, MNO citizens and Métis community members met and mingled. Senator Constance Simmonds opened the gathering by providing a prayer and welcoming remarks, followed by President Beaulieu sharing words of welcome. Everyone was then invited to join in on a potluck feast which included Three Sisters Soup and bannock and a variety of other delicious items.

As everyone was enjoying their lunch, Beaulieu provided an update on the activities of the MNO TYRMC since April 2015. Highlights shared included the MNO TYRMC's participation in the Pan AM and Parapan AM Games, participation in National Aboriginal Day events, attendance at the Sisters in Spirit Vigil for Missing and



▲ Métis fiddler Alicia Blore plays at Riel Day.

Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Region 8 Consultation Committee activities, participation in Remembrance Day events, and the MNO TYRMC Youth Committee's success in obtaining a grant to host cultural knowledge exchanges for Métis youth and knowledge keepers in Toronto and surrounding areas over the course of the next year. Beaulieu also provided a preview of some of the upcoming events that MNO citizens may wish to participate in, including a consultation with the Toronto Ravine Strategy on December 8, 2015, and follow up meetings with the Ministry of Transportation to discuss a new 400-series highway in York Region. The MNO TYRMC website contains further details on these meetings.

Beaulieu also reflected on the significance of the community coming together to mark Louis Riel Day and expressed the council's delight

in having so many MNO citizens and community members present to celebrate the history and culture of the Métis Nation. Beaulieu ended her remarks by personally thanking and acknowledging all of the council members in attendance, commenting on the hard work, dedication, and commitment they demonstrate for their community.

Several special presentations were delivered by Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy on behalf of the MNO Veterans' Council. Senator Kennedy presented a certificate of appreciation to Beaulieu and to MNO TYRMC Youth Representative Christine Skura for their contributions to the MNO Veterans' Council book, *Fighting For Canada Before There Was A Canada: Ontario Métis Veterans Pass the Torch*. Beaulieu had submitted the biography of MNO Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette, while Skura had written Senator Kennedy's biography. Senator Kennedy also presented each of them with a copy of the book.

Following these presentations, Senator Kennedy presented MNO TYRMC Chair Todd Ross, and MNO Citizen Réjean Michel, CD, with their Louis Riel medals and certificates for their service in the Canadian Armed Forces. Senator Kennedy also discussed the MNO Veterans' Council's planned pilgrimage to Vimy Ridge for Métis youth and veterans. A table was set up for those who wished to purchase the MNO Veterans' Council books or donate to the pilgrimage.

The Louis Riel Day keynote address was given by Jesse Thistle, an MNO citizen and scholar. Thistle spoke about his research at York University, specifically his paper on



▲ MNO Veterans' Council Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy (L) presents MNO Citizen Réjean Michel, CD, with a Louis Riel Certificate for his service in the Armed Forces.



▲ MNO Senator Olivine Tiedema shared a special song with everyone at the gathering, singing into a microphone so that she could be heard by all.

continued on page 36 ...



# Louis Riel Day 2015



## “Remember you have a thousand ancestors backing you”

Joanna Burt is an MNO citizen and past MNO Summer Youth Culture Program Facilitator who was invited to speak at the 2015 Louis Riel Day provincial ceremony on behalf of Métis youth. Her complete remarks follow:

submitted by  
**Joanna Burt**  
MNO Citizen

I can only speak to what I know. And what I know is that Louis Riel is one of the most powerful and controversial Métis leaders. When I think about pride, it isn't something that I feel very often. There are a few times that I have felt pride in my life, but I recall a moment that I hold very dear. This past summer, working for the Métis Nation of Ontario, I went with two of my colleagues to a school in Oshawa to give a workshop in Métis jigging and fiddling. Afterwards, the three of us visited some of the other classrooms, where different teachers were sharing their culture with the students. We passed by a room with samba music bursting out the door, so we decided to go on inside and inside was a man from El Salvador. He noticed our Métis clothing and asked if we were Native. We explained that we were from the Métis Nation of Ontario and that we had just been teaching a workshop in the room down the hall. What happened next astonished me! I have never heard anyone speak so passionately about Louis Riel, and this was a man not even born in Canada. He explained that in Latin America, students learn about the life of Riel and regard him as a hero.

I realized that visiting those other rooms, we weren't just putting in time. Those visits were symbolic. We were creating Métis relations with Italians, with Trinidadian steel pan players, with Middle Eastern belly dancers, with Scottish Highland dancers and with many other cultures. In that moment, when that man spoke so passionately about Louis Riel and the Métis people, and when I saw the passion and love in his eyes, I felt deeply proud to be Indigenous.

In contrast to his other Métis counterpart, Gabriel Dumont, Riel was an academic man. He attended university in Montreal and was possibly one of the first Métis people to climb as high as he did in the education system. Again, I can only speak to what I know. But what I know is that I am the only Indigenous or Métis woman in my post-secondary program, and that can feel extremely isolating. I don't know how Riel felt being the only Native man in his huge European classrooms but I know this: to be an isolated Aboriginal or Métis woman in school feels like swim-



▲ Joanna Burt.

*“In that moment, when that man spoke so passionately about Louis Riel and the Métis people, and when I saw the passion and love in his eyes, I felt deeply proud to be Indigenous.”*

— Joanna Burt

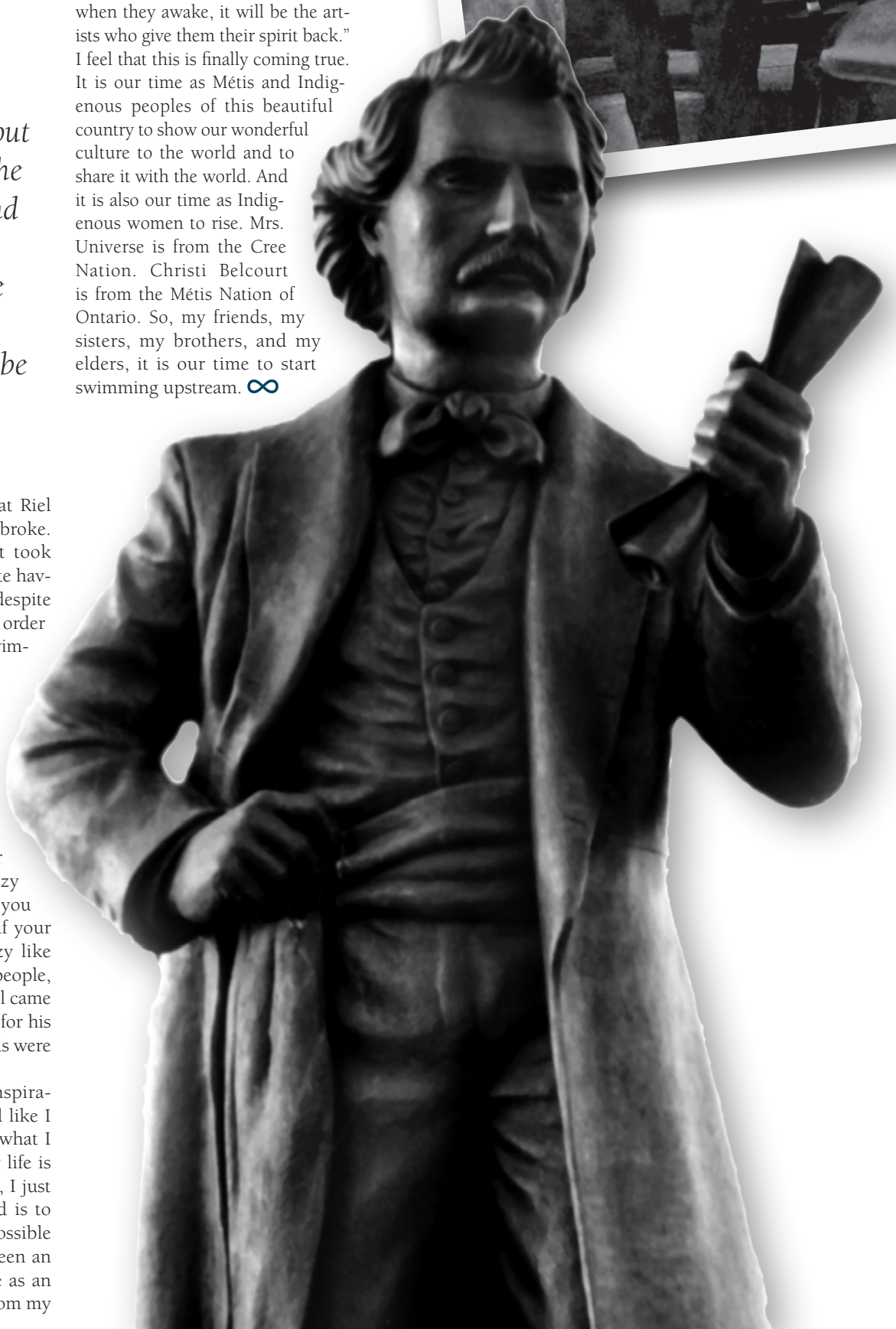
ming upstream. I know that Riel had a backbone that never broke. Despite a government that took over traditional lands, despite having a bounty on his head, despite having to flee the country in order to save his life, he kept on swimming upstream.

I am from a divorced household and I am not from a well-off family. But no matter how hard it is for me as an Indigenous woman, I pursue my studies because I feel like it is my duty. Even if your dreams are something crazy like being an opera singer, you can make it happen. Even if your dreams are something crazy like fighting for your sovereign people, you can make it happen. Riel came back to Canada to stand up for his people; even though the odds were against him, he came back.

Louis Riel is such an inspiration to me. Whenever I feel like I can't go on or if I feel like what I have chosen to do with my life is too much or too impossible, I just think to myself, “All I need is to fight even though the impossible seems impossible.” It has been an extremely long road for me as an artist and it is the support from my

family and the Métis community that has made this journey possible. It is still an on-going journey but it has been made significantly better with all the support I have. Even when you don't have the money, you can find a way to make your dreams a reality. Remember that you have a family backing you. Remember Louis Riel's determination and remember that you have a thousand ancestors backing you. Knowing this makes your dreams worth fighting for.

Louis Riel once said, “My people will sleep for one hundred years, but when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their spirit back.” I feel that this is finally coming true. It is our time as Métis and Indigenous peoples of this beautiful country to show our wonderful culture to the world and to share it with the world. And it is also our time as Indigenous women to rise. Mrs. Universe is from the Cree Nation. Christi Belcourt is from the Métis Nation of Ontario. So, my friends, my sisters, my brothers, and my elders, it is our time to start swimming upstream. ∞







▲ (L-R) MNO President Gary Lipinski; Dr. Peter Russell with the University of Toronto Political Science Department and Chair of the Research Advisory Committee for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples; Métis lawyer Jean Teillet (moderator); Métis lawyer Jason Madden; Candice Telfer, Counsel for the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

# The Road Ahead Reconciliation with the Métis

by  
MNO Staff

As it has for the last 15 years, provincial Louis Riel Day events in Toronto included an event co-hosted by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Law Society of Upper Canada. Held in the late afternoon and evening on November 16 at the Law Society offices in Toronto, the event as usual focused on Métis law but this year was presented with a slightly different twist.

Rather than simply a series of lectures on a common theme, this year's event was a roundtable where five esteemed experts engaged in a lively conversation and they not only took questions from the audience of over 200 lawyers, paralegals, law students, government officials and MNO citizens but also answered questions from an on-line audience that watched the roundtable via simultaneous webcast.

The title of the roundtable was "Reconciliation with the Métis: the road ahead" and was MCed by MNO Associate Chief Operating Officer Margaret Froh. The roundtable was moderated by noted Métis lawyer Jean Teillet, who is famous for her work as chief counsel for the historic *Powley v. Canada* case. The roundtable panelists were MNO President Gary Lipinski, prominent Métis lawyer Jason Madden, Candice Telfer, Counsel for the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, and Dr. Peter Russell, with the University of Toronto Political Science Department and Chair of the Research Advisory Committee for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

The context for the start of the roundtable discussion included the recent calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commis-

*"The unfinished business of reconciliation of the Métis people with Canadian sovereignty is a matter of national and constitutional import."*

Supreme Court of Canada in *Manitoba Metis Federation v. Canada* (2013)

sion and the several recent and pending Supreme Court cases that will impact Métis; most notably the *Manitoba Metis Federation v. Canada* and *Daniels v. Canada*. The discussion centred on what reconciliation looks like for Métis and how can it be accomplished.

Teillet explained that "reconciliation is compelling because it suggests we can change things. The very idea we are talking about it [means] we have opened a door."

One stream of the conversation concerned how reconciliation depends on more than just court cases. Dr. Russell stated: "Reconciliation is a relationship between people. Law can help [but] you can't put everything between laws and courts." In this part of the conversation, Métis history and educating non-Métis about the Métis story was stressed. "We shouldn't fill up the content of reconciliation

with Section 35 [of The Constitution Act, 1982]. It doesn't tell the whole story – we can't depend entirely on court cases. We need to mainstream and normalize Métis history," stated Telfer. "[We need to] quit asking questions like whether there are Métis [and] whether they have rights," she also commented. Madden indicated that for Ontario Métis it was particularly important "... to tell the whole [Métis] story not just about the Red River. That is the path to reconciliation. [It] starts with that truth." President Lipinski explained that reconciliation requires "building a solid foundation about our history blended with the narrative that has become Canada."

At one point, Mitch Case, the Youth Representative on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) asked the roundtable what role young people could play in reconciliation. President Lipinski emphasized that it was important that youth be involved in learn as much as possible about the MNO and be involved in all elements of its operations. "The mantle will be passed to you," he explained, "so, be an [information] sponge."

Madden added that it is young people who will answer the question "What does self-government look like?" He stated that it is young people who will determine "how we make this government we fought for [and] what does it look like."

In his concluding remarks, the recent election of a new federal government allowed President Lipinski to strike an optimistic tone. "When looking at the recent mandate letters to the federal Ministers," stated President Lipinski, "we are in a unique place [and I think] we can now move things forward a little faster." ∞



▲ MNO President Gary Lipinski speaks at the panel.



▲ MNO Citizens Joanna Burt (L) and Simone Blais (R) demonstrate a traditional jig accompanied by Métis fiddler Alicia Blore.



## FEDERAL ELECTION 2015

# MNO President Gary Lipinski congratulates Prime Minister Trudeau on election victory

by  
MNO Staff

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski offered his congratulations to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for his convincing election victory on October 19.

"We were very pleased that Prime Minister Trudeau addressed important Métis issues during the campaign and are hopeful that his commitment to advancing and achieving reconciliation with the Métis Nation can become a reality," explained President Lipinski.

In its Métis-specific policy platform, the Liberal Party committed to a renewed "nation-to-nation relationship" with the Métis Nation as well as "establish[ing] a federal claims process that sets out a framework to address Métis rights protected by s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, recognize Métis self-government, and resolve outstanding Métis claims against the Crown." It also committed to "undertak[ing] a collaborative review, in partnership with Métis communities, of existing federal programs and services available to the Métis Nation, to identify gaps and areas where strategic investments are needed in order to improve Métis quality of life" and creating a five-year Métis Economic

Development Strategy with an immediate investment of \$25 million over five years.

"The MNO looks forward to working together with the new Liberal Government in implementing these Métis-specific commitments, amongst other commitments to Indigenous people, for a stronger Métis Nation and Canada. In particular, the commitment to finally engage in a meaningful process to address Métis rights and claims is a significant breakthrough for our rights-bearing communities here in Ontario," said President Lipinski.



▲ MNO President Gary Lipinski

During the campaign, Prime Minister Trudeau also committed to meeting with the Métis Nation's leadership on an annual basis in order to ensure a new, collaborative and respectful relationship is built. "We are looking forward to our meetings with the new government," explained President Lipinski, "as we believe these will provide the opportunity for the Métis Nation and Canada to begin the important work of meaningful reconciliation." ∞

*"The MNO looks forward to working together with the new Liberal Government in implementing these Métis-specific commitments."*



▲ Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

## President Lipinski congratulates new Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs

by  
MNO Staff

On November 4, 2015, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski offered his congratulations to Dr. Carolyn Bennett on her appointment as the federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

"The MNO was very pleased to hear of the appointment of Dr. Carolyn Bennett as Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs. We have had a long association with Minister Bennett," explained President Lipinski. "In her previous capacity as Aboriginal Affairs critic for the Liberal Party, she was a regular guest at MNO's Annual General Assemblies and our Louis Riel Day ceremonies."

"During the election campaign Prime Minister Trudeau made several important commitments to the Métis Nation," added President Lipinski. "We are hopeful that with this new government, advancing and achieving reconciliation between Canada and the Métis Nation

*"We are hopeful that with this new government, advancing and achieving reconciliation between Canada and the Métis Nation can finally become a reality."*

— MNO President  
Gary Lipinski

can finally become a reality."

In its Métis-specific policy platform, the Liberal Party committed to a renewed "nation-to-nation relationship" with the Métis Nation, and to establishing a federal claims process that sets out a framework to address Métis rights protected by s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, that recognizes Métis self-govern-

ment and resolves outstanding Métis claims against the Crown. It also committed to "undertak[ing] a collaborative review, in partnership with Métis communities, of existing federal programs and services available to the Métis Nation, to identify gaps and areas where strategic investments are needed in order to improve Métis quality of life" and creating a five-year Métis Economic Development Strategy with an immediate investment of \$25 million over five years. "The MNO looks forward to meeting with Minister Bennett and to working together with the new Liberal Government in implementing these Métis-specific commitments, as well as its other commitments to Indigenous people, for a stronger Métis Nation and Canada," said President Lipinski. "In particular, its commitment to finally engage in a meaningful process to address Métis rights and claims is a significant breakthrough for our rights-bearing communities here in Ontario." ∞



▲ Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs (L) with MNO President Lipinski at the 2013 AGA.



# FEDERAL ELECTION 2015

Mandate letters to new Federal Ministers reflect commitments to the Métis Nation

## “No relationship is more important to me and to Canada than the one with Indigenous Peoples”

by  
MNO Staff

On March 13, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued mandate letters to his recently appointed cabinet ministers. Through mandate letters the Prime Minister directly instructs his cabinet ministers and outlines his expectations and priorities for their various ministries for their upcoming mandate.

These letters are posted on the Government of Canada website in the Ministers section at [www.canada.ca/en/government/min-](http://www.canada.ca/en/government/ministers/index.htm)

[isters/index.htm](http://www.canada.ca/en/government/ministers/index.htm). Each Minister's mandate letter can be found on their individual page.

When discussing the mandate letters at a recent Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) meeting, MNO President Gary Lipinski indicated that it is very encouraging that the mandate letter for every minister included the following statement from the Prime Minister:

*No relationship is more important to me and to Canada than the one with Indigenous Peoples. It is time for a renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of*

*rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership.*

Even more encouraging is that the mandate letter for Dr. Carolyn Bennett, the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs contained specific commitments to the Métis Nation.

Below are excerpts from Prime Minister Trudeau's mandate letter to Minister Bennett that are directly pertinent to the Métis Nation:

*As Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, your overarching goal will be to renew the relationship between Canada and Indigenous Peoples. This renewal must*

*be a nation-to-nation relationship, based on recognition, rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership. I expect you to re-engage in a renewed nation-to-nation process with Indigenous Peoples to make real progress on the issues most important to First Nations, the Métis Nation, and Inuit communities – issues like housing, employment, health and mental health care, community safety and policing, child welfare, and education.*

*In particular, I expect you to work with your colleagues and through established legislative, regulatory, and Cabinet processes to deliver on your top priorities:*



▲ Dr. Carolyn Bennett is the new Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.



## PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S TOP PRIORITIES

for Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs

- To support the work of reconciliation, and continue the necessary process of truth telling and healing, work with provinces and territories, and with First Nations, the Métis Nation, and Inuit, to implement recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, starting with the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
- Develop, in collaboration with the Minister of Justice, and supported by the Minister of Status of Women, an approach to, and a mandate for, an inquiry into murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls in Canada, including the identification of a lead minister.
- Undertake, with advice from the Minister of Justice, in full partnership and consultation with First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation, a review of laws, policies, and operational practices to ensure that the Crown is fully executing its consultation and accommodation obligations, in accordance with its constitutional and international human rights obligations, including Aboriginal and Treaty rights.
- Work with the Minister of Finance to establish a new fiscal relationship that lifts the 2% cap on annual funding increases and moves towards sufficient, predictable and sustained funding for First Nations communities.
- Work with residential school survivors, First Nations, Métis Nation, Inuit communities, provinces, territories, and educators to incorporate Aboriginal and treaty rights, residential schools, and Indigenous contributions into school curricula.
- Work, on a nation-to-nation basis, with the Métis Nation to advance reconciliation and renew the relationship, based on cooperation, respect for rights, our international obligations, and a commitment to end the status quo.
- Collaborate with the Ministers of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change and Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard to ensure that environmental assessment legislation is amended to enhance the consultation, engagement and participatory capacity of Indigenous groups in reviewing and monitoring major resource development projects.
- Work with the Minister of Health to update and expand the Nutrition North program, in consultation with Northern communities.
- Work with the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development to launch consultations with provinces and territories and Indigenous Peoples on a National Early Learning and Childcare Framework as a first step towards delivering affordable, high-quality, flexible and fully inclusive child care.
- Work, in collaboration with the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, and in consultation with First Nations, Inuit, and other stakeholders, to improve essential physical infrastructure for Indigenous communities including improving housing outcomes for Indigenous Peoples.
- Work with the Minister of Status of Women to support the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities in ensuring that no one fleeing domestic violence is left without a place to turn by growing and maintaining Canada's network of shelters and transition houses.
- Work with the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour and the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development to promote economic development and create jobs for Indigenous Peoples.



# FEDERAL ELECTION 2015

## MNO citizen Vance Badawey elected to Parliament

by  
MNO Staff

Congratulations to Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Vance Badawey, recently elected as Member of Parliament (MP) for Niagara Centre. A record number of Aboriginal people were elected to the House of Commons in the 2015 federal election.

Badawey's grandparents came to Port Colborne from northern Ontario, moving their French-speaking family to a very English region back in those days. They raised four children while operating a family business for over 50 years and holding on to their Métis culture.

As a local business owner, the new MP has been very active in the Niagara region, serving on several boards and committees in the area. These included Chairman of the Port Colborne Health Services Task Force, the Port Colborne Hydro

Inc. Board of Directors and as a member of the Niagara Regional Development Charges Task Force.

On October 25, Badawey attended the annual Métis Harvest Dinner hosted by the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council. Badawey, Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Cindy Forster and Welland Mayor Frank Campion were presented with Métis sashes by MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President Derrick Pont.

In a recent interview, Badawey discussed the Liberal platform presented by the Liberal party prior to the federal election.

"The entire Aboriginal platform is great. Regardless of ethnic background, [Canada] is a country where everyone belongs," he said.

Badawey served as Mayor of Port Colborne from 1997 to 2003 and from 2006 to 2014, and also served as Regional Councillor on the Niagara Regional Council during those terms. ∞



▲ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (left) with MNO citizen Vance Badawey (right), newly elected Liberal MP for Niagara Centre.

## MNO Senator Laframboise recalls first meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

submitted by  
Glen Lipinski, MNO Community Relations Coordinator

The recent election results reminded Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Garry Laframboise of his own encounter with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Three years ago, Senator Laframboise attended an event in Welland during Trudeau's campaign for the Liberal leadership. Senator Laframboise was asked to introduce Trudeau in French.

Due to a bad storm at the time, President Derrick Pont of the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council was unable to attend and Senator Laframboise had the opportunity to present Trudeau with a Métis sash on behalf of the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council.

“He was well aware of the meaning of our sash and was very proud of receiving it...”

“He was well aware of the meaning of our sash and was very proud of receiving it as I put it on him,” Senator Laframboise shared in an e-mail.

“I knew at that time that he was going to be successful [but] I did not realize that I was putting it on the next Prime Minister of Canada,” he admitted.

For the Senator, it was truly an honour and a great surprise! ∞



▲ MNO Senator Garry Laframboise (left) and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

## MNO Thunder Bay Council President meets Carolyn Bennett

submitted by  
Bryanna Scott, MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council President

Bryanna Scott, the President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Thunder Bay Métis Council had the opportunity to meet Dr. Carolyn Bennett, the new Federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, at the Charting Our Own Path Forward Education Symposium. Hosted by the Chiefs of Ontario, the Symposium was held November 17-19 in Thunder Bay. ∞



▲ MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council president Bryanna Scott (L) with Federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Dr. Carolyn Bennett.



## Remembrance Day 2015

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

## Three generations of Métis carry on a vital tradition

by  
MNO Staff

Every year on November 11, Métis from across the homeland participate in Remembrance Day Ceremonies. Being part of these ceremonies is very important to Métis because we have contributed to the defense of Canada as far back as the War of 1812 as well as both World Wars, the Korean Conflict, peacekeeping missions and most recently, Afghanistan. Over the years, many Métis have served and many have made the ultimate sacrifice. By making the Métis presence felt at Remembrance Day services, we show our respect for all Veterans and we remind all Canadians of Métis service and sacrifices.

Since 2004, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has laid a wreath at the National War Memorial in Ottawa during

*It's an honour to be here, remembering the ones who gave their lives."*

– Richard Lefebvre

National Remembrance Day ceremonies. This year, Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Jaime Lefebvre was asked to lay the wreath. Jaime requested the presence of her father, Richard Lefebvre, who also served in the military and retired as a Master Warrant Officer, and her son Ethan.

While Ethan is in the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, he plans to follow in the footsteps of his mother and grandfather, both of whom are MNO citizens, and join the army.

"I feel very proud of them, and really thankful they did that for our family and our country," he said.

As the three of them stood together after laying the wreath, they all saluted the National War Memorial in unison, their Métis sashes bright against the dark

green or grey of their uniforms. These days, Métis can proudly wear their sashes to identify their heritage.

"I think I'm very honoured and proud that the Canadian Armed Forces sat a committee so we could actually wear our Métis sash with our uniform," Jaime shared in an interview.

"They put a lot of thought and consulted Métis elders on the process and made a decision about how the sash would be worn. They didn't want to have two different standards. Instead of having the female way and the male way, we have the soldier's way: around the waist and with the knot on the left side. It won't be confused with the red sash, which is what our combat arms wear to represent the Queen's scarf and the blood that was shed in the battlefield by a lot of the infantry."

After the ceremony at the National War Memorial, father, daughter and grandson walked over to the National Aboriginal Veterans Memorial on Elgin Street. Jaime placed a poppy on the memorial and the three of them saluted.

"It's an honour to be here, remembering the ones who gave their lives," Richard said.

Together, Richard, Jaime and Ethan, three generations of Métis, continued a Remembrance Day tradition that will keep this vital and honoured ceremony alive. ∞

◀ Chief Warrant Officer Jaime Lefebvre (right) with her father, Richard Lefebvre (left), and her son, Royal Canadian Air Cadet Ethan Lefebvre, at the Aboriginal Veterans Monument in Ottawa.





# MNO veteran attends Remembrance Day at Queen’s Park

submitted by  
**Dr. Alis Kennedy, O.Ont, CD, OMC**  
MNO Veterans’ Council Senator

For the fifth year in a row, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, O.Ont, CD, OMC, had the honour of being invited to the Remembrance Day ceremony at Queen’s Park by the Office of the Premier.

During the ceremony, attendees were able to view a video of Pre-

mier Kathleen Wynne’s attendance of Remembrance Day ceremonies in Hong Kong, China. Premier Wynne spoke in a video message and afterward her partner, Jane Rounthwaite, placed a wreath at the memorial on the Premier’s behalf.

Speakers at the ceremony included Honourary Lieutenant General Richard Rohmer, Canada’s most decorated citizen; Michael Coteau, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport; and Brigadier-General Lowell Thomas, commander of the 4th Canadian Division. ∞



▲ Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, O.Ont, CD, OMC.



▲ Florence Lacroix (left) and MNO citizen Doug Woods (right).

## MNO veteran honours his elders

by  
MNO Staff

During the Remembrance Day ceremony in Penetanguishene, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Doug Woods attended the event with his mother-in-law Florence Lacroix.

The Remembrance Day ceremony took place at the Ontario War Memorial at Memorial Park. The memorial is dedicated to those who fell during the Great Wars and those lost in the Korean War.

Mrs. Lacroix is the widow of the late Omer Lacroix, a veteran of the Second World War. ∞

# Métis youth helps student choir commemorate Remembrance Day

submitted by  
**Shawna Hansen**  
MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

Eight-year-old Savannah Hansen, granddaughter of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Paula Lajeunesse and daughter of MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Shawna Hansen of Sault Ste. Marie, felt very proud on Remembrance Day as she and her classmates performed at the Essar Centre.

In 2014, the students in Savannah’s choir at St. Mary’s French Immersion Catholic School put their heads together and decided to create a song for Remembrance Day. They all came up with phrases and words on a poster board that they



▲ Savannah Hansen holding a finger-woven sash with a Remembrance Day poppy.

used to write a song titled *In A World Without Peace*. The song was a hit and the choir

was asked to sing it during the 2015 Remembrance Day ceremony at Essar Centre.

The lyrics contain an important message to remember those who fought for peace:

*Sometimes I stop and think,  
What would it be like,  
If no one remembered,  
In a world without peace?  
[...]  
On Remembrance Day we pray,  
Let’s show our appreciation today.  
Au jour du souvenir,  
Nous devons réfléchir.*

St. Mary’s French Immersion Catholic School partnered with another local school for the Remembrance Day performance. ∞

## Veterans honoured in Blind River ceremony

submitted by  
**Yvonne Jensen**  
MNO North Channel Métis Council President

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Channel Métis Council President Yvonne Jensen and Senator Blair Sterling attended the Remembrance Day ceremony in Blind River to honour local veterans by placing a wreath at the cenotaph.

During the ceremony, a local resident captured a lovely picture of President Jensen as she humbly placed the wreath.

“I didn’t know this photo was taken,” she shared in an e-mail. “It was sent to me by a friend. He gave me permission to share it.” ∞



▲ MNO North Council Métis Council President Yvonne Jensen places a wreath on the cenotaph.



▲ Senator Eugene Contant.

## MNO Senator honours soldiers

submitted by  
**Jack Courville**  
MNO Citizen

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Eugene Contant represented the MNO Northern Lights Métis Council during a Remembrance Day ceremony in Cochrane.

Senator Contant respectfully removed his hat after placing a wreath at the memorial. The wreath was covered in poppies and shaped like a cross.

The MNO Northern Lights Métis Council asked Senator Contant to place the wreath to honour all soldiers on behalf of the MNO. ∞



# Housing Services for Métis people

## Ontario Renovates

**Ontario Renovates** is generally offered through local municipal service managers across the province; however, access and eligibility criteria may vary from one community to another.

Under **IAH** (2014 extension), funding has been set aside for Métis, First Nations and Inuit people living off-reserve as well as funding specifically targeted to rural communities in Northern Ontario. The **Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)**, by way of its agency **Infinity Property Services**, is involved the following **Ontario Renovates** programs.

Please note that the majority of these programs are open to all people regardless of Aboriginal descent. For all other areas please contact your Local Municipal Service Manager or District Social Services Administration Board.

## Assistance for Homeowners

Being a homeowner can be enticing and rewarding, but it also can be challenging, especially if you do not have the means to address repairs or modification required to your home.

There is funding available in many communities to assist eligible homeowners with repairs or modifications. The **Ontario Renovates Program** is a component of the **Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) Program** (2014) extension that does just that: it helps low to moderate income homeowners improve their living conditions through financial assistance to repair or modify their homes.



Program	Overview	Target	Contact:
<b>ONTARIO RENOVATES</b> Northern Remote Communities	Assistance for low to moderate income homeowners to repair/modify their home up to an average forgivable loan of \$25,000	Communities with a population of less than 2,500 in the districts of Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay, Algoma, Cochrane, Timiskaming, Manitoulin- Sudbury, Nipissing or Parry Sound	<b>Infinity Property Services</b> 1-800-891-5881 Ext 317 Or 1-705-436-5143 <a href="http://www.infinitypropertieservices.ca">www.infinitypropertieservices.ca</a>
<b>ONTARIO RENOVATES</b> Kenora District	Assistance for low to moderate income Kenora District homeowners to repair/modify their home up to an average forgivable loan of \$25,000	Kenora District Residents	<b>Infinity Property Services</b> 1-800-891-5881 Ext 317 Or 1-705-436-5143 <a href="http://www.infinitypropertieservices.ca">www.infinitypropertieservices.ca</a>
<b>ONTARIO RENOVATES</b> Rainy River District	Assistance for low to moderate income Rainy River homeowners to repair/modify their home up to an average forgivable loan of \$25,000	Rainy River District Residents	<b>Rainy River District Services Administration Board</b> 1-800-265-5349 Ext 231 or 807-274-5349 <a href="http://www.rrdssab.ca">www.rrdssab.ca</a>
<b>ONTARIO RENOVATES</b> Nipissing District	Assistance for low to moderate income Nipissing District homeowners to repair/modify their home up to an average forgivable loan of \$25,000	Nipissing District Residents	<b>District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board</b> 1-705-474-2151 <a href="http://www.dnssab.on.ca">www.dnssab.on.ca</a>
<b>FIMUR Home Repair</b>	Assistance for low to moderate income Nipissing District homeowners to repair/modify their home up to an average forgivable loan of \$25,000	Métis, First Nations or Inuit living outside of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)	<b>Ontario Aboriginal Housing</b> 1-866-391-1061 ext. 216 <a href="http://www.ontarioaboriginalhousing.ca">www.ontarioaboriginalhousing.ca</a>

**Infinity Property Services (IPS)** is an agency of the **MNO** that provides housing programs and services on behalf of federal, provincial and municipal governments. As part of our work we continue to pursue new business opportunities to maintain our self-sufficient operations while still providing much needed housing services to Métis and other people across the province. For more information, please visit our website: [www.infinitypropertieservices.ca](http://www.infinitypropertieservices.ca)





## NATION

The Métis Voyageur has been following **Daniels v. Canada** for over a decade. On October 8, the case went before the Supreme Court of Canada. Just prior to the case being heard, the magazine *Canadian Lawyer* published the following article by noted Métis lawyer Jason Madden. Madden, a partner at Pape Salter Teillet LLP, has been involved in much of the litigation on Métis rights over the last decade and was recognized as one of Canada's 25 Most Influential Lawyers in 2014. He was legal counsel for the Métis National Council in its intervention on **Daniels v. Canada** on October 8. Now that **Daniels v. Canada** has been heard by the Supreme Court it is expected that the Court will bring down its ruling sometime in 2016.

# Who are 'Indians' within Parliament's authority and why does it matter?

submitted by  
**Jason Madden**  
MNO Lawyer & Citizen

On Oct. 8, the Supreme Court of Canada will hear arguments from Canada, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Métis Nation, First Nations, and other groups in *Daniels v. Canada*. The Daniels case--initiated by well-known Métis leader Harry Daniels in 1999--will hopefully lead to Canada revisiting its arbitrary and exclusionary policies towards Métis and non-status Indians (i.e., members of First Nations who are not able to register as "status Indians" under the Indian Act).

As acknowledged in Canada's internal documents that were disclosed in the litigation, these federal policies (or lack thereof) have produced the "most disadvantaged of all Canadian citizens."

The case will answer the longstanding question of whether the Métis and non-status Indians are included within the meaning of s. 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*. This head of power grants "exclusive Legislative Authority" for "Indians, and Lands reserved for the Indians" to the federal Parliament.

In recent times, Canada has taken an extremely narrow interpretation in relation to this jurisdiction, which conveniently excludes the Métis and non-status Indians. This has resulted in these groups being treated as proverbial "political footballs" and falling between the jurisdictional cracks of this country.

In the words of the trial judge, this gamesmanship has created a "large population of collaterally damaged" Aboriginal people.

Based on the voluminous evidentiary record, both the Federal Court and Federal Court of Appeal concluded that s. 91(24) was necessarily broad enough to include all of the aboriginal peoples (i.e., First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) Canada encountered as it expanded from coast to coast to coast post-confederation.

In other words, s. 91(24) was not limited to "Indians" as defined by Canada through the Indian Act. Nor did it exclude the Métis--who emerged as a distinct Aboriginal Peoples in the western territories--prior to Canada becoming the Canada we know today.

On appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, the federal government continues to argue for an arbitrarily narrow interpretation of this unique head of power, which would exclude these groups from treaty-making and thwart meaningful reconciliation with them.

In particular, for the Métis, this case is a part of their "hunt for justice." After it became apparent that governments were not going to negotiate with them in order to give meaning to their inclusion in s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, the Métis have



“With these developments, it should be clear to everyone what needs to happen. Real negotiations on issues such as Métis rights, lands, and self-government must be engaged.”

MNO Lawyer, Jason Madden

repeatedly turned to the courts to uphold this country's honour and fulfil the constitutional promise made to them more than 30 years ago.

From *R. v. Powley* in 2003 (which recognized that Métis communities have pre-existing aboriginal rights protected by s. 35) to *Cunningham v. Alberta* in 2011 (wherein Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin urged that "the time has finally come for recognition of the Métis as a unique and distinct people") to *Manitoba Metis Federation v. Canada* in 2013 (which recognized the outstanding constitutional grievance of the Manitoba Métis flowing from land grant provisions set out in s. 31 of the *Manitoba Act, 1870*), the Supreme Court of Canada has been consistent and unequivocal: s. 35 demands good faith and meaningful negotiations and reconciliation with the Métis people as well.

Unfortunately, Canada has not been listening.

The Métis continue to be excluded from federal comprehensive and specific claims processes available to First Nations and the Inuit. They are denied access to desperately needed programs available to other aboriginal groups. They are often excluded from Crown consultation on their rights because governments simply "put their heads in the sand" when it comes to Métis issues.

While a positive outcome in the Daniels case won't change this re-

ality overnight, it will remove one of the last vestiges Canada hides behind to justify its complete lack of leadership and inaction when it comes to dealing with the Métis.

Notably, independent experts, including some hand-picked by the current federal government, have come to similar conclusions.

In his April 2015 report prepared for Canada on the federal comprehensive claims process, Vancouver-based lawyer Douglas Eyford wrote, "Canada must do more in its relationship with the Métis." He went on to recommend that Canada "develop a reconciliation process to support the exercise of Métis s. 35 rights and to reconcile their interests."

In the same vein, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has criticized Canada for not having "a coherent process or policy in place to address the land and compensation claims of the Métis people."

With these developments, it should be clear to everyone what needs to happen. Real negotiations on issues such as Métis rights, lands, and self-government must be engaged.

Just and lasting settlements with the Métis, whether they are called treaties, modern-day land claims, or some other type of agreement, must be reached and given legal force and effect with s. 91(24)'s certainty.

Hopefully, the next federal government will finally see the writing on the wall and move forward on these issues. If not, the Métis are hopeful the Daniels case will provide additional judicial direction that federal inaction on Métis rights and claims is no longer an option. ∞

▲ **Daniels v. Canada** was initially brought by Harry Daniels (1940-2004), a charismatic and accomplished Métis leader.





▲ Signatories to the Cooperation Agreement between the MNO and Mitaanigamiing First Nation (left to right): MNO Kenora Métis Council President Joel Henley, MNO President Gary Lipinski, MNO Sunset Country Métis Council President Clint Calder, Mitaanigamiing First Nation Chief Janice Henderson, Mitaanigamiing First Nation Land Entitlement Negotiating Team member Stewart Henderson, PCMNO Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund, Mitaanigamiing First Nation Elder and member of Negotiating Team Edna Morrison, MNO Northwest Métis Council President Ronald Robinson, MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council President Marlene Davidson and Region 1 Captain of the Hunt Sandy Triskle.

# MNO signs cooperation agreement with Mitaanigamiing First Nation

by  
MNO Staff

On October 13, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) as represented by MNO President Gary Lipinski and the members of the MNO Region 1 Consultation Committee signed a cooperation agreement with the Mitaanigamiing First Nation. Mitaanigamiing First Nation is located at the northwestern arm of Rainy Lake, about 70 kilometres north of Fort Frances. The reserve encompasses approximately 1,600 hectares of land comprised of mainland, a peninsula, and two islands. About 140 people are part

of this First Nation. The Mitaanigamiing First Nation is currently involved in a Treaty Land Entitlement Claim and will be selecting Settlement Lands that include parts of the traditional harvesting territory of the Regional rights-bearing Métis community represented by the MNO Treaty #3/Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul and Rainy Lake/Rainy River Regional Consultations Committee (Region 1 Consultation Committee). “The MNO Region 1 Consultation Committee and the MNO support the settlement of outstanding First Nation claims,” explained MNO President Gary Lipinski, “including Mitaanigamiing’s Treaty

Land Entitlement Claim.” The Mitaanigamiing First Nation is also involved in discussions with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry concerning formalization of co-management of a campsite on Crown Land at Boffin Lake, which is frequently used by MNO Region 1 citizens for family and community gatherings. In the Cooperation Agreement, the Mitaanigamiing First Nations outlines its intention to continue to allow Region 1 MNO citizens access to the Settlement Lands for harvesting and other traditional land use purposes and outlines the conditions for cooperation. ∞

# MNO attends signing of Indigenous Education Protocol in Windsor

submitted by  
Sharon McBride  
MNO Vice Chair

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Vice-Chair Sharon McBride attended the signing of the Indigenous Education Protocol at St. Clair College on Tuesday, September 22, in Windsor. According to CBC, St. Clair College is the 13th Ontario college to sign the protocol. The Indigenous Education Protocol is made up of seven principles that aim to guide post-secondary institutions towards ensuring that

indigenous education is a priority and indigenous students’ cultural needs are acknowledged. “Gaps still exist between Métis learners and the general population,” Vice-Chair McBride stated in an interview with Blackburn News. “We need to continue to work to ensure Métis learners can see their communities and culture reflected within post-secondary institutions.” The signing took place during an Aboriginal ceremony at the college’s main campus in Windsor with students from the Chatham campus encouraged to view the ceremony via Skype. ∞



▲ MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride (centre) with newly elected MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council Vice-President Terry Desjardins (right) and self-identified Métis youth and first-year St. Clair College student Matthew Bombardier (left).



▲ Solar panels on the Calvary Pentecostal Church in Peterborough.

# MNO partnership successfully reduces carbon monoxide emissions

adapted from a press release that originally appeared at  
Benzinga.com

On August 25, the Métis Nation of Ontario-BrightRoof Solar LP (MNO-BR), Ontario Solar Power (OSP) and Calvary Church completed a 190 kW solar project that will reduce the emissions footprint of Ontario’s electricity system by approximately 50 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. Located in Peterborough, the Calvary Pentecostal Church has 828 solar panels on the roof. The panels will generate 228 kW of electricity, which is enough to power 26 Ontario households for a year. MNO-BR leased Calvary Church’s roof in order to install the panels, taking part of Ontario’s Feed-In Tariff program for solar power. Started in 2009 by the Government of Ontario, this program allows individuals and companies to develop renewable energy projects connected to Ontario’s power grid, while receiving a fixed price per kilowatt hour for the energy

produced. OSP developed, engineered and installed the solar project. It’s the company’s first solar project in Peterborough. “We are very appreciative of the care and attention to detail that Ontario Solar Provider has given throughout the duration of this project,” shared Paul Mallot, Lead Pastor at Calvary Church. “Their use of a ballasted racking system has kept the integrity of our roof warranty intact, which gives us peace of mind for years to come,” Mallot stated. Every component within the panel system was manufactured within Ontario, ensuring that the project benefit Canadian companies as well as Ontario residents. “Projects like this solar installation at Calvary Church are a great example of how property owners are partnering with solar developers to leverage their unused rooftops, generating additional revenue for their organizations while supporting the development of renewable energy projects across Ontario,” said Sebastian Seyfarth, President of OSP. MNO-BR owns more than 30 solar projects across the province. ∞





▲ MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators, staff and community members at the 2015-2016 Infinite Reach Midterm Meeting in Toronto. Front row (left to right): Alicia Blore, MNO Education Officer; Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle; Senator Cecile Wagar; Victor Brunelle; Katie Baltzer, University of Windsor. Middle row (left to right): Hope Lelieveld, Nipissing University; Janna Garrett, Nipissing University; Dana Carson, University of Windsor; Faith Bell, Lakehead University; Madeline Dennhardt, Confederation College; Melissa St. Amant, Wilfred Laurier University; Elise St. Germain, University of Toronto; Shanese Steele, Trent University; Paul Robitaille, Lakehead University. Back row (left to right): Ben Robitaille, Confederation College; Maddy Arkle, Western University; Michael Peters, Wilfred Laurier University; Aaron Oakes, Lakehead University; Joelle Thorgrimson, Northern Ontario School of Medicine; Renee Monchalin, University of Toronto; Karly Chapman, University of Guelph.

# A weekend of Métis knowledge sharing and community connections

submitted by  
**Alicia Blore**  
MNO Education Officer

The weekend of October 23 to 25 was truly a Métis fun-filled weekend for old and new Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Infinite Reach facilitators! Métis post-secondary students in the MNO Infinite Reach Student Solidarity Network gathered in Toronto for the Infinite Reach Midterm Meeting where they were given the opportunity to connect with senior facilitators about their past experiences, as well as connect with MNO Senators, community

members and MNO staff. New and returning MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators (IRF) enrolled in 11 post-secondary institutions from across the province were in attendance. All facilitators participated in a two-day training session to further familiarize themselves with the MNO, the Infinite Reach Student Solidarity Network, and to prepare for the current school year. This year there were presentations on MNO programs and services in addition to cultural knowledge training. One of the cultural activities included Métis jigging and dancing, facilitated by MNO staff member

Anne Trudel. Facilitators enjoyed jigging in group dances such as the Rabbit Dance. When facilitators were not jigging, they were learning to finger weave, bead, and embroider. Passing on traditional knowledge is very important to the Infinite Reach facilitators who can then take back and share what they learn with their local community and post-secondary institutions. The MNO is very proud of its Infinite Reach Facilitators; they volunteer their time to support the Métis community in their post-secondary institutions. ∞



▲ A facilitator teaches a young girl to jig.



▲ MNO Education Officer Alicia Blore helps Paul Robitaille with a beading project.



▲ Elders lead the participants in a drumming circle.

**Infinite Reach** is comprised of incoming and upper year post-secondary students who have the common goal of working together to enrich and enhance their post-secondary education experience. Members form a community of Métis learners within their college or university and support each other in their academic pursuits. **Infinite Reach Facilitators** are upper year students who offer assistance to incoming students by helping them adjust to university life. Infinite Reach Facilitators also work to create and maintain a sense of community among Métis students. Throughout the year, Infinite Reach Facilitators will host/facilitate cultural and informative events to connect students to the local MNO community councils and to the various programs, services and events of the MNO. The **Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network** will serve as a community of learners with the ability to inspire Métis students to achieve their full potential and provide the support of the Métis community.



# MNO staff attend training conference in British Columbia

submitted by  
**Ted Norris**  
OARGP Coordinator

The working group members of the Ontario Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program (OARGP), to which the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) provides provincial coordination support, had a unique and rewarding experience in Vancouver in late September of this year. Following a compelling business case from the MNO to the program's funder, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, it was agreed that the working group members would benefit from the training, learning and networking opportunities in British Columbia.

The group first attended the Four Directions Aboriginal Problem Gambling conference, which was a joint Canada-United States partnership. Working group members then held their regular in-person working meeting at the Skwachays Lodge in the heart of downtown Vancouver directly adjacent to the infamous "downtown east side" neighbourhood.

The Four Directions conference bridged knowledge and expertise of over 200 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal delegates in attendance. Two of the OARGP members were also presenters: Sheila Wahsquaikhezhiik from Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Lisa Jackson of Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians. The OARGP Coordinator, Ted Norris, promoted the group's efforts through the exhibit booth at the event.



▲ Front row, left to right: Angela Voght, BC Responsible Gambling Coordinator; Lisa Jackson, Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians; Sheila Wahsquaikhezhiik, Nishnawbe Aski Nation; Elder Ruth Adams, Tswassen First Nation; Jennifer Cornell, Ontario Native Women's Association; Loma Rowlinson, MNO staff; Stephanie Peplinskie, Union of Ontario Indians. Back row, left to right: Ted Norris, MNO staff; Maureen Greely, Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling; Kristin West, Evergreen Council; Angel Maracle, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres.

MNO's Loma Rowlinson joined Lisa and Sheila in a singing and drumming performance towards the close of the conference. This was just one example of the attention paid to west coast and other Aboriginal cultures which infused every aspect of the conference. All OARGP group members were deeply impressed by all that was shared.

Conference delegates were treated to a feast and cultural performance hosted by the Musqueam First Nation. The evening also featured Métis musicians and dancers

*[The] MNO's Loma Rowlinson joined Lisa and Sheila in a singing and drumming performance towards the close of the conference. This was just one example of the attention paid to west coast and other Aboriginal cultures which infused every aspect of the conference.*

(J.J. Lavalee, Fagon Furlong, Rowan and Quinn Pickering) who had the crowd cheering and on their feet! The Musqueam were amazing hosts despite dealing with the challenge of mourning a death in their community which under normal circumstances would have meant a total shut down of external activity. In the custom of the Musqueam and Salish peoples, we "raise our hands in friendship" for their generosity.

Following the conference, the OARGP working group relocated to the Skwachays Lodge which has the distinction of being one of North

America's first Aboriginal arts and culture hotels. This is evident from the moment you enter the lobby, which also serves as an art gallery, to the uniquely designed Aboriginal-themed guest rooms, many of which were styled or painted by the Aboriginal artists who live in the Lodge. The rent for the live-in artists is in fact subsidized by this "social enterprise" model run by the Vancouver Native Housing Society.

The working group was honoured to have Ruth Adams from the Tsawassen First Nation as the Elder for the two-day in-person meeting. An important part of Elder Ruth's contribution was to share her deeply rooted knowledge of west coast First Nation culture, including a hauntingly beautiful Welcome song she received from the late Chief Dan George. She also shared accounts of her personal community and workplace activism and encouraged us all to keep up the good work promoting healthy lifestyles and responsible gambling practices for our people.

Another highlight of the in-person meeting was the chance to speak to and ask questions of the Four Directions conference organizers about the effort and complexities of pulling off a conference of this scale. The working group made the best of their limited time in Vancouver and were grateful as well for the on-site and minute taking support provided by the MNO's Susan Johnston. Finally, we thank the Ministry for helping to make this special event happen. ∞

*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."* — Dr. Tim Cook, noted historian with the Canadian War Museum and Carleton University (source: [www.warmuseum.ca](http://www.warmuseum.ca))

## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO VETERANS' PILGRIMAGE TO VIMY RIDGE IN 2017

*Lest We Forget...*

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.

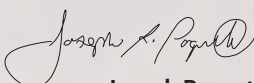
As we all know, Métis have been fighting for Canada before there was a Canada, and so it is especially important that Métis be represented at this commemoration. The MNO Veterans' Council has already been in contact with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, who

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 Paquette**  
President, MNO Veterans' Council



**Métis Nation of Ontario**  
Veterans' Council



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)**



# Métis dancing project published thanks to MNO assistance

submitted by  
**Ginny Gonneau**  
MNO Citizen

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Ginny Gonneau was delighted when she received an invitation to the official launch of Sylvie Roy's book *Let Me See Your Fancy Steps: Story of a Métis Dance Caller* in Regina. She followed a link to Amazon.com and saw the book's cover for the first time.

She was right there on the front with one of her dance mentors, Jeanne Pelletier.

Partial funding for the book was provided through the MNO's Métis Culture Based Economic Development Grant (MCED), a grant whose objective is to support economic self-determination in cultural industries, such as the arts or culture-related careers.

The MCED is one of the many programs that make up the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) designed to help Aboriginal people, regardless of status or location.

The book chronicles the experiences of Pelletier as she shared her cultural knowledge and dance teachings with many youth, including Gonneau, and about her role as a Métis dance caller, a person charged with guiding dancers



during Métis square dances and group dances.

"A few years back when I was living in Vancouver and doing some jigging with [fellow dancer] Yvonne Chartrand, I was part of a special Métis dance instruction video with [Pelletier]," Gonneau shared on her Facebook page.

The video, released on DVD, is called *All My Relations* and is also being officially launched with the book.

"I can still remember Jeanne's voice shouting, 'Let me see those fancy steps!' [She's] an amazing woman and dance caller. So cool that I'm on her book," she said. ∞



▲ Ginny Gonneau (centre) teaches Métis dance steps to students from Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School in Toronto.

## PCMNO Senator attends historic Elders gathering hosted by Northern Ontario School of Medicine

by  
MNO Staff

From August 18 -20, Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Senator Rene Gravelle attended a historic gathering hosted by the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's (NOSM) Aboriginal Affairs Unit. Aboriginal Elders from Métis and First Nations communities across Northern Ontario met to plan the future of the NOSM's Council of Elders.

In the past 10 years, the NOSM developed relationships with over 20 Elders who brought much skill and knowledge to the Aboriginal Affairs Unit and the school's students on both the Laurentian University campus in Sudbury and the Lakehead University campus in Thunder Bay.

With the school's 10th anniversary taking place this year, the NOSM re-evaluated the structure of the Council of Elders and decided to find a structure that would better reflect the ties between Aboriginal tradition and medicine.

"Rather than forming a corporate style working group, we decided it

was best to bring the question on how to restructure the Council of Elders to the Elders themselves," explained Tina Armstrong, NOSM's Director of Aboriginal Affairs. "We embraced our culture and took the question of how to change the Council of Elders to the spirits for guidance through ceremony."

Senator Gravelle participated in a Turtle Lodge Ceremony on the traditional lands of the Fort William First Nation near Thunder Bay. Their ceremony is a tradition among the First Nations with deep, spiritual connections.

"I'd never seen that before," Senator Gravelle shared in an interview. "I learned a lot and have a deep respect for the way the First Nations seek guidance."

The experience of the ceremony was one Senator Gravelle would never forget.

At the gathering, it was decided that the new Council of Elders would be made up of eight people: four men and four women. Each person would represent one of the cardinal directions of the medicine wheel to ensure the spiritual, cultural, political and territory of each region is represented.

*"I learned a lot and have a deep respect for the way the First Nations seek guidance."*

– PCMNO Senator Rene Gravelle

"This is a historic first for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine," said Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM's Dean. "The school has actively chosen to engage the Elders in decisions over the past 10 years. Elders play an extremely important role in the school and provide links to many Aboriginal communities in the north. We are so pleased the Elders chose to attend...and grateful for their guidance in determining the future direction of the school."

The NOSM will be celebrating its 10th anniversary with the launch of NOSM's Strategic Plan 2015-2020: Reaching Beyond Extraordinary Together, which many Elders helped to develop. ∞



▲ PCMNO Senator Rene Gravelle receiving a plaque from Dr. Roger Strasser, Dean of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. The plaque was gifted to Senator Gravelle for his years of service to the school.



# COMMUNITY



▲ (from left) Virginia Barter, Marilyn Hew, Todd Ross, Tera Beaulieu, Lindsay DuPré, Christine Skura and Constance Simmonds.

## MNO Toronto York Region Métis Council hosts Culture Day

submitted by  
**Virginia Barter**, MNO Toronto  
York Region Métis Councillor

On September 26, 2015, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) celebrated Culture Days with its Métis Roots Cultural Showcase.

Founded in 2009, Culture Days is a non-profit organization dedicated to building a national network of cultural connections across Canada. With the support of volunteer groups at the national, provincial and local levels, hundreds of thousands of artists, cultural workers, organizations and groups, volunteers and supporters host free participatory public activities that take place in hun-

dreds of cities and towns throughout the country over the last weekend of September each year. All activities are promoted on the Culture Days national website.

The Toronto Public Library supports Culture Days each year by providing free venue space to any group who wants to present an activity. The MNO TYRMC took this opportunity to organize a showcase of culture that would introduce the general public to who Métis people are today. A lovely community space for the Métis Roots Cultural Showcase was provided at the Toronto Malvern Branch Library (in north-east Scarborough). The library promoted the event locally. It was a wonderful way to reach out to the community.

There were approximately 50 participants - adults and children.

Dancing and finger weaving workshops were facilitated by Métis youth Alicia Blore (fiddler) and Joanna Burt (spoons). The Rabbit Dance was most fun for all. MNO citizen Brad Lafortune from Ottawa was a surprise guest who added some extra "joie de vivre" to the festivities by demonstrating some really fancy Red River Jig steps. After the dance workshop, participants had the option of learning the basics of finger weaving with the girls, or beading with MNO TYRMC Senator Constance Simmonds.

MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu was Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon. Senator Simmonds led the opening and closing prayers. The ladies of the "All Our Relations" drum group from Oshawa joined in with performances and stories highlighting the First Nations traditions. A panel display of Métis culture and history provided an educational focus, along with samples of books, furs and other cultural items.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute posters added a colourful splash to it all. This generated much interest and discussion.

MNO TYRMC Secretary/Treasurer Marilyn Hew had a table set with free materials and information on the MNO and the MNO TYRMC, as well as some sashes and spoons for



▲ MNO TYRMC Councillor Virginia Barter stands with a display on Métis culture at the Culture Day event.

sale. MNO TYRMC Councillor Todd Ross took on the role as official photographer, so there were many memorable shots of the day.

Through this Culture Days event the MNO TYRMC was able to share Métis culture with a wide range of people from various ethnic backgrounds in the local community. It also reached out to the Aboriginal Housing Support Services (AHSS) located next door to the library. The AHSS coordinators there were very excited to learn about the activities of the MNO TYRMC and they helped promote the event. Some of their residents attended. The MNO TYRMC hopes to collaborate on more activities in the future with them.

The MNO TYRMC would like

to express special thanks to Chantel Prashad and the staff of the Toronto Library Malvern Branch for their keen support of this event. The special display of Métis books and resources set up at the entrance of the library in the weeks leading up to Culture Days were especially appreciated as was the colourful poster advertising the event. The library staff did an excellent job of setting the room and all in all it was a very successful afternoon and everyone enjoyed themselves. Everyone hopes to do it again next year.

If you want to know more about how to participate in Culture Days, visit their website at <http://culturaldays.ca>. ∞

► Alicia Blore (L) and Joanna Burt with their instruments.







1) (from left) Region 5 Captain of the Hunt Richard Sarrazin, MNO Sudbury Métis Council Chair Maurice Sarrazin and MNO North Bay Métis Council President Marc Laurin at the Harvest Gathering.  
2) Victor Amyotte gave rides in a handmade Thomas the Tank Engine, pulled by a golf cart.

# MNO North Bay Métis Council holds Harvest Gathering

submitted by  
**Linda Krause**  
MNO Employment Counsellor

September 26 was a great day to have a Harvest Gathering! Hosted by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Bay Métis Council, with beautiful sunshine and excellent weather, participants came together at Dutrisac Cottages in Sturgeon Falls. Organizers started the day by setting up their booths and workshop tables.

Visitors attended the festivities from as far as Sudbury, including Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Region 5 Councillor Juliette Denis, MNO Sudbury Métis Council Chair Maurice Sarrazin

and other Métis citizens of Sudbury along with their families.

MNO North Bay Métis Council President Marc Laurin showed off his fire-making skills and started a campfire that lasted all day.

Lunch was provided by the MNO North Bay's Healing and Wellness Branch. Everyone enjoyed traditional moose meat, bannock and a wild meat chili that really hit the spot!

There was much to do and plenty of entertainment. Many of the workshops went on throughout the afternoon and included body scrub making and Métis dot art painting.

Special guest Lorraine Montreuil from Mattawa came to teach partici-

*Special guest Lorraine Montreuil from Mattawa came to teach participants how to make talking sticks, also called a speaker's staff. She also gave a lesson as to the importance of the sticks being used during Aboriginal gatherings, allowing each person to have a turn speaking his or her mind.*

pants how to make talking sticks, also called a speaker's staff. She also gave a lesson as to the importance of the sticks being used during Aboriginal gatherings, allowing each person to have a turn speaking his or her mind.

There were games and prizes for children and live local fiddle play-

ers entertained the young and old. There was also drumming, mario-nette dancing, artifacts to see and a voyageur canoe displayed along with MNO tables sharing information about many programs.

Victor Amyotte, a local camper at Dutrisac Cottages, gave rides in a handmade Thomas the Train pulled

by a golf cart. He had lots of fun and so did the kids.

To finish off the day, President Laurin hosted a delicious fish-fry with the help of Region 5 Captain of the Hunt Richard Sarrazin. The MNO North Bay Métis Council brought out a delicious cake for dessert. It was yummy!

Congratulations to all the prize winners and a huge thank you to everyone that made the 2015 Harvester's Gathering a success!

For upcoming events, check out the MNO North Bay Métis Council website. ∞



▲ (L-R) MNO Community Relations Coordinator Glen Lipinski, Niagara Regional Councillor Paul Grenier, MP Vance Badawey and MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President Derrick Pont.

## Special guests presented with sashes during annual Harvest Dinner

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

On October 25, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council held its annual Métis Harvest Dinner at the Club Richelieu in Welland.

Over 140 people enjoyed an excellent evening. Special guests in attendance included newly elected Member of Parliament (MP) for

Niagara Centre and MNO citizen Vance Badawey, Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Cindy Forster, Welland Mayor Frank Campion and Niagara Regional Councillor Paul Grenier.

During the evening, MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President Derrick Pont presented Métis sashes to MP Badawey, MPP Forster and Mayor Campion.

The evening featured an impressive potluck dinner and food provided by MNO staff from the

Welland office. Culinary students from École secondaire Confédération also gained real-life experience by preparing additional meals for the Harvest Dinner. Needless to say; no one went home hungry!

Toe-tapping tunes by the Niagara Old Tyme Fiddlers livened everyone up after the meal when the Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to MNO citizen Amanda Pont-Shanks. ∞





▲ The MNO Credit River Métis Council display at the Credit Valley Conservation Authority's Learning Centre.

# Métis culture highlighted at Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival

submitted by  
**Bill Morrison**  
MNO Credit River Métis Council  
Senator

From March 7 to April 5, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVC), one of 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario with a mandate to ensure Ontario's water, land and natural habitats are conserved, restored and responsibly managed, held its annual Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival and extended an invitation to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) to be involved.

This is the third year the MNO CRMC has participated in the festival. This year's team was headed by

Wendy Elliott, the MNO CRMC's Women's Representative, and other council volunteers.

The most active period of the Sugarbush Maple Festival happened around the March break, which took place between March 14 and March 22 this year. The festival attracted close to 1,000 visitors from around the world and of all ages!

People from the United States, the Caribbean, Poland and Australia visited the Watershed Learning Centre in the Terra Cotta Conservation Park, where the MNO CRMC's presentation was on display.

Curious people ranged from the age of two years old all the way to 90 years old, asking all sorts of different questions, which the MNO

CRMC representatives enjoyed and appreciated.

Visitors got to learn about traditional Métis items such as a hand drum, moccasins, mukluks, deer-skin mitts, a Métis sash, wooden carvings and a quill box. The display included many pictures and materials from the MNO Education Kit, educating visitors about the Métis Way of Life and the Michif language.

Over the years, the CVC Authority has developed a positive relationship with the MNO CRMC and appreciated the expertise that the Métis community brings to the education of the CVC visitors.

The opportunity is appreciated and both parties look forward to the next collaboration. ∞



▲ The MNO office's front window display in Sault Ste. Marie.

# Boo from the Sault

submitted by  
**Patti Moreau**  
MNO Employment Counsellor

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff at the Sault Ste. Marie office got together for a team-building exercise during the week of October 12 to October 16.

MNO staff members planned

and designed a Halloween-inspired window display for their office. The end result was a spooky display that was entered into the Halloween contest with the Local2 news channel!

While they didn't win, it was still a rewarding experience for them and they still had fun being creative and drawing some positive attention for the MNO.

They plan on charging into the next few months with a new themed display and want to issue a challenge to other MNO offices: to create a similar team-building exercise and get into the Holiday spirit by decorating either a window front or their office space to make it warm and welcoming for visitors for the Holiday Season! ∞



▲ Christina Acton (left) and her son Austin at Northern College in Kirkland Lake.

# MNO citizens help educate the public at Northern College

submitted by  
**Liliane Ethier**  
MNO Temiskaming Métis  
Council President

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Temiskaming Métis Council hosted a display during Northern College's third annual Indigenous Cultural Awareness Week in Kirkland Lake.

On September 23, MNO citizens Christina Acton and her son Austin Acton manned the booth, shar-

ing and educating visitors about Métis culture. Their table offered a display of moccasins, snowshoes, examples of Métis beadwork and a Hudson Bay blanket.

The Indigenous Cultural Awareness Week provides an opportunity for staff, students and members of the community to share and celebrate the richness of local Aboriginal cultures present within the areas of Northern College's campuses in Haileybury, Kirkland Lake, Moosonee and Timmins. ∞

# Halloween fun with the MNO Northwest Métis Council

submitted by  
**Mandy Montgomery**  
MNO Employment Developer

On October 30, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Northwest Métis Council hosted a fun-filled Halloween party with plenty of great activities. MNO staff at the Dryden MNO office collaborated with the council to hold the event.

Kids and adults took part in activities such as cupcake decorat-

ing. MNO staff prepared a game of Pin the Nose on the Pumpkin and offered lots of Spooky Snacks, such as hot dogs wrapped up like mummies.

The costumes were so unique and scary that many prizes were awarded for best costume in many different categories.

There were also lots of fun craft activities with sparkles, pompoms and several other decorating options. ∞



▲ (L-R) Angel Lyon, Jona Lyon, their mother Doreen Lyon and baby sister Eve.





▲ Métis youth participate in the Weaving the Sash project.

# GTA Métis youth hold sash-weaving workshop

submitted by  
**Elise St. Germain**  
MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator

On Sunday, October 18, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) Youth Committee hosted a finger weaving and sash teachings workshop in partnership with the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto. This was the first event of the Weaving the Sash project, an MNO TYRMC Youth Committee led project funded by the Laidlaw Foundation.

The morning started with youth participants socializing and meeting one another over breakfast. After introductions, participants and facilitators were offered tobacco and their own Louis Riel Coventry sash. The Youth Committee shared with the participants the significance of the title of the project, Weaving the Sash, and how the sash represents a weaving together of knowledge, relationships and culture for the Youth Committee and project.

MNO TYRMC Women's Representative and Youth Committee member Lindsay DuPré and MNO TYRMC Senator Constance Simmonds then facilitated a shar-

ing circle on Métis identity. The youth discussed what it meant to them to be an urban Métis youth; how they often feel a lack of community in an urban context but also that their identities depend on these relationships.

After a traditional lunch, Knowledge Keeper Louise Vien offered teachings on the Métis sash and provided instruction in finger weaving. Youth learned about the history and significance of the sash, the different cultures that share the sash and about the different styles



▲ Traditional Knowledge Keeper Louise Vien demonstrates the sash-weaving technique.

of weaving. With Vien's guidance, participants then had the chance to practice the basics of finger weaving.

While participants chatted, weaved and untangled their Métis sash bookmarks that they were creating, Vien and her family helped the Youth Committee in starting the sash that will represent the Weaving the Sash project. Each member of the Youth Committee chose a colour to symbolize one of the four seasons (red for fall, blue for winter, green for spring, yellow for summer, and white for Mother Nature) to incorporate into the sash. The goal is to have all youth who participate in the upcoming Weaving the Sash events contribute to the project sash by weaving a few of its strands. By the end of the project, there will be one completed, unique, Toronto and York Region Métis youth sash.

At the end of the day, Vien offered these words on the importance of passing traditions down to Métis youth: "Traditions are what give identity to a people. [...] When the youth are asked to be part of their communities, it's because we believe in them, because the ancestors had a dream for them." ∞

For more information on the project and to find out how to get involved, including attending events, please contact [tyrmc.youth@gmail.com](mailto:tyrmc.youth@gmail.com). For regular updates about the project, please visit the MNO TYRMC at [www.torontoyorkmetis.com](http://www.torontoyorkmetis.com) and also check out their Facebook and Twitter (@TOYorkMetis) accounts for regular updates.



▲ Maddy Pilon with a group of youth who participated in the GetReel Film Camp.

# MNO citizen receives Entrepreneurship Award for youth film camp

submitted by  
**Robin Pilon**

Cameras rolled again in Trenton this summer as the GetReel Film Camp for youth returned.

Kids and teens in Trenton and the Quinte Region got an opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the magic of movie-making thanks to Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and filmmaker Maddy Pilon.

Pilon, a third year Ryerson University film production student, founded the GetReel Film Camp as part of the Ontario Summer Company Program.

Backed by the Small Business Centre, the first season of the camp was a huge success and earned her great praise from kids, parents and community members alike.

The feedback and involvement in the film camp encouraged Pilon to offer an expanded GetReel Film Camp opportunity to an enthusiastic group of young local talent, some returning for the second year in a row.

Pilon also founded the GetReel Youth Film Festival (GRYFF), a festival to showcase the student films at the Trenton Centre Theatre. A record crowd showed up this year to support the youth film festival

that included a variety of comedic, stop motion, animated and dramatic shorts.

"It was great to see so many people come out to watch the films the GetReel campers worked so hard on this summer and did that work ever pay off. The films were amazing," Pilon stated.

"It was such a talented group this year and I am very proud of each and every one of our young filmmakers," she said.

Charlene Bessin, Managing Consultant with the Small Business Centre and Ontario Summer Company Program, was on hand at GRYFF to present Pilon with the Outstanding Entrepreneurship Award in recognition of her outstanding initiative.

"We would like to congratulate Maddy on completing her second year in her GetReel Film Camp business. We are so proud of her efforts and honoured to have such an inspiring young entrepreneur [in our community]," Bessin said during the presentation.

Pilon is already in the planning stages for GetReel Film Camp 2016 as well as a new after school filmmaking program, called GetReel After Class, that she is developing to run in Trenton starting this fall. ∞

# MNO Council inspires locals with Métis dot art workshop



▲ Participants of an art workshop organized by the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council.

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

On October 19, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council hosted a dot art workshop. Council Chair Amanda Pont-Shanks, a graphic artist and early childhood educator, taught the workshop and helped participants throughout the event.

Inspired by the amazing artwork of MNO citizen Christi Belcourt, the participants learned how to create their own works and about the history and culture surrounding

Métis beadwork and contemporary artwork.

The workshop, situated at the Welland Snowmobile Club, also provided a haven for participants to share their own personal experiences of being Métis.

The Métis dot art workshop is one of many that MNO Niagara Region Métis Council plans to put on for its citizens to learn about their history, culture and way of life. In the spring, they hosted a traditional drum workshop. They also have some wonderful events planned for 2016.

For future event info, visit their website or their Facebook page. ∞





▲ (L-R) MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council President Kim Powley, Region 4 PCMNO Councillor Ernie Gatien, MNO North Channel Métis Council President Yvonne Jensen, MNO President Gary Lipinski, PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case and MNO Associate Chief Operating Officer Margaret Froh.

# MNO North Channel Métis Council holds 2015 Annual General Meeting

submitted by  
**Yvonne Jensen**  
MNO North Channel Métis Council President

On September 13, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Channel Métis Council held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Blind River Marina. Over 70 people were in attendance. The day began at 10:00 a.m. with a canoe trip along the Mis-

sissagi River Delta, guided by nine members of the Algoma Paddlers Canoe and Kayak Club. MNO President Gary Lipinski, Associate Chief Operating Officer Margaret Froh, MNO North Channel Métis Council President Yvonne Jensen, Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Councillor Ernie Gatien and local Youth Representative Taylor McNally began their journey while listening to stories about the voyageurs that travelled that very river.

The small flotilla glided past an old fur traders' cemetery and the remains of the Hudson Bay Trading Post that once stood on the banks of the river. On their way to the meeting, the paddlers saw an eagle and agreed it was a good omen. MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council Senator Brenda Powley said the opening prayer for the meeting, followed by opening remarks by President Lipinski. President Jensen gave her report on the MNO North Channel Métis

Council's activities and proudly announced that there are 26 new MNO citizens in their area this year. Representatives of the PCMNO, Councillor Ernie Gatien and Youth Representative Mitch Case, also addressed the gathering. Councillor Gatien spoke about the 2015 Annual General Assembly and the upcoming elections for the MNO North Channel Métis Council. Representative Case stressed the importance of Métis youth being involved within the MNO and spoke of the

Infinite Reach camps organized by the MNO. The meeting ended with a 20-minute presentation by the Algoma Paddlers' President Wally Van Dyke, demonstrating the equipment they use when canoeing within the area. President Jensen presented Van Dyke with a copy of the MNO's book, *Values and Traditions of our Ancestors*. ∞



▲ Members and guests of the MNO Mattawa Métis Council's Annual General Meeting. (L-R) Senator Romeo Sarrazin, Women's Representative Joyceline Rose, Region 5 PCMNO Councillor Juliette Denis, Councillor Melanie Rose, Chair Roger Rose and President Nelson Montreuil.

# MNO citizens kept informed at Mattawa meeting

submitted by  
**Melanie Rose**  
MNO Mattawa Métis Councillor

On April 18, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Mattawa Métis Council held their Annual General Meeting (AGM). MNO citizens of Region 5 met at the Golden Age Club to discuss recent events and make plans for the future. One highlight that was mentioned was the council's involvement at the March Break Youth

Camp that took place at Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park, located nearby. MNO Mattawa Métis Council Senator Romeo Sarrazin attended the first day, reciting the morning prayer and joining in on the activities. The following day, MNO Mattawa Métis Council President Nelson Montreuil did a presentation about trapping and shared his expertise with the youth group, showing them several pelts and traps and discussing trapping when there are changes in the

environment. During the AGM, special guest Juliette Denis, Region 5 Councillor for the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO), attended in order to provide an update about what the MNO had in store for 2015. Additionally, the Mattawa/Lake Nipissing Consultation Committee had worked hard and announced several meetings had taken place to negotiate, sign and deliver final Memorandums of Understanding with the guidance of MNO staff. Great teamwork everyone! ∞



▲ Bryanna Scott, President of the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council.

# Community Council President discusses Ring of Fire

submitted by  
**Darby Starratt**

On October 30, Bryanna Scott, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Thunder Bay Métis Council presented the opening remarks to the Ring of Fire conference. Sponsored by Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law and the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining and Exploration, the conference provided an opportunity to hear from all sides affected by the Ring of Fire development in Ontario's far north. This

development has been described as the most promising mineral development opportunity in Ontario in almost a century, with a multi-generational potential of chromite production and a significant production of nickel, copper and platinum. While the economic development opportunity is significant, according to an article published by CBC, challenges such as sustainable development, the duty to consult and impacts on Aboriginal communities must be considered and addressed before the extraction project begins. ∞





▲ Deputy Chief Ron Gignac (second from left) at a special ceremony in Belleville.

# 9/11 ceremony honours victims of tragedy

submitted by  
**Joseph Paquette**  
MNO Veterans' Council President  
**Ron Gignac**  
MNO Veteran

On September 11, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and veteran Ron Gignac, Deputy Chief of Police for the City of Belleville, attended a special ceremony honouring the lost or injured during the 9/11 tragedy in 2001.

Many veterans of the MNO Veterans' Council, like Deputy Chief Gignac, retired from the Canadian Armed Forces and gained employment in law enforcement, such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Provincial Police or Regional Police Services. Some veterans found employment within local fire departments, as paramedics or in search and rescue services.

Held at the Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre, the Belleville Fire Department, Belleville Police Service and the Hastings-Quinte Paramedics gathered with Mayor Taso A. Christopher and members of the community.

Deputy Chief Ron Gignac provided a picture and wrote a heartfelt message about the occasion:

*Hi friends and greetings. I wanted to send this photograph for all of you to see. The Chiefs for police, fire, military, paramedic services, the Mayor, senior staff for the City of Belleville and many citizens (not seen in the pic) had a special ceremony at our complex in the City of Belleville, Ontario, on the 11th of September. The beam, [a Ground Zero artifact,] seen in the centre of the memorial display is from the Twin Towers.*

*We have a special ceremony each year to pray, remember, and pay respect to those lost in that tragedy and to thank our military, police, fire, security forces, and paramedic services in our ongoing duties. I was asked to speak at this year's ceremony and made certain to include our partners in the emergency services, military, friends and families in the United States of America.*

*As seen from our flags at the ceremony, we stand together. I am on the left side of the picture with the subdued lettered police kevlar vest on. Blessings to all. Be safe out there,*

— Ron

The Ground Zero artifact will be installed in the new fire department headquarters, in accordance with the 9/11 Memorial Foundation's guidelines. ∞



▲ Shelly Claus (right) and her husband Joe Claus (left) at the Afghanistan and Peacekeepers Monument in Windsor.

## MNO veteran attends Windsor memorial service

submitted by  
**Shelly Claus**  
MNO Veteran

On Sunday, September 6, MNO citizen and veteran Shelly Claus attended a service to honour Canada's peacekeepers and Afghanistan veterans at the Afghanistan and Peacekeepers Monument in Windsor.

Many Métis veterans served in Afghanistan or on peacekeeping missions.

On the south face of the monument is listed the names of fallen Canadians who served in United

Nations (UN) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Peacekeeping and Peace Enforcement Operations since 1947.

The north face of the monument lists the names of the fallen Canadian soldiers who served in Afghanistan and the Arabian Sea between 2002 and 2014.

Although the monument was unveiled a year ago, organizers didn't want to interfere with Remembrance Day ceremonies in November. Local veterans hope the memorial service will become an annual event. ∞

## MNO Veterans Council raising funds to send Métis Youth and Veterans to Vimy

*Dear Friends of Veterans:*

For those of you not aware, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council is raising funds to send veterans and youth to Vimy Ridge in 2017 for the 100 year commemoration of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, an event only a year and a half away.

For Canada, it was a defining moment and one we should not lose and need to pass it on to the youth "lest they forget." It is a once in a lifetime learning opportunity for youth who have not known a world war.

This is a great opportunity. Any financial aid you can provide will be greatly appreciated. If you want to be a part of this adventure feel free to reply back as this is a large project and the more hands, the lighter the work. We are all volunteers and 100 per cent of all funds raised are going solely to this project. Please visit our GoFundMe page to find out more and to donate whatever amount you can: [www.gofundme.com/au3q23x8](http://www.gofundme.com/au3q23x8)

Whether you can donate or not we kindly ask that you pass this note along to your friends, colleagues, superiors (especially if you work in a corporate environment) and any social media that you may use.

The DNA of many of our families, friends and ancestors is buried at Vimy Ridge.

Thanks,  
*Greg Garratt*  
Secretary, Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council



▲ NWRA President Mike Lepine (right) stands with MP Brian Masse (left) during a rally in 2014.

## MNO vets receive support from North Wall Riders

by  
**MNO Staff**

Members of the North Wall Riders Association (NWRA) in Windsor made a generous contribution to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans Council's planned pilgrimage to Vimy Ridge in 2017.

The NWRA are active towards promoting awareness of military

veterans. They were an active force towards the raising of the Afghanistan and Peacekeepers Monument in Windsor.

NWRA President Mike Lepine, Wayne Hillman, Karl Lovette, Ron Jones and Jo-Anne Gignac were the active committee that proposed the monument to the City of Windsor with the full support of the Canadian Vietnam Veterans' memorial committee. ∞



# Obituaries

## Manley Morley 'Moe' Thompson



Passed away peacefully on July 14th, 2015, with his family by

his side. Loving father to Glenn and wife Debra; cherished Papa to Cody, Justin, Taylor and Caulin. He will be missed dearly by his best friend Rita Florence. He was a devoted brother to Nora, Lloyd (Cora), fellow Métis veteran Tom (Anna Jean), fellow Métis veteran Durwood (Marie), Emma, Eileen and Edith. Moe's proudest moments were spending time with his grandchildren and serving his country in the 2nd Battalion of the Queen's

Own Rifles from 1956 to 1966. Moe was also a devoted member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 255 and served as an executive for many years. Moe touched the hearts of all who knew him. He will be greatly missed. ∞

### CORRECTION AND APOLOGY:

An error appeared on p. A26 of the previous edition of the Métis Voyageur (October 2015, No. 87). Manley Thompson was incorrectly identified as Manley Johnson. The MNO apologizes to Mr. Thompson's family for the error.

## Arthur 'Art' Henry



After a courageous and hard-fought battle with cancer, Art passed away peacefully at Lakeridge Health Oshawa on October 15, 2015. He was surrounded by family until the very end. Art was the best friend, soulmate and husband of 28 years to Tedine. Devoted father to Brad (Lindsay), Kevin (Mandy), and Jennifer (David). Dear son of Arthur and Rose Henry, and loving brother

to Kelly (Gary) and Crystal (Norm). Art also had a nephew, three nieces and many cousins, aunts, uncles and friends in the larger Métis community. He will be missed by the family pets Austin, Poca and Reign, and especially his boy Chief.

Art was very involved in the Métis community where he was a dedicated volunteer and citizen for 19 years. As the former Vice-President of the MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council, Art was one of the founding members. He brought Métis culture and celebrations to Oshawa.

A large part of the Métis culture that Art loved was fishing and hunting. He was a great fisherman who kept his family's freezer stocked. He passed on his knowledge and passion for fishing on to his wife and

kids. They have many pictures and memories of fishing both on shore and in his boat. He enjoyed hunting goose, moose and bear the last few years of his life. Art always provided for his family and friends by sharing the meat he hunted.

Something Art will always be remembered for was the world-wide email list he made to spread Aboriginal news. He worked hard to keep people informed and aware of everything happening in Aboriginal communities. His family always joked around and called him "the Métis Mailman."

Everyone who knew Art always felt his sense of his care and compassion to help others. The family is overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support in helping him on

his journey to the spirit world. There were various traditional ceremonies and songs sung for Art across Canada. He is now soaring with the eagles. The family sends their sincere thank you to the entire Métis Nation for playing such an important part in his life. Art's family is in the process of setting up the "Arthur Bradley Henry Bursary," which will be given to a Métis student pursuing post-secondary education each year who reflects the values and traditions that Art himself carried. If you are interested in donating to the bursary fund, please contact Art's daughter, Jennifer at [jenniferhenry@hotmail.ca](mailto:jenniferhenry@hotmail.ca). ∞

— Submitted by Jennifer Nicholson (Henry),  
PCMNO Postsecondary Representative

Art Henry — September 22, 1962 - October 15, 2015

# We are proud to have known him and will always remember him — a great friend to us all

submitted by  
**Joseph Poitras**  
PCMNO Senator

There is much truth in clichés. How often have we heard life is not fair - it's incredibly sad that Art's life ended so soon; he will be missed by everyone who knew him. His time here was as fleeting as an afternoon shadow lost to an early sunset; simply a brief moment in the vastness of eternity – but memories are forever.

I met Art when I started attending MNO Oshawa Métis Council meetings; sometimes that feels like it was yesterday but it was not. I think the first thing I noticed about Art was that he wore his Métis bloodlines on his sleeve. He was so proud of who he was.

Art was dedicated to ensuring that the MNO Oshawa Métis Council would grow and that Métis would have a positive presence in Durham Region. Art was a Métis Nation builder. If our Oshawa Council could have had the wherewithal to obtain media publicity Art would have been the face of the Métis Nation in Durham Region and a tangi-

ble reminder of all that is good about Métis. But Art would have refused that designation, he preferred to be anonymous and encouraged others take the bows.

Art was the kind of person I like, respect and admire; he would tell it like it is, but with tact and respect. He was an honest straight shooter who played every card face up. It is said of some that they are in a league of their own. If Art was not in a league of his own, whichever selective league he was in, roll call would not take long.

To Art's parents, you must be proud of the son you raised. To Tedine, his wife, be pleased with your influence on him that contributed to making Art such a great person.

If we are measured by what we leave - Art you have left us with three great children. You too can be proud. You were such a positive person you would not want us to be sad with your passing. If you were here you would tell us to cheer up, smile, and remember the good memories. Art, I intend to do that; I'll cherish the good memories.

May your God be with you on your journey home. ∞



▲ Art Henry (right) with his friend Joseph Poitras.



# ACHIEVEMENTS



Sean Sisk Photography

▲ MNO citizen and award-winning artist Amanda Rheume.

## Amanda Rheume launches PledgeMusic campaign

by  
MNO Staff

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and award-winning artist Amanda Rheume recently launched a crowdfunding campaign in order to help finance her new album.

There are already 19 songs prepared but only 10 or 11 will make it onto the album. The crowdfunder, located at PledgeMusic, offers many options towards making a pledge.

Each pledge assures a copy of the album is pre-ordered, either in digital format or on a CD. The bigger the pledge, the more bonuses are given to the pledger. Each pledge offers an AccessPass, which gives pledgers exclusive access to videos, pictures and updates about progress on Rheume's new album.

A title has not been released yet but Rheume provides a theme for each of her albums.

"The last album [*Keep a Fire*] was all about learning more about my family, heritage and as many stories

*"This [new] album digs deeper into more personal topics for me including reclamation, self-acceptance, longing, miracles, forgiveness, truth and, above all else, vulnerability."*  
— Amanda Rheume

as possible," Rheume shared in an e-mail.

"This [new] album digs deeper into more personal topics for me including reclamation, self-acceptance,

longing, miracles, forgiveness, truth and, above all else, vulnerability," she added.

The Canadian release for the album is aimed for May 2016, coinciding with a performance on the National Arts Centre in Ottawa on May 5, 2016.

Rheume recently returned to Canada after a Europe and UK tour. She performed 34 shows in 45 days in Germany, Denmark, France, Austria, Belgium, England and Scotland.

"Audiences over here love all

the storytelling and learning more about Canada and Métis culture," Rheume stated in an e-mail.

"We perform almost every song from *Keep a Fire* and through that, I tell the story about my great-grandmother Stella and my great-grandfather and how they built their lives in the 1930s in Canada," she wrote.

Once the crowdfunding goal for the new album is reached, 10 per cent of the additional funds will be donated to the Royal Mental Health Centre in Ottawa. ∞

## MNO citizen recognized for courage and bravery

submitted by  
Mandy Montgomery  
MNO Employment Developer

On September 24, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Gordon Pollard Jr. received the N.H. McNally Award from the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC). The award was given for conspicuous bravery above and beyond the performance of his duties as a paramedic. On May 19, he also received the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Commissioner's Citation for Bravery in recognition of his courageous and lifesaving actions.

Gordon is a 2014 graduate from Confederation College-Dryden Campus's Paramedic Program. He received financial assistance from the MNO and participated in the MNO Summer Career Placement

Program. After graduation, Gordon passed the compulsory Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Advanced Emergency Medical Care Attendant Certification Examination (AEMCA), launching him into his chosen field.

He became a Primary Care Paramedic in Red Lake. It was there that his courageous actions in the performance of his duties earned him the two awards for bravery.

According to the *Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal*, on June 26, 2014, Gordon was one of the paramedics that saved the life of a man whose truck was trapped in a sinkhole on Highway 618.

His colleague, fellow paramedic Derek Hamilton, also received the Commissioner's Citation for Bravery for his lifesaving actions and courage during the same incident.

After accepting the award, Gordon commented that he felt "very



▲ Gordon Pollard Jr. (left) accepting his diploma during his graduation at Confederation College.

grateful and appreciative" of the recognition he had received from both the OPP Commissioner and the OAPC. ∞

## Belcourt's Water Song worn by Hollywood celebrity Jennifer Lopez

by  
MNO Staff

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Christi Belcourt's award-winning art caught the eye of Valentino designers and now the fashion line has been spotted on singer and actor Jennifer Lopez.

Todd Lamirande, host and producer for *APTN Investigates*, tweeted a picture of Lopez, saying, "This is cool. Jennifer Lopez filming a video with a dress that has #Metis artist @christibelcourt artwork on it."

While on the set for *El Mismo Sol* ("The Same Sun"), Lopez's new music video, the singer was seen wearing the Valentino two-piece with fabric design by Belcourt. Several pictures of the outfit popped up on the internet, showing Lopez riding a carousel horse from several angles.



▲ Jennifer Lopez wearing Métis-inspired clothing.

In an article published in *Métis Voyager* issue 87, Belcourt shared she'd had a very good experience working with the fashion company. ∞



# Métis youth heads to Abu Dhabi for bowling championship

submitted by  
**Reta Gordon**  
*PCMNO Executive Senator*

Miranda Panas, granddaughter of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Elmer Ross, will soon be travelling to Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, to participate in the Women’s World

Championship in bowling. Panas, a kinesiology student at Brock University, has been bowling since the age of five and her dedication to the sport has made her a champion. She’s currently on both the adult and youth teams for Team Canada. “I’m pretty excited,” she shared in a Facebook conversation. “It’s always an honour to get to represent Canada at an international

event. The group of ladies that I’m going with are tremendously talented and I can’t wait to compete with them.” In the past, Panas has travelled to competitions held in Colombia and Hong Kong and her talent has earned her awards and scholarships. She plans to participate in the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Queens bowling event and the US Open. ∞



▲ Miranda Panas.

# MNO citizen celebrated for her role in security and defence

by  
*MNO Staff*

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Bonnie Butlin, co-founder and Executive Director of the Security Partners’ Forum (SPF) and International Coordinator of the Women in Security and Resilience Alliance (WISECRA), recently won the 2015 Professional Security Magazine’s Women in Security Award (Security Manager Category), a prestigious award British historian Baroness Ruth Henig calls the “Oscars of the Security industry.” Butlin was recently described as “[a] dynamic individual [who] has perhaps without intention, become a role model,” in an article by Victoria Heath, a writer for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

(NATO) Association of Canada. The most remarkable aspect of Butlin’s career is her many achievements in an industry with a high ratio of men to women. According to Heath’s article, women only make up 4 per cent of United Nations Peacekeepers and only 11 per cent among Information Security Professionals. “No doubt, the daughters of today and tomorrow will thank Bonnie and other women like her, for giving us dreams to chase, grounded in their real achievements,” Heath wrote. In 2013, Butlin was named one of Security Magazine’s “Most Influential People in Security” and was inducted into the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Hall of Fame in 2014. This year, she also won CSO Magazine’s Compass Award and announced



▲ MNO citizen Bonnie Butlin.

as a finalist for the 2015 Executive Women’s Forum Women of Influence Award in the category of Private Solutions Provider. Butlin is a board member of *The Vimy Report*, an online publication focused on informing Canadians and leading discussions on security and defence issues. ∞



▲ Officer Cadet Michael McPherson Stranks receives his ALOY badge.

# MNO citizen awarded with Aboriginal Leadership badge

submitted by  
**Jim Stranks**

On September 4, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Jim Stranks felt a sense of pride as his son, Officer Cadet (OCdt) Michael McPherson Stranks, received his Aboriginal Leadership Opportunity Year (ALLOY) badge. OCdt Stranks was the only MNO citizen among the 14 candidates who had been chosen for the ALOY program at the Royal Military College (RMC) in Kingston. He and his father originate from the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council. “It is a small program which draws from a very exclusive group of Canadians: Aboriginal youth who want to become the leaders and shapers of their generation, and who demonstrate

the will to do so,” OCdt Stranks wrote in an article co-written with OCdt Pierrot. The article was published on *e-Veritas*, an e-newsletter published by the RMC Club. “Each candidate is carefully selected to ensure that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis cultures are well represented and to promote Canada’s diverse cultural heritage and values,” he also wrote. The ALOY badge is awarded to those who are officially members in training within the Canadian Armed Forces. In the article, the OCdts wrote that, “The Badging Ceremony served as a proud reminder to the ALOY members: how far they have come as a team from when they first arrived; how far the rest of this year will take them.” ∞



▲ Eric Seguin (back row, centre) with his students.

# MNO helps launch teacher’s career

submitted by  
**Jade Bourbonnière**  
*MNO Education & Training Operations Coordinator*

Ever since he was a child, Eric Seguin, who self-identifies as Métis, knew he wanted to become a teacher. During high school and university, Eric worked at a summer camp where he acquired a great deal of experience working with children, which strengthened his resolve to become a teacher.

To pursue his teaching career, Eric selected the University of Ottawa’s Faculty of Education where its teacher education programs prepare students for both French and English schools in Ontario. Eric received financial assistance from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), which helped him afford tuition and books. Eric’s program included 10 weeks of hands-on real classroom experience with professional teachers. Today, Eric is enjoying his dream

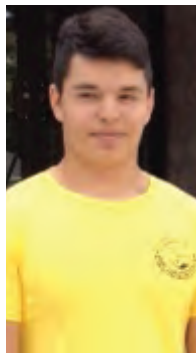
career as a full-time Art and Gym teacher for the Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Centre-Sud in Toronto. The most rewarding aspect of his occupation is seeing young people succeed. When he walks into a classroom and the children are excited and smile back at him; he knows that what he is doing has a positive impact on their lives. Eric is proud to have reached his aspirations and couldn’t be happier. ∞



# Métis students gain valuable job skills through Summer Career Placements

The Summer Career Placement is a wage subsidy program designed for Métis youth in school and returning to school in the fall and seeking summer employment. The MNO Education and Training staff work collaboratively with employers to ensure a positive and educational work environment is offered. The advantage of the Summer Career Placement is that employers are provided the sub-

sidy for their contribution by offering work experience to the students. The students learn a variety of life and employment skills that enhance their existing educational journey. As the end of their placement, students are asked to complete an exit form to share their experiences and to provide feedback to the MNO Education and Training Branch. Here's what some of them had to say:



"This employment opportunity was great! I got to develop leadership skills and take part in lots of workshops that offered great information and a chance to improve my resume. I hope to apply this information in the future when I do attend school. I'd like to thank everyone in this program for this opportunity..."  
— **Bronson Black**, Camp Counsellor,  
Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre, MIDLAND



The strengths of my placement are [that] I get to improve on my time management skills, teamwork skills, communication skills and I get to suggest new ideas that I have learned while in college."  
**Caitlin Diver**  
Recreation Labourer  
PENETANGUISHENE



[It] opened my eyes up to various other construction-related tasks present on jobsites. Learning a variety of new things was the best thing about this placement."

**Dalton Mount**, General Labourer, Dream it in Colour  
(St. Theresa's High School)  
MIDLAND

## MNO citizen flourishes as a social worker

submitted by  
**Jade Bourbonnière**  
MNO Education & Training  
Operations Coordinator

While attending Fanshawe College, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Trisha Dupuis realized she had a passion for working with and helping women and girls who were victims of violence. When she graduated from Fanshawe with a diploma in Child and Youth Work (CYW), Trisha enrolled

in the social work program at Ryerson University in Toronto to gain a Bachelor in Social Work. The program also had an emphasis on Aboriginal social work, which she was interested in pursuing. Trisha was able to take a course that included travel to a remote First Nations community. She travelled there with a team of students to support the residents in achieving self-defined goals they had prepared. The team organized a youth and elder retreat to foster youth engagement and cultural identity as well as

a Women's Empowerment Group, and conducted interviews with community members to capture their lived experiences. Trisha believes that this experience was paramount to her education, her desire to continue to pursue her path as a social worker, and her identity as a Métis woman. During the program, Trisha found that her heavy workload made having a part-time job impossible. She worked hard and received bursaries during the beginning of her program.

As Trisha was nearing the end of her studies, she contacted the MNO and received funding to complete the remainder of her program. She is now employed at a Toronto-based Aboriginal agency where she helps Toronto's Aboriginal children and families with support services and is involved with child protection and safety concerns. Trisha finds her life improved immensely with opportunities to flourish personally and grow professionally in a job where she contributes to the health and well-being of Aboriginal children and families. ∞



▲ MNO Citizen Trisha Dupuis.

### Poetry from our readers

#### Remember Me Written by a survivor • Anne Huguenin, Penetanguishene, ON

I place the rose carefully into the vase  
I think of the young women beyond heaven's gate  
"Remember me", they cannot speak,  
Fourteen vibrant women from polytechnique  
  
Violence against women, it's not just one day,  
It's every 7 seconds of every day  
It's time to stop this ongoing abuse  
And change the laws to not be so loose  
  
A life lived in constant fear  
Hidden bruises, hidden tears  
Afraid to tell your closest friend  
Violence against women, we must end

Teach them young to respect  
Educate them on this subject  
Teach them young to be aware  
Add this to their nightly prayer  
  
Good men stand in the name of all good men  
Report the abuse, a brother, neighbour or friend  
A broken down soul takes many years to repair  
So please have mercy and show that you care  
  
If one lives without remorse  
The violence will just get worse  
If one lives without repercussion  
Then what they've done simply means nothing

Time is now to take a stand and be heard  
Don't let it be just simple words  
This problem of violence needs to be addressed  
Stand for those now in heaven's rest  
  
Stand for those who are too weakened to rise  
Hear their voices, hear their cries  
Now be their protective wall  
And end the violence, once and for all  
  
Look now at the vase full of flowers  
And think of your own mothers and daughters  
Don't rest for on us, they depend  
To put an end to violence against women



# MNO helps Métis student pursue nursing career

submitted by  
**Jade Bourbonnière**  
MNO Education & Training  
Operations Coordinator

Self-identified Métis April Slingsby always knew that she had the potential, the drive and intelligence to pursue a career in nursing. She had a passion and an interest in the field, and knew

those key factors would allow her to succeed. For as long as April could remember, caring for people always came naturally to her. She knew that if she received her nursing diploma, she would be able to better support her family. After contacting the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), April spoke with an MNO Regional Employment and Training Coordi-

nator to arrange for funding for her dream to become a nurse. April attended Sault College for the registered practical nursing course. She faced many challenges as a student. At times, it was difficult to overcome them but April refused to give up. When the going got rough, April would listen to the song *You Haven't Seen the Last of Me* by Cher, which still inspires her

today. Today, April has her diploma in registered practical nursing, as well as a diploma in forensics. She also received certificates in IV therapy and Level 1 Palliative Care. April is now working for the Hospitality Network at the Sault Area Hospital. She enjoys her job and is much happier with her new life. ∞



▲ April Slingsby.

## A better future for young mother's family with help from MNO

submitted by  
**Jade Bourbonnière**  
MNO Education & Training  
Operations Coordinator

Rebecca Simpson had always been very interested in the clerical side of the healthcare field, and had set her sights on a career within an office environment. Rebecca, who self-identifies as Métis, had applied to several healthcare administrative positions, but it seemed that she was at a disadvantage without having a post-secondary diploma.

With a young family and only one income to depend on, it seemed financially impossible for Rebecca to go to college. She contacted the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and explained her situation.

With the help of the MNO, Rebecca was able to attend Georgian College in Barrie for their two-year medical office administration



▲ Rebecca Simpson.

program. Throughout her time at Georgian College, she gained plenty of hands-on training in many useful areas, which she now utilizes on a daily basis.

Today, Rebecca is working as a Medical Receptionist at a local office for a team of wonderful doctors. The most rewarding aspect of her job is the ability to help other people. She gains so much knowledge from her position every day, while applying all of her training from Georgian College. ∞

## Finding a more stable career with help from the MNO

submitted by  
**Jade Bourbonnière**  
MNO Education & Training  
Operations Coordinator

In March 2013, self-identified Métis Stacey Cameron was unexpectedly laid off from her job at a factory in Midland. She saw it as a second chance to pursue a new career with more stability.

After contacting the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Stacey spoke with Jo-Anne Parent, a Regional MNO Employment and Training Coordinator. Stacey was eligible for MNO support and enrolled at the registered pharmacy technician program at CTS Canadian Career College. Two years

later, she graduated and is now working at the Guardian Clinic Pharmacy at the Huronia Medical Centre as well as the Collingwood General and Marine Hospital.

The most rewarding aspect of Stacey's new career is her ability to make a positive change in her patients' care. Whether it's teaching them how to use a blood sugar glucometer or trying to put together the most detailed medication history for a doctor, Stacey loves her job and completes continuing education programs online to remain current in her chosen profession. ∞



▲ Stacy Cameron.

## MNO supports Métis youth in security industry

submitted by  
**Jade Bourbonnière**  
MNO Education & Training  
Operations Coordinator

Derek Bilous is a self-identifying Métis who worked in the security industry for six years as a mobile operative. Derek loved the work experience, finding it exciting and he wanted to pursue more opportunities in that field.

He decided to further his education at Sheridan College in Police Foundations. One of his biggest worries at the time was how he was going to pay for school. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)

provided funds for tuition and Derek could attend his classes without having to worry about working hefty hours at a part-time job. He was able to devote his time, focus and energy into getting good grades.

After two years of hard work, Derek received his Police Foundations diploma at Sheridan College's Davis campus in Brampton.

Today, Derek works as a Cash Services Agent with GardaWorld. He is truly happy and loves his life. His current position gives him a true sense of duty and he takes pride in the high levels of trust and responsibility that he holds. ∞



▲ Derek Bilous.

## MNO citizen finds happiness in caring for others

submitted by  
**Jade Bourbonnière**  
MNO Education & Training  
Operations Coordinator

While Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Terri-Jo Tauvette enjoyed working part-time at Value Village, it was not the job she envisioned for her future. She wanted to pursue her education and start a career in nursing.

The biggest challenge she knew she was going to face was the cost. To improve her chances for a rewarding career, Terri-Jo contacted the MNO for help.

The financial assistance provided by the MNO allowed her to focus on her classes and put in extra time studying. Terri-Jo enrolled at Sault College in their two-year Practical Nursing program.

She graduated in May 2015 and is now working as a Registered Prac-



▲ Terri-Jo Tauvette.

tice Nurse for ParaMed, a home-care company in Sault Ste. Marie. She works within the community, visiting clients at home and providing nursing services. She feels the most rewarding part of her job is helping people and being able to assist in their care.

Thanks to MNO assistance, Terri-Jo's life has significantly improved. She loves her job and has attained financial stability. ∞

## MNO citizen achieves dream career in the medical field

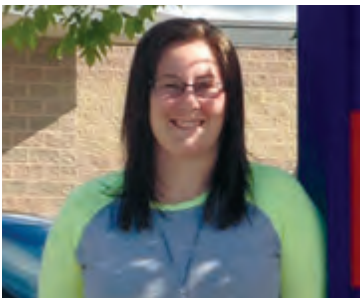
submitted by  
**Jade Bourbonnière**  
MNO Education & Training  
Operations Coordinator

For as long as she could remember, Métis Nicole Belcourt always wanted a career in the medical field but financing was challenge.

Nicole received financial assis-

tance from the MNO and enrolled in the one-year medical office administration program at CTS Canadian Career College.

Today, Nicole works full-time as a Department Secretary in the laboratory at the West Parry Sound Health Centre. She loves her job and knows she has made the right decision to pursue medical office administration. ∞



▲ Nicole Belcourt.





▲ Jeanette Laurin at her graduation from CTS Canadian Career College in North Bay.

# MNO support helps three Canadian Career College graduates in North Bay

submitted by  
**Linda Krause**  
MNO Employment Counsellor

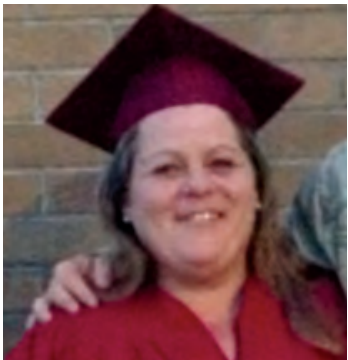
On May 23, 2015, three women, each who self-identify as Métis and who received financial support through Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Employment and Training programs, graduated from the CTS - Canadian Career College in North Bay.

Among these three was Tracy Burns, a mature student who graduated with honours in Addictions Intervention Counselling. Tracy wants to make a difference in her community and what better way was there to do this than to take her life experience and return to school. Tracy worked hard throughout her program and with the support of her family, she was able to achieve her dream.

Another one of the recent graduates was Tanya Hillyar, who completed 44 weeks in-class and an

eight-week work placement to become a Pharmacy Technician. Even though Tanya is the mother of five small children and she experienced some health problems while taking this intense program, she was not afraid of a heavy workload and successfully completed her classes. She felt rising to these challenges was setting an example to her children; to show them that if you are willing to work hard the rewards are limitless. Tanya worked at a local pharmacy during her work placement and was hired on there before she even finished her schooling, which is amazing!

The final graduate was Jeanette Laurin who graduated with honours in Hairstyling. Jeanette is the mother of one grown child and decided she wanted to get back into the work force. She believes there is nothing that she can't do if she sets her mind to it and with that positive attitude quickly rose to the top of her field in her chosen profession of Hairstyling. She was the recipient of the Lynn Dolbeck Dragon Fly



▲ Tracy Burns at her graduation.

Award for the student who exemplifies a passion for their chosen trade. She was an excellent choice for that reward as she was always respectful and encouraging toward her peers. She was a true team player. Jeanette also received the President's Award for Academic Excellence for having the highest grades out of all the students in the Hairstyling program. Jeanette's family is naturally and justifiably proud of her achievements.

The MNO would like to wish all three graduates success in their futures. ∞

# MNO helps citizen achieve her dream career

submitted by  
**Jade Bourbonnière**  
MNO Education & Training Operations Coordinator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Kailie Dane loves spending time with children and listening to what they have to say. She chose to pursue a career in Early Childhood Education (ECE), which was the perfect choice for her.

Kailie enrolled in the ECE program at Cambrian College in Sud-

bury. During the two-year program, she acquired the valuable skill of knowing how to approach difficult situations involving children in a professional manner. While enrolled at Cambrian College, Kailie received funds from the MNO for her tuition.

Kailie now has a successful career as an Early Childhood Educator in a childcare centre. Every day, she gets to see the children grow up, learn and improve. She loves her job and feels she has achieved her highest potential. ∞



▲ Kailie Dane graduated from the ECE program at Cambrian College in Sudbury.



▲ Amy-Lynn Aubertin (right) at her graduation.

# Making all the right choices

submitted by  
**Jade Bourbonnière**  
MNO Education & Training Operations Coordinator

Amy-Lynn Aubertin learned a lot about herself when she decided to further her education. She was very interested in a career in law enforcement but knowing that college is expensive, she reached out to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) for financial assistance.

With MNO support, she started the Police Foundation program at Algonquin College in Ottawa in September 2013. Amy-Lynn thrived as a college student. She was able to grow and discover new things about herself. She also found satisfaction in volunteering at the college and within the community.

When she realized how important volunteering is, she did her best to give back to the community

as much as possible. She helped out with Women In Uniform events, the Barrhaven Santa Claus Parade, the 9 Run Run marathon hosted by Ottawa's Emergency Services and Student Orientation sessions hosted at Algonquin College.

During the summer of 2014, she applied to the summer student program with the City of Ottawa's By-Law Services. It was one of the most exciting summers of Amy-Lynn's life and the program taught her what working in law enforcement was really like. She realized she had made the right choices.

At Algonquin College, Amy-Lynn's life changed dramatically: she learned the value of volunteering, graduated with honours and received the Police Foundation Faculty Award.

The support Amy-Lynn received from the MNO paved the way towards a brighter future. ∞



▲ Alicia Blore and University of Waterloo mascot King Warrior.

# MNO citizen graduates with Honours

submitted by  
**Jade Bourbonnière**  
MNO Education & Training Operations Coordinator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Alicia Blore successfully obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Honours Therapeutic Recreation with a minor in Gerontology from the University of Waterloo.

Throughout her educational journey, Alicia maintained a position on the Dean's honours list.

Alicia is well known throughout the MNO for her skills as a Métis fiddler, often playing during MNO events such as the Annual Gen-

eral Assembly and Louis Riel Day celebrations.

While studying, Alicia was a facilitator for the MNO Infinite Reach Student Solidarity Network. Over the summer, she participated in the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) and performed during the 2015 Pan AM Games opening ceremony. She was also the winner of the 2013/2014 SUNDANCe Aboriginal Award for demonstrated active involvement in her Aboriginal community.

Alicia is now working full-time for the MNO as an Education Officer. Her parents and family are very proud of her achievements. ∞



# Building the MNO Team

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is excited to welcome three new staff members.

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

**Chanchette Dimitri**  
*MNO Controller, Ottawa*



**Chanchette** is a detail oriented, energetic team player who works well under pressure. She is a third level Certified General Accountant (CGA) and holds a Diploma in Business Admin Accounting from Algonquin College and a Bachelor of Science from the Carleton University. Prior to joining the MNO, Chanchette held senior financial positions at several organizations including MHPM; the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada; CIRA; and the Electricity and Construction Sector Councils.

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

**Jaylin Renaud**  
*MNO Region 3 Employment Developer, Timmins*



The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome **Jaylin Renaud** to the Timmins office. Jaylin is joining the MNO in the position Employment Developer for Region 3. Jaylin is a recent graduate of the Social Service Program at Cambrian College in Sudbury. She has experience working at the Sudbury Action Center for Youth (SACY) and the Rainbow District School Board, Barrydowne College, in Sudbury. A large part of her career was spent working with youth facing barriers such as homelessness, employment and education counselling, substance abuse and mental health issues. Jaylin also has experience working with Community Living and District School Board Ontario North East in Cochrane, Ontario. Within her position, Jaylin will be assisting clients throughout Region 3 to find and secure employment as well as develop and maintain relationships with employers in Timmins and surrounding areas.

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

**Valerie Routh**  
*Payroll Administrator, Ottawa*



**Valerie** is a collaborative professional with superior organizational skills and reputation for high level of accuracy. She is a Certified Payroll Manager (CPM) through the Canadian Payroll Association. She has extensive experience providing senior payroll services for many large firms including Ceridian; the Federation of Canadian Municipalities; Alterna; and Adobe.

Welcome to the  
team Chanchette,  
Valerie, and Jaylin!



## Letter to the editor:

MNO citizen Barbara (Boese) Bucko recently attended a Tipi raising ceremony and shares her thoughts about it in this letter. This letter represents the opinions of the writer only and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Métis Nation of Ontario. The letter has been edited slightly for grammar and punctuation.

The Conestoga College traditional Tipi Raising Ceremony is truly an amazing event. On Wednesday, September 2, 2015, Aboriginal Student Services, students, volunteers and children participated and watched as volunteers and staff raised a massive white tipi wrapped tightly with canvas [and] using approximately 15 foot poles fastened with long wooden pins. The plan was [that] the tipi [would] be placed near the sanctuary on campus in Kitchener, so that people passing by on the 401 highway in their cars would see this beautiful symbol of Aboriginal culture. This tradition is also used as a student “welcome back,” which gives the Aboriginal student body a sense of unity. The tipi is used for much more than just a symbol of culture [though]; to the community it is also used by staff and students as a classroom. In the colder months, they build fires to heat the inside and also use the tipi for ceremonies, including the “Blue Moon Ceremony.” Myeengun, Conestoga’s Aboriginal Services Manager, an elder, Aboriginal traditional counsellor from Chippewa of the Thames First Nation, near London, Ontario, calls the tipi “Ontario’s first wireless Tipi.” They plan to decorate the outside walls of the tipi with painted handprints. A great way to show unity, teach rituals and raise awareness.



This support line within the college for all Aboriginal students, including those who are First Nations (status and non-status), Métis and Inuit, is a wonderful tool. One which helps to develop, promote and build our community. Supporting the Aboriginal student body and ensuring the great future of our culture. I had the opportunity of watching this beautiful tipi raising with my two children Aiden, 12, and Grayson, 9. For them to see a part of my culture and to learn about how a community can help build the future is a wonderful thing. The Tipi truly is a beautiful piece of our culture. Maybe you will get a chance to see Conestoga’s Tipi along the 401 in your travels!

– Barbara (Boese) Bucko

## COUNCIL CORNER

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

### MNO NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL

<b>President</b> Derrick Pont	<b>Youth Representative</b> VACANT
<b>Chair</b> Amanda Pont-Shanks	<b>Councillor</b> Kelly Brishke
<b>Senator</b> Garry Laframboise	<b>Councillor</b> Reginald Bernier
<b>Secretary-Treasurer</b> Leah Brown	<b>Councillor</b> Pierre Carre
<b>Women’s Representative</b> Gisele Legiehn	<b>Councillor</b> Brian Kon

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.



# 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



▲ MNBC President Bruce Dumont (left) and Dennis Walker, Vice President, Sales and Indigenous Relations, Williams Scotsman of Canada.



▲ Wally Garrioch as Louis Riel in the Trial of Louis Riel performance.



▲ Métis artist Leah Marie Dorion.



▲ Sessional journal of the Assembly of Assiniboia and Louis Riel's sash.

## ■ British Columbia

On September 26, 2015, during the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC)'s eighteenth Annual General Meeting, a certificate of recognition was signed between the MNBC and Williams Scotsman, North America's leading supplier of workforce accommodations, modular space and storage solutions.

The certificate celebrates the incorporation of a newly held business in July 2015: Williams Scotsman Métis Services Inc.

“We view our partnership with MNBC as more than just a business arrangement; we see it as a marriage,” said Dennis Walker, Vice President of Sales and Indigenous Relations at Williams Scotsman of Canada. “We will continually invest in this relationship, to ensure this venture is a success for all involved.”

The joint venture comes as a result of Williams Scotsman's new three-year strategic plan for Aboriginal relations, established by Stephen Crocker, their new Director of Indigenous Relations.

Source: Facebook

## ■ Alberta

In Medicine Hat, Alberta, Louis Riel was remembered throughout Métis Week, especially with a special presentation of *The Trial of Louis Riel* at the Esplanade on November 17.

Actor Wally Garrioch has played the role of Riel since 1996, when he performed the play for the Métis Assembly.

“I think there are misconceptions. A lot of people don't know what went on in the trial,” Garrioch stated in an interview with *Medicine Hat News*. “If they hear that from basically Louis's own lips why the uprising happened—it was not so much a rebellion...they wanted to negotiate with the government, the government wouldn't negotiate.”

After the play, attendees took part in a bannock competition, sampling and judging a dozen different recipes, and ending the evening with traditional Métis jigging to the sound of fiddles and spoons.

Source: Medicine Hat News

## ■ Saskatchewan

Visual artist and proud Métis Leah Marie Dorion's art is currently on display at the Affinity Gallery in Saskatoon.

Dorion's art is inspired by Métis women whose roles were not acknowledged in history.

“These women I felt never really had a visual presence in the history books. There is a lot of oral history of these women and their contributions,” she told *Saskatchewan Weekend*.

“The Métis community has been so matriarchal, women-centered,” she said. “Through the fur trade era, women were so vital. They were the link. They brought the fur trade into this whole different level.”

The collection, titled *Country Wives and Daughters of the Country: Métis Women of This Land*, will run until December 5.

Source: CBC News-Saskatoon

## ■ Manitoba

On October 22, the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) and the Manitoba Government jointly announced the introduction of a new learning resource tool for secondary school students as part of a project to highlight and recognize the contributions of the Métis people and the District of Assiniboia.

During the event, Louis Riel's sash was on display, along with the sessional journal of the Assembly of Assiniboia that holds the records of the ratifying of the *Manitoba Act, 1870*.

“The history is not new to the Métis Nation. We have always taught our Métis children about our rightful place in history,” said Joan Ledoux, MMF Minister of Education.

The resource tool, located at [www.legislativeassemblyofassiniboia.ca](http://www.legislativeassemblyofassiniboia.ca), aims to give students a better understanding of the evolution of Manitoba and the efforts of those who worked diligently to secure their place in Confederation.

Sources: Facebook, Le Metis

The financier of Choice for

# Métis

## Entrepreneurs in Ontario

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

Rates & security  
customized  
to promote Métis  
business success

Contributions  
for business plans  
and ongoing  
support



[mvdf.ca](http://mvdf.ca)

1-855-798-0133



# Recently moved or moving soon?

**To stay in touch with its citizens, the Métis Nation of Ontario depends on its Registry mailing list. This list is used to send citizens important notices as well as each issue of the Métis Voyageur.**

If we don't have your current address then this important information will not reach you.

If you are moving or have moved, please don't forget to change your address with the Registry so that you will continue to receive **MNO** notices and the **Métis Voyageur**.

To get your address updated please either call

**1-855-798-1006 ext. 2**

or send an e-mail to:

**registry@metisnation.org**



## MNO TYRMC Celebrates Riel Day

continued from page 8 ...

the History of the Métis in Toronto. He pointed to the early intermixing of the settlers and Indigenous people combined with Toronto's connections to the fur trade through overland and river transport and portage routes as Toronto's being part of the Proto Métis community. As the English defeated the French in Toronto, Thistle pointed to the rise of racism towards "half-breeds" as a factor in the lack of known history of Métis people in Toronto.

A fiddling and jigging performance by MNO citizens Alicia Blore and Simone Blais followed. Blore and Blais had everyone up and on their feet dancing and laughing, with some joining in on the spoons! A special and surprise guest at the event, Senator Olivine Tiedema, was in attendance and also shared a special song with everyone at the gathering, singing into a microphone for everyone to hear. Also in attendance was Sabrina Roy, an MNO staff member who facilitated a dot art activity, and MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators Elise St. Germain and Renee Monchalin from the University of Toronto.

Various informational booths and vendors were also on display, including tables from Centennial College and Ryerson University. Self-identified Métis artisan Suzanne Lavallée sold jewelry and other Aboriginal goods and the MNO TYRMC had a table set up to offer Métis-specific merchandise, including sashes, firebags, spoons, pins, and holiday gifts!

Beaulieu offered closing remarks to the gathering, thanking everyone for joining the MNO TYRMC for the afternoon and celebrating Louis Riel Day. Senator Simmonds offered a final closing prayer, and wishes for safe travels home were shared by all.

On November 16, the MNO TYRMC hosted a Louis Riel Day celebration in collaboration with the City of Toronto. This year, approximately 60 individuals joined in on the celebration, including MNO TYRMC Councillors, members of the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO), Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer, Toronto City Councillors Joe Cressy and Mike Layton, and several media sources.

Mae Maracle, consultant with the City of Toronto Aboriginal Affairs Committee, MCed the event. Senator Constance Simmonds provided an opening prayer and words of welcome. Councillor Mike Layton spoke on behalf of the City of Toronto, reflecting on the significance of Louis Riel in Canadian history and to the Métis Nation. Councillor Layton also presented a proclamation to Beaulieu, declaring November 16 as Louis Riel Day in Toronto.

Following Councillor Layton, Beaulieu reflected on the importance of community and the integral connection between leadership as a Métis individual and listening to one's community. Beaulieu also highlighted the work of the MNO TYRMC Youth Committee, sharing that the Métis Nation is healthy and strong, as demonstrated by the proud Métis youth that are step-

ping forward as leaders in communities across Ontario. PCMNO Chair France Picotte offered words of greeting on behalf of the PCMNO and reflected on the incredible strength of the Métis Nation and its communities.

The final speaker was the MNO TYRMC Women's Representative and Youth Committee member Lindsay DuPré, who shared words of inspiration regarding the immeasurable strength and spirit of Métis youth across the nation. DuPré also presented Minister Zimmer and Councillor Layton each with a pair of hand-painted spoons, which DuPré painted herself.

Following the speeches, those in attendance observed the Métis flag being raised outside of City Hall and enjoyed the musical talents of Alicia Blore on the fiddle, accompanied by Simone Blais, Joanna Burt and Elise St. Germain, who led the group in jigging.

The MNO TYRMC provided wooden spoons for those in attendance to play along with the fiddling. Highlights from the celebration included Minister Zimmer playing the spoons, after receiving expert instruction from PCMNO Councillor Ernie Gaten, and Councillor Cressy joining in on the jigging and demonstrating his own fancy steps to Simone Blais!

The MNO TYRMC would like to thank all of those who joined the Council and the City of Toronto in celebrating Louis Riel Day in Toronto! ∞



▲ Toronto City Councillor Mike Layton (R) presents MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu with a proclamation declaring November 16 Louis Riel Day in Toronto.



▲ MNO TYRMC Women's Representative Lindsay DuPré speaks.



▲ Members of the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council.