

# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

ISSUE NO. 90, APRIL 2016

## GARY LIPINSKI: A legacy of achievement

MNO President announces  
retirement from Métis politics

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THE  
MÉTIS  
VOYAGEUR  
APRIL 2016

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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.

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▲ The Battle of Vimy Ridge by Richard Jack.

## MNO Veterans' Council Vimy Ridge Project update

submitted by  
**Joseph Paquette**

MNO Veterans' Council President  
.....

During the First World War, the Battle of Vimy Ridge became a major event that got Canada recognized as a country that can hold its own. This recognition came at a great cost to the Canadian people. Métis soldiers were among those who gave their lives in this conflict.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council has redirected its plans for the 2017 Vimy Ridge Project. Métis veterans and youth will attend a Vimy Ridge remembrance service taking place in Ottawa to mark the 100th

anniversary of this important historical event.

The event in Ottawa is estimated to last about 4 or 5 days, taking in much of the Vimy Ridge and First World War history, as well as participating and attending many of the events that will be occurring at that time.

Originally, the plan involved travelling to the commemorative ceremony taking place in Vimy, France. The current political circumstance in France and Belgium have deterred many people from applying for the previously planned event on Vimy Ridge in France, which has prevented the MNO Veterans' Council from being able to have the minimum required number

of attendees for the tour guide organizer, as stipulated by their contract.

Nevertheless, the MNO Veterans' Council is determined to present an opportunity for Métis youth to learn what was fought and paid for with their ancestors' blood and will instead plan to attend the event in Ottawa.

All past and future donations and fundraising will now be dedicated to meet this goal. The MNO Veterans' Council's GoFundMe page has been

updated and continues to accept donations.

If you would like to attend and participate in this memorable event, please email the MNO Veterans' Council at [mnovc@rogers.com](mailto:mnovc@rogers.com) to get your pre-registration form.

For those that have already registered for the previous Vimy Ridge Pilgrimage, the council will keep your registration on file and apply it to the Ottawa trip. ∞

If you would like to volunteer on any of the committees of this event, please send an e-mail to [mnovc@rogers.com](mailto:mnovc@rogers.com) with your contact information: name, address, phone number and email address.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

**SUNSET  
COUNTRY  
MÉTIS  
COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL  
MEETINGS**

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Every Month  
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## GARY LIPINSKI: A Legacy of Achievement

MNO President Lipinski announces retirement from Métis politics

# Eight Years of Successes and Results by Working Together



MNO President Gary Lipinski.

**O**n March 5, 2016, after over two decades of holding political offices within the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and two successful terms in the MNO's highest elected office, MNO President Gary Lipinski announced that he will not be seeking re-election in the 2016 MNO Elections. President Lipinski made the announcement at the final meeting of the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) before the MNO Elections scheduled for May 2016.

"Eight years ago, I was elected as President on a platform that committed to advancing Métis rights, improving the quality of life of Ontario Métis children, youth families and communities and stabilizing and strengthening the MNO's finances, accountability and administration. Today, I take great pride in the successes and results we have achieved in all of these areas. Some we could not have even imagined in 2008. I take even more pride in the fact that we did all this by working—together," said President Lipinski.

In presenting his final State of the Nation report to the PCMNO, President Lipinski highlighted just some of the MNO achievements over his mandates:

∞ The signing and renewal of the **MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement** in 2008 and 2014, along with related Memorandums of Understanding with other Ontario Ministries, which has ushered in a new, respectful era of Crown-Métis Nation relations in Ontario based on mutual respect, recognition and reconciliation.

∞ Advancing Métis rights through intervening in significant court cases, including, **Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada, Keewatin v. Ontario, Daniels v. Canada**, securing an increase in the number of Harvester Cards eligible under the 2004 MNO-Ontario Harvesting Agreement and furthering future **Ontario Métis Land Claims** through research, political action and meaningful participation in federal Ministerial Special Representative processes.

∞ The establishment of a unique Crown-Métis Nation consultation model, along with the creation of the new **MNO Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch**, to protect Métis lands, rights and the environment as well as ensure that Métis fully participate in resource development in their territories.

∞ **Increasing the MNO's financial accountability, transparency and credibility** which has led to its annual budgets increasing from \$12 million to over \$30 million, including MNO affiliated corporations, along with the expansion of the MNO's province-wide delivery structure to 21 offices and over 175 employees.

∞ The standardization and de-politicization of **MNO Registry Policy** as well as the registration of over 6,000 new MNO citizens over the last 8 years.

∞ **Building a strong and credible Métis public service** through significant investments in staff training, the creation of a MNO pension plan and maintaining and separating MNO politics from its administrative operations.

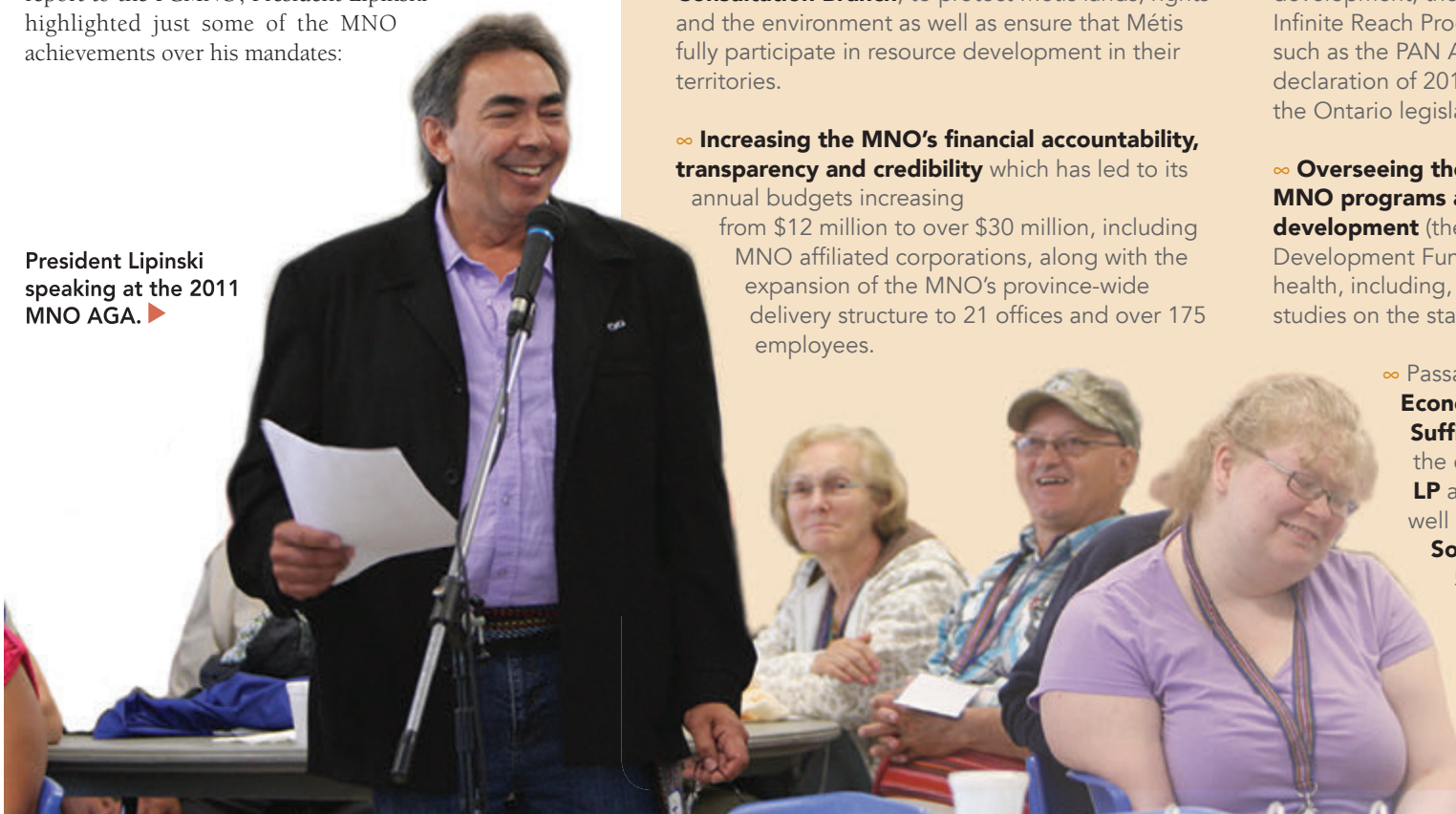
∞ Successfully overseeing the implementation of a deficit reduction plan that will completely **eliminate the MNO's inherited \$4.2 million debt by 2016/17**. This new reality—a debt-free MNO—will allow future generations not to be saddled with the burdens of the past.

∞ **Increasing the profile and knowledge of Ontario Métis** through initiatives such as the publication of a Métis Educational Toolkit for Ontario schools, Métis-specific curriculum development, the MNO Canoe Expedition and Infinite Reach Program, participation in events such as the PAN AM Games and securing the declaration of 2010 as the Year of the Métis by the Ontario legislature.

∞ **Overseeing the significant expansion of MNO programs and services in economic development** (the \$30 million Métis Voyageur Development Fund), training, education, and health, including, ground-breaking Métis-specific studies on the state of Métis health in Ontario.

∞ Passage of the MNO's first law—the **Economic Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Act**—which mandated the creation of **Infinity Investments LP** as the MNO's business arm as well as developing **MNO-Brightroof Solar LP**—a partnership that owns 50+ solar projects throughout Ontario that will produce stable, own source revenue for the MNO.

President Lipinski speaking at the 2011 MNO AGA. ▶



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## GARY LIPINSKI: A Legacy of Achievement



▲ President Lipinski and the Honourable Brad Duguid in 2008 after signing the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*, which was renewed in 2014.



▲ President Lipinski with Aboriginal Affairs Minister Chris Bentley at the Legislature following the declaration of 2010 as the Year of the Métis in Ontario.



▲ President Lipinski established positive relationships with the Ontario government. Above, he is with Premier Kathleen Wynne at the 2013 PDAC conference in Toronto.



▲ Three great Métis leaders: (from left) Métis Nation British Columbia President Bruce Dumont, Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras and President Lipinski at the 2013 MNO AGA.



▲ During President Lipinski's tenure, the MNO signed nearly 20 agreements with Ontario post-secondary institutions. Above President Lipinski signs one of the first such agreements with Confederation College in 2009.



▲ Under President Lipinski, all of the MNO's 29 community councils signed Regional Consultation Protocol Agreements. Above is one of the first signed in with the Georgian Bay Region in 2009. Community Council Presidents of the time with President Lipinski were (left to right) Malcom Dixon, Larry Duval and Alden Barty.



▲ Through the efforts of President Lipinski, the provincial government provided funding to the University of Ottawa to create a Chair in Métis Studies. Above, President Lipinski and uOttawa President Allan Rock sign the agreement to create the position.



▲ President Lipinski ensured the Métis had a high profile at the 2015 PAN-AM Summer Games. Above he holds the flame for the PAN-AM torch.



▲ President Lipinski's leadership led to the MNO signing numerous agreements with resource companies and other businesses. Above, the agreement signing with Detour Gold in 2010.

*continued from page 3*

President Lipinski also highlighted the unanimous passage of the *MNO Secretariat Act* by the Ontario Legislature in December 2015 as one of his proudest moments. "It was quite something to sit in the place that once put a bounty on Louis Riel's head and see all political parties support this historic legislation. We have now ensured that the MNO's mandate to represent its citizens and communities with respect to our collective rights will never be questioned by future governments."

"In our recent community information sessions, we repeatedly heard from those who have been a part of building the MNO since the beginning just how important this legislative recognition was. It was a watershed moment for our people and I am gratified that the next generation will not need to face the same struggles and denials we previously faced as Ontario Métis," said President Lipinski.

“

*I look forward to seeing the next elected MNO President build on the solid foundation we have built by working together.*

”

In closing, President Lipinski emphasized that he was most pleased with the efforts the MNO has made in ensuring Métis youth can be all they can be. "Over my mandates, the increased successes and participation of our young people—at all levels of the MNO and within society as a whole—has warmed my heart the most. Further, the fact that more and more Métis youth want to learn about their history, culture and assist in the MNO's nation-building project allows me to retire knowing that we are in good hands going forward."

President Lipinski personally thanked all MNO staff as well as current and past leadership at the Community Councils level and at PCMNO, including, the current MNO Executive for their hard work and support over the years. President Lipinski also once again acknowledged the leadership of Doug Wilson (MNO's long-serving Chief Operating Officer who is retiring at the end of the month) in building the Métis public service and making the MNO one of the most accountable Aboriginal governments in the country.

"It has truly been an honour to represent Ontario Métis over my mandates. On behalf of my wife Dianne and daughter Rachel, we will treasure the friendships and experiences we have made forever. I look forward to seeing the next elected MNO President build on the solid foundation we have built by working—together," concluded President Lipinski. ∞



## GARY LIPINSKI: A Legacy of Achievement

### Statement from Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer

**G**ary Lipinski's distinguished leadership and commitment to advocating for Métis rights and improving the quality of life of Métis people has transformed the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and left a lasting legacy.

Under Gary's leadership, the Ontario government and the MNO worked together to improve the well-being of Métis children, families and communities while working to protect and promote the distinct culture, identity, and heritage of Métis people.

His drive to ensure the Métis people he represented have the opportunities to succeed led to a strengthening of Ontario's relationship with Métis people through such initiatives as the creation and signing of the 2008 *MNO-Ontario Framework*

*Agreement* and its renewal in 2014; Ontario's ongoing support of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund, announced with MNO in 2011; the declaration of 2010 as the Year of the Métis by the Ontario Legislature and the passage of the *Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act* in the Legislature last December.

Since 2008, Gary has worked tirelessly as President to build up the Métis Nation of Ontario. Through investing in Métis people represented by the MNO and a push for financial accountability and transparency, he grew the MNO into a more effective administration that better served its membership. This has allowed



the MNO to increase the profile and knowledge of Métis in Ontario, expand MNO's programs and services in economic development and establish a business arm to lead investments in renewable energy projects across Ontario.

It has been a pleasure to work with Gary over the years and we thank him for his commitment and dedication to the Métis Nation of Ontario. Our collaboration has ushered in a new era of Crown-Métis relationships based on mutual respect, recognition and reconciliation.

Gary will be missed, and we wish him the very best in his future endeavours. ∞

▼ Under President Lipinski the voice of Ontario Métis was always heard during important Métis rights cases. Here President Lipinski is at the Supreme Court in 2013 during the announcement of the historic *MMF v Canada* decision.



▲ In 2012, President Lipinski along with MNO Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette received recognition from the Canada at Rideau Hall that the Métis have been fighting for Canada before there was a Canada.



▲ President Lipinski stressed the importance of carrying out Métis specific health research. Above he speaks at the 2015 MNO Health Summit.



▲ Helping Métis youth become all they can be was a major focus for President Lipinski. Above President Lipinski greets members of the MNO Canoe Expedition as they complete their trek from Ottawa to Thunder Bay in 2014.



▲ President Lipinski's achievements built on the legacy of past Métis leaders and continued their important work. Above President Lipinski speaks at the 2012 Louis Riel Day ceremony.

### Minister Carolyn Bennett thanks outgoing MNO President Gary Lipinski

**T**oday, I am honoured to acknowledge Mr. Gary Lipinski's achievements, who after over two decades of holding political offices within the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and two terms in the MNO's highest elected office, announced he will not be seeking re-election in 2016.

Mr. Lipinski's hard work on behalf of Métis in Ontario has benefitted not only Métis, but all Canadians. His decades spent advancing Métis rights, improving



the quality of life of Ontario Métis children, youth, families and communities reflect the same priorities held by the Government of Canada.

As a result of his leadership, the MNO is stronger than it has ever been. Mr. Lipinski knows, as does the federal government, that improving Métis quality of life requires distinct and innovative approaches and real partnership among Métis groups and government at all levels, including a renewed, Nation-to-Nation relationship

between Canada and the Métis Nation. The strong partnerships he built with Ontario and Canada – including the establishment of an historic Canada-Métis Nation of Ontario consultation agreement – are testament to his legacy, and he leaves MNO well-positioned to take advantage of future opportunities.

Mr. Lipinski's many successes and contributions with the MNO have been remarkable, and I wish him sincere congratulations and the best of luck in this next stage of his life. ∞



## GARY LIPINSKI: A Legacy of Achievement

## Words of appreciation to MNO President Gary Lipinski

Since the announcement on Saturday, March 5, that MNO President Gary Lipinski is retiring from Métis politics there has been an outpouring of tributes and thanks to him for his decades of service to the Métis Nation. Some people posted their appreciation to President Lipinski on the MNO Facebook page while others sent in e-mails. Below are some of those comments:

**Marcee miigwech Gary** for all your hard work at the upper levels of government and with all your community councils.  
– Karen Cederwall

**All the best Gary.**  
– Duane Morrisseau Beck

**Thanks so much for your service.**  
– David Calvin

**Wow!** [I] Was just mentioning you to someone a few days ago in regards to all that you've done for the Métis people. You will be greatly missed, sorry to see you go.  
– Darlene Dalla-Vicenza

**Thank you** for all your hard work and dedication to all the Métis of our land.  
– Raymond Mantha

**So sorry to hear you are retiring.** I was just mentioning to someone the other day, how hard you have worked, to help all Métis. Thank you for that!! What a great job you have done!!!! All the very best in your retirement, and new ventures, so well deserved.  
– Joanne McGill

**Congrats Gary, Job well done.** Now enjoy your next journey of life!!  
– Debbie Colon

**So sad to see him go**  
– Yvonne Jensen

**Please transmit my greatest thanks to Mr. Lipinski** for his commitment and hard work on our behalf. May you have a great retirement and the best of luck in your future plans. Marci. – Bernard Aubin

**Gary I realize how 8 years can take a toll on a person in politics,** thank you for bringing us this far, I am glad I had the opportunity to “break bread with you”, [so to speak ], in Sudbury, I wish you all the luck and happiness, in the future and may the Creator always watch over you and yours.  
– Marlene Greenwood

**This is the most disappointing news to date.** The Métis people must thank you whole heartedly for your strong leadership and dedication over the past eight years. You have taken us far beyond what I Imagined could happen, I personally thank you and wish you the very best on any future endeavours. Please be assured you have a great many Métis and non-Métis wishing you the very best! – Senator Larry Duval and family.

**Big shoes to fill!** Very impressive achievement! I am left wondering if Mr. Lipinski will turn to Federal Politics next. He is most capable and now, with the experience gained in lobbying and negotiating, Mr. Lipinski is a known face in the community of Canada. I wish him and his family all the best in health and happiness. Thank you for instilling pride in the Métis Nation's people and educating new members of our rights and history.  
– Barbara Horth



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1) With Métis author Joseph Boyden at the 2013 AGA. 2) With Métis singer-songwriter Amanda Rheame at the 2015 Health Summit. 3) Presenting Senator Bob McKay with Volunteer of the Year Award in 2014. 4) Greeting an MNO Canoe Expedition member in 2014. 5) In the early days of the MNO. 6) Presenting Senator and veteran Earl Scofield with the Queen's Jubilee Medal. 7) Fishing with Minister Brad Duguid and Blaine Tucker in 2009. 8) Presenting Senator Brenda Powley with the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2013. 9) Now Gary will have more time for dancing with Diane!



# Métis Nation of Ontario's Chief Operating Officer retires

Doug Wilson  
leaves Métis Nation  
of Ontario on very  
solid ground

by  
MNO Staff

After over a decade serving in the MNO's public service, MNO's Chief Operating Officer, Doug Wilson resigned his position effective March 31, 2016.

COO Wilson joined the MNO in 2005 as the Director of Healing & Wellness, and in 2008 assumed the role of Chief Operating Officer under President & CEO Gary Lipinski.

"Doug Wilson is one of those truly extraordinary individuals who is successful in everything that they take on. His outstanding commitment and devotion to serving the Métis Nation of Ontario and our citizens has been an inspiration to all," stated President Gary Lipinski.

COO Wilson brought a lifetime of experience as a high-ranking officer and pilot within the Canadian Armed Forces to his work at the MNO, including having led search and rescue teams and served as Base Commander for CFB Trenton – a major air force base in Ontario with thousands of employees and multiple levels of government to manage.

In tendering his resignation, COO Wilson wrote, "Personally, to have the opportunity to learn so much about my culture and to work in support of Métis Rights has been a real highlight and something that n e v e r

*Personally, to have the opportunity to learn so much about my culture and to work in support of Métis Rights has been a real highlight and something that never would have happened had I not come to work for the MNO.*

- MNO COO Doug Wilson

would have happened had I not come to work for the MNO. For this and so many other things I remain most appreciative."

President Lipinski stated,

"We have accepted Doug's resignation with both reluctance and regret, and appreciate and understand that at this point in time he needs to focus on his health. I have personally thanked Doug for his work with and for the MNO. He has been an absolute god-send."

When I became President in 2008, I asked him to take on the role as our Chief Operating Officer where he has helped and guided us through some of the most difficult years the MNO has ever seen. Since that time, the MNO has seen steady solid gains in all fronts, and is now recognized as one of the best run Aboriginal Governments in Canada. This is part of the legacy Doug leaves us with. I want to thank Doug again for his complete dedication, commitment, and service at the highest level, and for being a friend to each of us at the same time. On behalf of the leadership, staff and citizens of the MNO, we wish Doug good health and all the very best."

President Lipinski noted that another part of COO Wilson's legacy is the extremely skilled and experienced senior management team that he recruited to the MNO.

"I am very pleased to say that while Doug will be missed, he has left in place a very solid

team to continue to guide the MNO as it moves forward in these exciting times. Wenda Watteyne, the MNO's Director of Healing and Wellness, will become Acting Chief Operating Officer for the first six months of the coming fiscal year to assist in the transition. Wenda will be responsible for the overall administration and management of MNO's operations, including managing the day-to-day affairs and staff of the MNO and the delivery of programs and service."

Wenda Watteyne has over 22 years of experience working in Ottawa in a number of capacities that began with a position with the House of Commons following her relocation from Saskatchewan in 1993. Wenda held the position of Executive Director of the Métis National Council from 1999-2005 and from 2009-2011. Prior to that, Wenda held the position of Chief Operations Officer of the Aboriginal Liaison Directorate of Human Resources Development Canada and worked as Executive Assistant to three national Inuit leaders and Wilton J. Littlechild as a Member of Parliament.

For the past four and a half years, Wenda has held the position of Director of Healing & Wellness and is fully committed to the advancement of the MNO's *Statement of Prime Purpose* in a progressive, collaborative and team-oriented manner. Wenda is honoured to play a role in the management and administration of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat as Acting Chief Operating Officer and looks forward contributing to the ongoing success of the Métis Nation of Ontario. ∞



## NATION



▲ Beth Hanna (left), Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Heritage Trust, and Gary Lipinski, President, Métis Nation of Ontario, at the 2015 Lieutenant Governor's Heritage Trust Awards.

# MNO receives Heritage Trust Award for Community Leadership

Award recognizes MNO's efforts to preserve and promote Ontario Métis history and culture

by  
MNO Staff

On February 26, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) received the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Trust Award for Community Leadership from Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell at Queen's Park in Toronto. MNO President Gary Lipinski and several other representatives from the MNO accepted the award on behalf of all MNO citizens.

This Award celebrates individuals, groups and communities for exceptional contributions to conserving Ontario's cultural and natural heritage. It was given in recognition of the tremendous work MNO citizens have done over more than 20 years to preserve and promote Métis history and culture.

"It wasn't so long ago that as Métis people we were not free to celebrate our rich heritage and culture. Our existence as Métis in Ontario was denied. But thanks to the strong work of our Métis citizens and communities, the story of the Métis in Ontario and our contribution to the province and the country is again being celebrated. This award presented by Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell recognizes the MNO and its citizens for this important work preserving and promoting Ontario's Métis his-

tory," stated President Gary Lipinski.

The work of preserving Métis heritage started with the founding of the MNO in 1993 and is strongly represented in the *Statement of Prime Purpose*, which states: "We are proud of our rich heritage. We are inspired by the values and traditions of our ancestors."

The MNO has shown leadership and commitment in working to meet the specific heritage related objectives and has had great impact at the local community, regional and provincial levels through its many programs and services.

One such service is the maintenance of the MNO Registry, which electronically archives the historical and genealogical information of over 18,000 MNO citizens. This historical information has helped the MNO document its traditional lands within Ontario where Métis communities hold ancestral responsibilities and rights. By advancing these historic Métis rights, including through the Crown's Duty to Consult and Accommodate, the MNO engages with a wide array of resource industry proponents and government in determining the potential environmental and cultural impact of various projects.

The MNO supports natural heritage and environmental sustainability, and preserves the ways of their Métis ancestors through Métis Traditional Knowledge and Métis Way of Life studies, and it holds events that

*"It wasn't so long ago that as Métis people we were not free to celebrate our rich heritage and culture. Our existence as Métis in Ontario was denied. But thanks to the strong work of our Métis citizens and communities, the story of the Métis in Ontario and our contribution to the province and the country is again being celebrated."*

- MNO President  
Gary Lipinski

allow Métis Traditional Knowledge Holders to pass on their knowledge to younger generations. Programs like the MNO's summer youth cultural and Infinite Reach programs also provide opportunities for Métis youth to learn about their culture and promote it to a wider public.

The MNO developed and distributes resources to assist chartered MNO community councils and citizens to share Métis heritage and culture at community, regional and provincial heritage and cultural events, schools and post-secondary institutions and other public venues. Several MNO community councils including those in Oshawa, Midland, Toronto, and Ottawa stage annual or semi-annual events and most communities stage Louis Riel Day celebrations and Harvest festivals.

While the MNO takes measures to preserve Métis history, it also looks to the future of its citizens. It has brought Métis heritage and culture into the education system through creative partnerships with government ministries, schools and post-secondary institutions. By developing a wide array of heritage and cultural resources suitable for educational use, including the Métis Education Kit, a variety of new technology resources such as the Michif Language Portal, the MNO Cultural Portal and mobile device application, the MNO provides tools that give access to historic documents,

educational reports, videos and recordings.

These innovative programs as well as the MNO's annual events that commemorate and celebrate Métis history, including Powley Day (September 19), Louis Riel Day (November 16) and National Aboriginal Day (June 21) as well as the MNO's Annual General Assembly and a number of Métis community festivals and events were recognized by this award as setting a new bar for promoting and preserving history and culture.

"Our Métis youth continue to reach out to our Senators and Traditional Knowledge Holders and this gives me hope for our future," stated President Lipinski. "They take part in our Summer Youth Cultural Programs and volunteer as Infinite Reach facilitators. With every Annual General Assembly, we find new young faces eager to learn more about themselves and their history, our history as Métis."

The Lieutenant Governor's Heritage Trust Award for Community Leadership is acknowledgment that, from the PCMNO to community councils, and from its youth to its older citizens, the MNO is a community leader in the preservation and promotion of Métis culture and heritage. ∞



# MNO President Lipinski congratulates Ontario on mandatory Indigenous cultural training

by  
MNO Staff

The Métis Nation of Ontario commends the government of Ontario for its recent announcement and commitment to implementing mandatory Indigenous cultural competency and anti-racism training across the Ontario Public Service.

MNO President Gary Lipinski stated, “We applaud Premier Wynne’s leadership in addressing this Call to Action identified within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Final Report. Implementing Indigenous cultural competency training across the Ontario Public Service is a step toward creating dialogue and building more positive relationships between Ontario and its Indigenous

peoples.”

An integral part of this training will be telling the Métis story in Ontario and gaining a full appreciation for the historical experiences and contemporary realities of Métis children, families and communities. President Lipinski noted, “We know according to census data that Métis people in Ontario make up over one third of Ontario’s Aboriginal population. The Métis Nation has a rich history and culture and we have played a vital role in the development of Ontario and Canada. The Métis Nation of Ontario looks forward to working in collaboration with Ontario to develop Métis cultural competency content and training to share our story. The MNO applauds Ontario’s commitment to create a better future for all Ontarians.” ∞



▲ MNO President Gary Lipinski.



▲ (Left to right) The Métis National Council delegation that met with the Prime Minister and Premiers on March 2, 2016, in Vancouver: MNO President Gary Lipinski, Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand, Women of the Métis Nation President Melanie Otheullo, MNC President Clement Chartier, Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras and Métis Nation British Columbia President Bruce Dumont. (Photo courtesy of the Métis National Council).

## President Lipinski represents Ontario Métis at First Ministers meeting on Climate Change

by  
MNO Staff

On March 2, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski was part of the Métis National Council delegation that participated in a meeting between the Canadian First Ministers and Indigenous leaders in Vancouver. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues surrounding climate change and actions governments can take to mitigate its impact. “Ontario Métis have a vital role to play in tackling the issues surrounding climate change,” said President Lipinski. “Our people often are the first to feel the effects of climate change. We are a people of the land and have always been closely connected to the land.”

During the meeting, President Lipinski with other Indigenous

leaders advocated partnerships between Canadian governments and Indigenous governments to protect land, air and water resources for future generations, while also promoting clean and sustainable economic growth. They also discussed effective ways for Canada to adapt to new challenges, reduce emissions and capitalize on the opportunities presented by a low-carbon economy to create jobs.

“By working together with Ontario and Canada, as well as other Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians,” explained President Lipinski, “we can make a real difference while supporting both the economy and the environment. Ontario’s green energy and feed-in-tariff programs are good examples of government programs that work and have a positive impact on climate change. The Métis Nation of Ontario has become a significant

player in the generation of green energy in the province of Ontario.”

In the coming months and years, the MNO expects to work with Ontario and Canada to develop and implement constructive policies and programs to address climate change. “Métis are perhaps best known for our involvement in the fur trade, which was the economic engine that drove Canada’s first economy and inspired Canada to become the nation we know and love today,” recalled President Lipinski. “The challenges presented by climate change present all Canadians with the opportunity and necessity to again transform our economy. It is time for Métis to again play a vital role in Canada’s economy by aiding in that transformation, which will ensure a strong future for all of our children and youth,” he added. ∞

## MNO and Glencore sign Memorandum of Understanding

by  
MNO Staff

On January 28, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) and Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations a Glencore Company (“Glencore INO”) formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) to guide their working relationship. Through the identification of common interests, the MOU sets out how the local rights-bearing Métis community, as represented by the MNO-Mattawa/Lake Nipissing Regional Consultation Committee, will work with Glencore INO to be kept regularly updated and informed about their operations located in the Sudbury basin.

“This agreement is very important to the Métis people,” explained the MNO representative at the MOU signing. “It is a first of its kind because it is not tied to any Environmental Assessment process or legal Duty to Consult requirements, but rather is designed to increase the capacity of the MNO, so that it can be effectively engaged on Glen-

core INO’s current operations within the Sudbury basin. The MNO is pleased to continue working with Glencore and to further developing our relationship with Glencore. Agreements like this one are another benefit that we see coming from the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, which was first signed in 2008 and renewed in 2014,” she added.

MNO Regional Councillor Juliette S. Denis, Chair of the Mattawa/Lake Nipissing Regional Consultation Committee, commented: “This MOU demonstrates Glencore’s commitment to collaborate with the surrounding regional rights-bearing Métis community to build a long-lasting and positive relationship. Our community is very proud of the relationship that we have built with Glencore. We see this relationship as an opportunity to foster new opportunities for collaborating while working together to protect our traditional values and way of life. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our relationship with Glencore.” ∞



▲ Photo from Glencore.com



# Métis Nation exhibition launched at Library and Archives Canada

by  
MNO Staff

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) launched their latest exhibition, *Hiding in Plain Sight: Discovering the Métis Nation in the Collection of Library and Archives Canada* in Ottawa on February 11. The display presents reproductions of paintings, photographs and documents pertaining to Métis culture and history culled from the LAC collection. LAC hopes the exhibition will raise awareness on the amount of historical Indigenous material they have and encourage people to look into their family history. Guest speakers at the opening included Métis National Council President Clément Chartier and Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) President David Chartrand, as well as Anita Vandenberg, Member of Parliament (MP) for Ottawa

West-Nepean. Vandenberg brought a message from the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs. In the opening address, Librarian and Archivist of Canada Guy Berthiaume spoke of the history of the Métis following the uprisings in Red River in 1870 and in Saskatchewan in 1885. “It was considered unwise and sometimes dangerous for anyone to identify themselves as Métis. The Métis lawyer, Jean Teillet, described a reign of terror which meant that survival for the Métis became synonymous with being invisible,” he said. In his address, President Chartier shared his view on what persecution of the Métis brought to the preservation of their history. “Even though it was negative in terms of how it was imposed on us and the results of it, [that history] has given us a lot of wealth, a lot of information, in the terms of geneal-

ogy. It actually helped us to begin reconstructing our history of our families.” President Chartrand shared his pride in seeing the collection of documents pertaining to Louis Riel displayed on the second floor, which could be seen upon request. One document in particular fascinated him: a document signed by the Members of Parliament that includes Riel’s signature, despite the fact he was already a wanted man at the time. “I get to see his name, his handwriting, it’s there. Imagine the difficult time he had to get here just to write his name, even though he had a price on his head,” he said. Chartrand ended his speech with heartfelt gratitude. “On behalf of my government and all of our people, thank you, thank you and thank you. As the Supreme Court said, our time has come.” Chartrand said. ∞



▲ Visitors study a display of the new exhibition at Library and Archives Canada.



▲ Exhibition photograph of Jean-Louis and Marie Angélique, children of Louis Riel.

# Métis author pens ballet about victims of the Residential School System

by  
MNO Staff

A young First Nations man, a survivor of the residential school system, hauls up a doll-house sized model of a residential school. Despite being strong, the model is too heavy for him to lift on his own and he slowly falls to his knees before crumpling beneath his burden, unable to carry the weight of the model on his shoulders. The young man is not alone. A young woman comes to his aid, lifting the model to allow him to roll out from under it. Later in the story, the man and woman burn the model of the residential school, freeing him of the burden he was forced to carry. This is one of the imagery-filled scenes from *Going Home Star—Truth and Reconciliation*, performed by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. From January 28 to 30, the National Arts Centre (NAC) in Ottawa presented *Going Home Star—Truth and Reconciliation*, a ballet based on a story written by Métis author Joseph Boyden. “Art is the way to allow Canadians to begin to understand something of such huge pain,” Boyden shared in an interview. “[It] allows Canadians to absorb not just the pain and the anger but the beauty



▲ A scene from *Going Home Star—Truth and Reconciliation*. (Photo source: National Arts Centre)

as well.” Cathy Levy, the NAC’s Executive Producer of Dance, agrees. “Tackling such a horrific period in Canada’s history through the performing arts provides us with a profound form of conversation about these issues. [It] will provide many more opportunities for audiences to engage and reflect on the importance of reconciliation.” The story tells the tale of Gordon and Annie, two First Nations people whose lives are brought together after they meet on a subway. As they get closer, Annie sees that even though Gordon is a survivor of the residential school system, it had left deep scars. Gordon shares his experiences with Annie, by mystical

means, through the lives of two children: Niska and Charlie, taken from their Aboriginal parents and forced to live through abuse and humiliation at the hands of a Clergyman at the residential school. Rife with delicate subjects such as rape and culture suppression, spectators who found the scenes disturbing were assured that leav-

ing the theatre was acceptable and people were present to speak with them if it was needed. Aboriginal Elders were in the lobby during the intermission as well. *Going Home Star—Truth and Reconciliation* brings together a blend of the Aboriginal cultures present in Canada. Beginning with a story written by a Métis author, there were also special guests throughout the evening. The Black Bear Singers of the Atikamekw Nation were the opening performance. After the intermission, Tanya Tagaq, the award-winning Inuk throat-singer, stunned the audience with the performance of one song. Following Tagaq’s performance, the ballet continued with its story of Annie and Gordon. The story ends with hope for their future and a tale shared with the spectators, who are shown harsh truths about the horrors that took place behind closed doors and the healing that can take place when the truth is shared to ensure such horrors will never happen again. Dr. Marie Wilson of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, shared that, “Ballet is about moving an audience. *Going Home Star* is also about moving our understanding. So that people can leave the hall not only having been entertained, but also having been witness to something important.” ∞





▲ Rachel Pineault, Vice-President of Human Resources and Aboriginal Affairs-Detour Gold (left) presents a check to Fred Gibbons, President of Northern College.

# MNO & Detour Gold pledge to create Métis bursary fund at Sudbury schools

Bursary fund encourages Métis youth to pursue post-secondary studies at Collège Boréal and Northern College

by  
MNO Staff

Representatives from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Detour Gold, Collège Boréal, and Northern College met on Friday, February 19, in Timmins to sign Memorandum of Understanding agreements to formalize the creation of a bursary program to assist Métis students in their pursuit of higher education.

Funds have been made available to Métis students at both colleges for the past two years; however Friday's signing solidifies this relationship and formally creates a Métis Nation of Ontario and Detour Gold Bursary at Collège Boréal and Northern College. The bursary's creation is a direct result of the 2012 Impact and Benefit Agreement between the MNO and Detour Gold, and will be made available to Métis students pursuing careers in the mining industry.

Northern College President Fred Gibbons said, "Northern College is very pleased to be an educational partner for this new Métis Nation of Ontario Detour Gold bursary which will benefit Métis students from within the MNO Region 3 of Abitibi-Temiskaming-James Bay. This endowed fund will reduce financial barriers to post-secondary studies for qualifying Métis students from our region that are pursuing education at any of our campuses that relates to, or supports our region's mining sector, either directly as Mining Engineering Technicians or in other programs whose graduates commonly find mining-related employment.

The Métis Nation of Ontario representative at the signing said, "We salute Detour Gold for being the latest large mining employer that recognizes and supports – and in such a significant way—the close connection between education, our region's Indigenous peoples, and successful economic development."

As stated in the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) *Statement of Prime*



▲ Jean-Pierre Nadon, Director of the Collège Boréal—Timmins Campus.

Purpose, the MNO has always made education a high priority. A key objective of the MNO is to ensure young Métis citizens uncover and embrace the will and determination to live a successful life."

"Collège Boréal is happy to work with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in order to provide support to our Métis students as they pursue their studies in our institution," said Collège Boréal President, Pierre Riopel. "Furthermore, we would like to thank Detour Gold Inc. for

*"We salute Detour Gold for being the latest large mining employer that recognizes and supports – and in such a significant way—the close connection between education, our region's Indigenous peoples, and successful economic development."*

– Northern College President Fred Gibbons

Northern College will help students reach higher levels of education and prepare for careers both with Detour Gold and throughout Northern Ontario. This investment is just one aspect of our broad educational commitment to our Aboriginal partners."

Through its support of Métis students, the Métis Nation of Ontario and Detour Gold Bursary at Collège Boréal and Northern will ensure that MNO youth continue to achieve their highest potential. ∞





▲ MNO citizens attending the Community Information Session in Penetanguishene.

# MNO citizens attend Community Information Sessions across province

by  
MNO Staff

February was a busy month for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) leadership and senior management as they held a series of Community Information Sessions. The sessions took place in Thunder Bay, Penetanguishene, Timmins, Sudbury and Toronto.

Hundreds of MNO citizens attended these meetings where Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) members including MNO President Gary Lipinski and other elected representatives, as well as senior MNO staff, provided important updates on a busy and productive year for the MNO at the local, regional and provincial levels. Many topics were touched upon including: the new

federal government's commitments to the Métis Nation, implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and the recently launched National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, as well as updates on Métis rights and legal issues. There were also presentations on MNO programs and services and a process for gathering further

input on the development and delivery of services across the province. A significant portion of the sessions were dedicated to understanding the *MNO Secretariat Act*, the ground-breaking legislation recognizing the Métis Nation of Ontario's unique governance structures that was passed in December 2015. The presenters responded to many good questions during the

questions and answers period at each session and received constructive feedback on the information presented to the attendees. Access to the Power Points used at the Information Sessions as well as other materials distributed at the meetings are available on the MNO website. ∞



▲ MNO Citizen Maria Vandennbrand (centre) speaks at the Indigenous Women and Mineral Development Panel.

# MNO representatives attend PDAC, world's largest annual mineral industry gathering

by  
MNO Staff

The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) held their 2016 convention on March 6 to 9 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto. PDAC is a national association representing the mineral exploration and development industry. The association's convention is the world's largest annual gathering of the mineral industry, focusing on

exploration, discovery and development of new mines and innovative developments. The Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) presence at the PDAC conference built upon the MNO's mandate to foster new relationships with mining companies operating within the Métis Nation's traditional harvesting territories. Mineral proponents impacting the lands and waterways traditionally used by MNO's historic, rights-bearing Métis communities, have the Duty to Consult and Accommodate with

the MNO. MNO citizen Maria Vandennbrand took part in a panel titled *Indigenous women and mineral development: Impacts and opportunities*. Vandennbrand, a graduate of the surface miner operator training program from the MNO Métis Mining Strategy, previously took part in a Youth Panel during the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association's 23rd Annual Conference in November 2015. ∞

## 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@ Métisnation.org**



# Métis Nation of Ontario committed to ending sexual violence and harassment

submitted by  
**Sahra MacLean**

MNO Ending Violence against Aboriginal  
Women Coordinator

On November 19 and 20, 2015, Premier Kathleen Wynne hosted a two-day summit in Toronto as part of Ontario's "It's Never Okay: An Action Plan to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment" campaign. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) brought a delegation of strong Métis women to celebrate the work of the MNO in their Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women program. Premier Wynne recognized the MNO and the delegation in her speech. Also in attendance were Tracy MacCharles, Ontario's Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, and David Zimmer, Ontario's Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, who have been champions of MNO's work to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women.

The summit is part of the "It's Never Okay" action plan as released in March 2015. The MNO has been a key player in advancing the issue of ending violence, especially gender-based violence, and the devaluing of Aboriginal women, girls and Two-Spirit people. The delegation included the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) representatives, MNO Youth Representatives Kelly Duquette and Simone Blais, as well as staff members Jennifer Lord and Sahra MacLean.

The MNO builds awareness of Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women within the Métis community through its Honouring Métis women is part of our culture education campaign as well as the work of the WSMNO. WSMNO representative Pearl Gabona shared her work in ending violence, stating that the work made her "search inward to find my strength but also the caring, loving manner, supporting words and hope for healing." The power in this strength and healing is apparent, as shown by Premier Wynne mentioning the work of the MNO in her address.

The MNO had a strong presence at the summit, including giving presentations and leading an MNO Métis Faceless Dolls Workshop. Minister Tracy MacCharles enjoyed the workshop and was happy to see the MNO sharing its culture, knowledge and commitment.

Representatives of the Joint Working Group to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women, including the MNO, presented on the priorities that have been identified in addressing violence. This plenary session gave the opportunity for summit attendees to understand the connections between the legacy of colonial violence and the devaluing of Aboriginal people that has led to violence against Aboriginal people. ∞

## International Women's Day a message from President Lipinski

As we observe International Women's Day, the Métis Nation of Ontario recognizes and honours Métis Women, Girls and Two-Spirit people. It is through honouring one another and embracing our culture that we show the true strength and resilience of the Métis Nation.

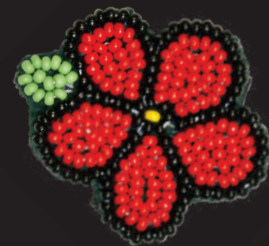
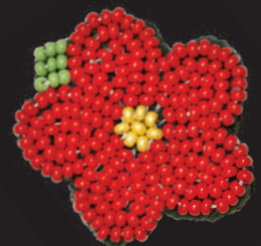
The Métis Nation of Ontario acknowledges the momentum that is building in our communities and across Canada. There is a growing will and commitment to address violence that affects Métis, First Nations and Inuit individuals, families and communities. The MNO has called for an end to gender-based violence through actions such as the 2014 AGA Resolution calling for a National Inquiry on Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women and the adoption of the Métis Nation of Ontario Declaration to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women. Ending violence is a major priority for the MNO and we are encouraged by recent commitments made by the federal and provincial governments.

The MNO delivers programs and services that provide peer supports to individuals and families affected by violence. Métis community workers are creating opportunities to 'give voices' to families that have lost a loved one through organizing vigils, memorials, ceremonies and through creating digital stories and tributes. As part of the Honouring Métis Women education campaign, the MNO is facilitating celebrations to honour Métis Women, Girls and Two-Spirit people who have experienced violence and is focused on preventing violence in our communities.

If you are interested in knowing more about the MNO's work in Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women or have questions in regard to the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and other developments, please contact our Manager of Strategic Initiatives, **Jennifer Lord** at **613-798-1488 ext. 105** or by email at **jenniferl@Métisnation.org**.

*Nancy Lipinski*

President  
Métis Nation of Ontario





# MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp another great success

by MNO Staff

Métis youth from across Ontario gathered in Mattawa from March 13 to 17 for the 2016 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Infinite Reach March Break Camp. This year's March Break Camp was a great success with 19 students in attendance.

The camp is for Métis students from Grade 10, 11 and 12. These students came together to enhance their post-secondary experience by discussing post-secondary options and learn about the MNO and its Infinite Reach Métis Solidarity Network. Scheduled workshops helped students prepare and plan for their post-secondary education: a college and university survival guide discussion, college and university choices and the importance of post-secondary education.

The retreat also gave students

an opportunity to immerse themselves in Métis heritage and culture with some lessons taught by Traditional Knowledge Holders. Nelson Montreuil taught them about trapping, a historic cornerstone of Métis culture. Roger Labelle hosted a lesson on skinning and stretching pelts and Joe Paquette, a frequent attendee of the March Break Camp, led a lesson in the art of fire-starting. These lessons focused on teaching the youth about the Métis Way of Life.

Many of the students who attend the March Break Camp later become MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators when they reach college or university, helping to promote and teach others about Métis culture.

The MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp was held at the Canadian Ecology Centre in Mattawa, Ontario.

**A video featuring highlights has been posted on the MNO website. ∞**



▲ Métis youth and facilitators of the 2016 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp.

# PCMNO Adopts New Youth Policy

Policy allows for elected youth representatives to continue to vote at PCMNO

In a unanimous vote on Saturday, March 5, 2016, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) passed a resolution establishing a policy which allows for a continuation of a 20-plus-years MNO tradition of including youth in the governance structures.

When the *Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act* (MNO-SA) was passed in December 2015, it reflected Canadian law which requires that elected Youth Representatives had to be at least 18 when elected in order to vote at PCMNO. Previously Youth Representatives who were elected under the age of 18 were able to vote at community councils and were able to vote at PCMNO once they turned 18.

In the days following the introduction of the MNOSA in the legislature, many youth across Ontario expressed concerns about the new rules to the PCMNO Youth Representative. He states he heard from young people in every region of the province and received calls, emails, Facebook messages and tweets. A petition, signed by youth in Thunder Bay, was sent to the PCMNO Youth Representative asking the PCMNO to do something to protect the voting rights that youth had always had in the MNO.

The issues arise from a need to protect young people from legal responsibilities that could dissuade them from being able to or wanting to participate in governance. A person under 18 cannot make a decision that, when they turn 18, will automatically instate all of the legal liabilities and duties of a Councillor. Those liabilities and duties can only be assumed by an 18-year-old—that is, a legal adult—who fully understands what those responsibilities entail and willingly takes them on.

At the same time, the MNO recognizes that some Youth

and Post-Secondary Representatives who turn 18 during their term of office may wish at that time to become full Councillors and to assume all of the rights and responsibilities that come with that role. This Policy provides a mechanism by which to do so.

President Lipinski stated, “We have put a strong emphasis on supporting and encouraging our children and youth to be the best they can be, as well to take up important roles within our overall Métis specific governance. This policy will ensure that will continue.”

With this policy now passed, and the other gains made through the passage of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act, the MNO leadership will continue to work directly with the the PCMNO Youth Representative and the MNO Youth Council to ensure that youth voices continue to be strong and well represented throughout the MNO's governance system.

President Lipinski had publicly responded to the concerns raised by youth and committed to getting a remedy. MNO lawyers worked with the MNO Youth Council (MNOYC) and the Youth Representative to have this policy drafted in a way that respected the role of the MNOYC and the ability of young people to have their own agency. This policy will serve to continue to grow the numbers of young people who are a part of the MNO.

The resolution was moved at the PCMNO meeting. The vote was made even more special by the fact that MNO youth and Knowledge Holders from across Ontario were able to witness the vote as they were holding an event at the same hotel that weekend.



**We have put a strong emphasis on supporting and encouraging our children and youth to be the best they can be, as well to take up important roles within our overall Métis specific governance. This policy will ensure that will continue.”**

— MNO President Gary Lipinski

After the vote, PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative Jennifer Nicholson stated that, “It is absolutely vital that we continue to hear the powerful voices of the Métis youth. However, we must also protect our youth from legal liabilities and duties that come with being a Councillor on the PCMNO. This new policy is the best route the MNO could have taken to achieve both protection of our youth councillors, and continue youth involvement at all levels of the MNO governance structure.” ∞



# COMMUNITY

## Ontario NDP Leader meets with MNO Council

submitted by  
**Joanne Meyer**  
MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations

Ontario NDP Leader and Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Andrea Horwath recently met with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council. The meeting took place on January 27. While in Peterborough, Horwath took the opportunity to discuss and listen to the priorities and concerns of the council. During the meeting, the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council presented Horwath with a small shoulder bag containing an MNO coin. Horwath was elected as an MPP in 2004 and formerly served as a City Councillor in Hamilton Ward 2. ∞



▲ Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath and citizens of the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council. Back row, from left: Luke Thompson, Andy Dufrane, Brad Hodgson. Front row, from left: Christa Lemelin, Andrea Horwath, Taryn Blackstock, Terry Bloom.



▲ (left to right): Larry Duval, Senator of MNO Moon River Métis Council; Mike Briggs, Manager First Nations and Métis Relations at Bruce Power; Peter Couture, President of the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council; Jodi Blue, Healthy Weights Connection Site Coordinator; David Dusome, President of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council.

## Snowshoes & skates for families thanks to MNO initiative

by MNO Staff

Parents and kids in Region 7 had great opportunities to stay active this winter despite the snowy weather thanks to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Snowshoe Lending Library and the Skate Exchange Program in Midland. MNO staff from Midland first began working towards the healthy winter activities by approaching Mike Briggs, Manager First Nations and Métis Relations at Bruce Power, to discuss expanding the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council's Snowshoe Lending Library. During a meeting for Region 7 MNO councils in January, Briggs presented a \$2,000 cheque to the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council to go towards the Snowshoe Lending Library, a resource that is available to everyone within Region 7. Bruce Power's generous donation

contributed towards buying child-sized snowshoes to go with previously obtained adult-sized snowshoes so parents and their children can both borrow snowshoes for fun winter activities by going to the MNO's Midland office. Snowshoeing isn't the only available activity. In January, MNO staff teamed up with Healthy Weight Connection and Olympia Sports, a local sporting goods store, to offer a Skate Exchange Program. A call for donations was sent out to the community, inviting residents to donate their old skates by dropping them off at the MNO office in Midland. Over 50 pairs of skates were donated, varying from child-to-adult-sizes. The Skate Exchange initiative intends to make skating more accessible and affordable by collecting skates, providing skate-sharpening discounts from Olympia Sports and offering free skate vouchers to use at the North Simcoe Sports and

Recreation Centre. For some families, transportation was found to be a great barrier towards accessing a skating rink. The MNO organized to ensure that gas vouchers for these families are also available to assist with getting to and from the skating rink. Adult-size skates are especially in demand and parents are encouraged to return or exchange the skates once their kids have outgrown a previously acquired pair to offer more options for other skate enthusiasts. All MNO citizens in Region 7 are encouraged to take part in the Snowshoe Lending Library and Skate Exchange Program. The MNO partnered with the Healthy Kids Community Challenge North Simcoe Aboriginal Stream for the Snowshoe Lending Library. Skates donations can be dropped off at the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council office at 355 Cranston Crescent in Midland. ∞



▲ Métis youth with one of the Wood Duck boxes they helped prepare for the next nesting season.

## Georgian Bay Métis youth prepare wood duck boxes

submitted by  
**Larry J. Ferris**  
MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chair

MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council youth group held its first outing since the recent election of the new council. The new council interim Youth Representative Markie Tuckett organized a wonderful afternoon of fun that also included a message about conservation. The youth viewed 10 Wood Duck boxes and helped clean and prepare them for next nesting season. The nesting boxes help increase the Wood Duck population by providing safe nesting where the ducks can hatch

their young. Other ducks such as the Golden Eye and Merganser also take advantage of the boxes. While on this adventure, the young people also saw several sets of deer tracks along with some muskrat tracks. They were even lucky enough to see a "Heron Nursery" containing large numbers of nests in a pond. After all their hard work, the youth were treated to a camp fire on the ice complete with hot-dogs and hot chocolate. This exciting trip was possible thanks to the financial support of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council and to Mark Tuckett who shared his knowledge and time with the youth. ∞



# Successful AGM for Peterborough Council

submitted by **Christa Lemelin**  
*Chair of the MNO Peterborough & District Wapiti Métis Council*

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council held a very successful Annual General Meeting (AGM) on February 20 at the Activity Haven Senior Center in Peterborough.

The meeting gave an opportunity for MNO citizens to learn about their council, as well as what's been happening in their community and within the MNO. The council also had the opportunity to listen to the thoughts and concerns of the MNO citizens within their community.

MNO staff from Bancroft also attended the AGM and presented

MNO citizens with information on healing and wellness as well as education and training programs and services offered through the MNO. Local organizations such as Fleming College, Trent University, Lakeridge Health, Lovesick Lake Native Women's Association, and Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative also attended the AGM to provide information on other services offered in the council's area.

It was a great meeting and the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council are looking forward to another successful year! ∞



▲ Attendants at the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council's Annual General Meeting.

## MNO Niagara Region Métis Council take governance training

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

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council participated in two-day Governance and Finance Training session in Fort Erie on January 30 to 31.

The training was facilitated by MNO Community Relations Coordinator Glen Lipinski.

The two-day training focused on governance and began with a Métis 101. Additional topics covered included visioning, challenges, opportunities and planning for councils. Lipinski also concentrated on Finance and the New Relationship Fund. He delivered sessions focusing on policies, procedures, aspects of budgeting and general reporting Members of the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council were in attendance. ∞

## Loyalist College presented with MNO Veterans' Council book

submitted by  
**Guy Mandeville**  
*MNO Veterans' Council Chair*

Loyalist College became the first post-secondary institution to be presented with a copy of *Fighting for Canada Before There Was A Canada*, the book produced by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council.

On January 13, MNO Veterans' Council Chair Guy Mandeville visited the Aboriginal Resource Centre at Loyalist College and presented a copy of the book to Paul Latchford, the Manager of the Aboriginal Resource Centre.

"They are doing excellent work," Mandeville stated in an article published in Loyalist College's newsletter. "Even non-Aboriginal students come in and use the facilities, and the idea

is to encourage all students to educate themselves about Aboriginal history."

Latchford congratulated the MNO Veterans' Council on its efforts to share stories from Métis veterans.

"All of this information is accessible, but this group has taken the initiative to bring it together. This book is a wonderful resource for Loyalist faculty, staff and students," he said.

*Fighting For Canada Before There Was A Canada* is a compilation of stories contributed by Métis veterans, their families or friends, detailing the veterans' experiences in combat and non-combat roles. ∞

“  
*This book is a wonderful resource for Loyalist faculty, staff and students*  
”



▲ MNO Veterans' Council Chair Guy Mandeville (left) presents the Veterans' book to Paul Latchford (right), Manager of the Aboriginal Resource Centre at Loyalist College.

## MNO Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council participates in Pow Wow

submitted by  
**Steve Gjos**, *Secretary*  
*MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council*

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Historic Sault Ste. Marie Council, in partnership with Algoma University, participated in the 11th Annual Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow. The Pow Wow was held at Algoma University on March 5-6, 2016, and was a very exciting and culturally meaningful event. An Eagle Staff was made for the council for the occasion of this Pow Wow. ∞

(left to right) **Wade Smale**, **Ken Smale (Councillor)**, **Virginia Rydal**, **Shari Smale (Treasurer)**, **Steve Gjos (Secretary, kneeling)**, **Ken Figures (Councillor)**, **Meagan Gjos (Youth Representative)**, **Kim Powley (President)** and **John Konawalchuk (Chair)**.







▲ The military service held at Moss Park Armoury for Sgt. Maj. Scott Paterson, CD.

# MNO Veterans' Council President attends military service

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

It was with great sorrow that Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette attended the military service conducted for his friend and regimental Sgt. Maj. Scott "Paddy" Paterson, CD, held on February 20 at the Moss Park Armoury in Toronto.

Paterson served in the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, an infantry regiment of the Canadian Forces Reserve and the only militia unit

in Canada with a parachute tasking, and Paquette served in the Queen's Own regular forces, 1st Battalion. The two had known each other since the days when Paterson was still a corporal.

During the service, Paquette was able to march with the Queen's Own Rifles' Parent Association. As the only Métis present, Paquette's sash gave rise to many questions and much interest from other attendees. It gave him an excellent opportunity to inform people of the Métis who have served and who currently serve in the Canadian Armed Forces in the defense of Canada. ∞



▲ Some MNO Sunset Country Métis at the Relay for Life kick-off event.

# MNO Sunset Country Métis Council hold kick-off event

submitted by  
**Sarah Marusyk**, Youth Representative  
MNO Sunset County Métis Council

On February 27, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens with the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council held a Relay for Life kick-off event at the Fort Frances Museum in Fort Frances. This Canada themed event included drop-in jigging lessons, bannock and tea for folks of all ages. ∞

# Traditional lands protected thanks to MNO protocols

submitted by  
**Larry Ferris**, Chair, MNO  
Georgian Bay Métis Council

Thanks to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Lands, Resources and Consultation (LRC) staff, the Simcoe County Forest's Millennium tract is a protected traditional Métis land.

In 2015, the County of Simcoe announced a short list of potential sites for an Organics Processing Facility and Materials Management

Facility. Citizens of the area were concerned about the impact the industrialization of a forested area would have on the local wildlife. One potential area on the list was the Millennium tract.

The Millennium tract is a large parcel of land in Simcoe County and serves as a habitat for many species of local wildlife, some that are even endangered or threatened. The tract contains streams, wetlands and forest, part of which was planted by the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council's youth and

harvesters to ensure the continued growth of trees significant to the area, such as cedar and walnut trees.

Through the LRC's Regional Consultation Committees, MNO citizens are able to help preserve traditional Métis lands through Duty to Consult MNO consultation protocols.

Over 10,000 trees were planted in the Millennium tract area and they continue to be protected thanks to LRC staff. ∞



▲ Liam Plummer (left), his mother Linda, and MNO Veterans' Council Joe Paquette at the 2015 AGA in Midland.

# Mom and son team receive Certificates of Appreciation

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

During the 2015 Annual General Assembly (AGA), the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council set up their very first booth and silent auction in an effort to raise funds for the Vimy Project and for the veterans' community.

Linda Plummer and her son, MNO citizen Liam Plummer, ran the MNO Veterans' Council booth during the AGA. The booth was a

great responsibility that required many hours of setting up, overseeing, recording sales and tearing down once the AGA ended. Linda and Liam's diligence and patience contributed to the success of the booth and silent auction.

Following the AGA, the MNO Veterans' Council presented Linda and Liam with Certificates of Appreciation for their support and a job well done. Chris Plummer, Liam's father, accepted the certificate on his behalf as he was unable to attend.

Many thanks to the Plummer family for their help! ∞



▲ Larry Ferris helps with a tree-planting project.





▲ Participants of the second Weaving the Sash event in Toronto.

# WEAVING THE SASH: Toronto and York Métis youth hold arts and music workshop

submitted by  
**Elise St. Germain**  
MNO TYRMC Youth Committee Member

On Saturday, February 6, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) Youth Committee hosted a Métis arts and music workshop at the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education in partnership with the Indigenous Education Network. This exciting and full day was part of the MNO TYRMC Youth Committee's Weaving the Sash: Métis youth, culture and connection project,

generously funded by the Laidlaw Foundation. As the second scheduled event in the project, organizers were pleased to see a mix of past participants and brand new faces. The urban Métis youth community is growing bigger and better connected with new relationships made at each event. MNO TYRMC Senator Constance Simmonds started the event in a good way with a prayer, smudge, and sharing circle. The youth were all offered tobacco and then shared their varying experiences with Métis identity and art. MNO TYRMC Women's Representative and Youth Committee member Lindsay DuPré then led a discussion about Métis artists while the youth had a chance

to try their skills at dot art painting. In the afternoon, MNO TYRMC Councillor Virginia Barter shared an honour song that brought tears to many eyes and opened the space for Knowledge Keepers Dave, Blanche, and Michael White to share their family's intergenerational experience and connection with drum-making. They brought with them the materials for each of the 20 youth participants to make a hand drum for themselves or to gift to someone else in their life. Everyone was honoured to receive teachings about the drum, about the trees who supplied the frames, about the deer who supplied the hide and of course about how to actually construct a drum. Some found the pro-

cess of wrapping and tying up the strings of hide easier than others, but in the end, each person had a drum to call their own. As the drums dried, Knowledge Keepers, MNO Citizens, and musical sibling duo Alicia and Liam Blore shared their knowledge of Métis music on the fiddle and guitar. Afterwards Knowledge Keepers Sterling Lavergne and Brad Lafortune demonstrated their amazing

jigging, explained the stories behind some of the dances and taught a few steps. At the end of the day, youth were invited to stay for a Jigging event held by the MNO TYRMC for all community members with jigging instruction, spoon-playing, fiddle and guitar music provided by Brad, Alicia, Liam, and Virginia. ∞

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 (@TOYork Métis) accounts for regular updates.



▲ A Voyageur canoe expedition during Powley Day celebrations.



▲ The celebration included a Métis camp setup.

# MNO Credit River Métis Council hosts Powley Day celebrations

submitted by  
**Andrea Jibb**  
MNO TYRMC Youth Committee Member

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council hosted its first Powley Day celebration and voyageur canoe expedition at the beautiful Island Lake Conservation Area in Orangeville on September 19, 2015. Despite the rainy forecast, attendance was high and participants spent a day outdoors celebrating Métis culture and harvesting rights. Participants enjoyed traditional Métis activities including canoeing, hatchet throwing, and slingshot and gun shooting. In true voyageur style, some participants even took to the waters in the MNO voyageur canoes in the pouring rain! Although the rain was heavy at times, the inclement weather provided everyone with the opportunity to check out some impressive displays, including Traditional Knowledge Keeper Jim Tolles's interactive harvesting display, MNO Healing and Wellness information, MNO Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette's flint dis-

play, MNO Veterans' Council information, and information from the Mississauga and Central West Local Health Integration Networks. Another popular activity was the birch bark cup-making workshop, facilitated by Darlene Lent and Métis youth Nycolla Buisson, where participants learned how to make cups with freshly harvested birch bark. Everyone shared in a delicious meal of barbecued bison sliders, homemade preserves, and salads made with produce harvested from the MNO CRMC community garden. The MNO CRMC also collected food donations on behalf of the Knight's Table Foodbank and was able to donate 40 pounds of food. Cash donations were also collected in support of the MNO Veterans' Council Vimy Ridge Project. The council gratefully acknowledges its supporters who helped make the Powley Day celebration such a huge success: Credit Valley Conservation Island Lake, Mississauga and Central West LHINs, MNO Healing and Wellness, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Fortinos, and the MNO. ∞



# MNO Credit River Métis Council gears up for fourth season of successful community garden

submitted by  
**Andrea Jibb**  
MNO CRMC Community  
Outreach Coordinator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) is gearing up for the next planting of its community garden project! Now in its fourth year, the community garden, located in Brampton, has been one of the MNO CRMC's most successful projects. Run entirely on volunteer contributions, the council was able to donate over 300 pounds of healthy produce in 2015 to the Knight's Table Food Bank, the Salvation Army Light-house in Oakville and to support MNO clients in Brampton.

The community garden project is led by MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent and MNO CRMC Chair Dale Buisson. Last year, the council planted six garden plots with a variety of plants, including lettuce,



▲ Members of the MNO Credit River Métis Council show off the fruits of their labours.

cabbage, kale, Swiss chard, jalapeno peppers, green beans, tomatoes, and more! In addition to being a way to give back to the community, the garden has also been a space for sharing and learning for the MNO CRMC community. Last May, the council hosted a

Garden Awakening and Preparation workshop, where participants came out to help prepare the garden beds for planting and to learn all about garden preparation, planting and maintenance from facilitator Lent. To start off the planting season in a good way, MNO CRMC Senator

Bill Morrison said an opening prayer and everyone shared in a water ceremony led by MNO CRMC President Karen Derocher. Later that month, council members gathered for a second workshop to plant the garden. Throughout the summer, a number of volunteers

helped weed and water the garden. The council was also able to make preserves with some of the harvest, and its extreme beans and jalapeno rings were served at the council's Powley Day Celebration and Louis Riel Day Celebration. Additionally, the MNO CRMC has been advised that the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council youth are planning their own community garden and have been in touch with Lent for information and advice. The MNO CRMC is very pleased and proud that the youth will be tackling this rewarding and beneficial project and wishes them the best of luck! The council gratefully acknowledges its supporters for the community garden project, including MNO Healing and Wellness, the City of Brampton, Ontario Trillium Foundation, and the Region of Peel. For more information on the MNO CRMC garden project or on how to contribute, please visit the council's website. ∞

# Credit River Council hosts traditional medicines workshop

submitted by  
**Andrea Jibb**  
MNO CRMC Community  
Outreach Coordinator

On October 24, 2015, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) hosted a Four Medicines and smudge kit workshop at the Council's office in Brampton. Co-facilitated by MNO CRMC President Karen Derocher and Treasurer Darlene Lent, this free workshop was designed to offer participants an introduction to traditional indigenous medicines and the opportunity to create their very own smudge kits. Derocher shared traditional knowledge about the four sacred

medicines (sage, sweetgrass, tobacco and cedar) and Lent provided additional knowledge about other medicinal plants such as rosehips and cattails. Participants then assembled their own smudge kits and shared in an outdoor smudge birthing ceremony. Afterward, everyone shared in a delicious pot luck lunch that included traditional fare such as cranberry wild rice. Donations were collected to support the MNO Veterans' Council's Vimy Ridge Project. The Four Medicines and smudge kit workshop is one of many public events hosted by the MNO CRMC with the help of an Ontario Trillium Fund grant to promote Métis culture and way of life. The workshop was also generously supported by MNO Healing and Wellness staff. ∞



▲ Participants of the smudge kit workshop.

# Warm welcome from MNO Community Council

submitted by  
**Darlene Lent**  
MNO Credit River Métis Council  
Treasurer

When Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Wayne Copeland moved to Brampton in December, Tera Beaulieu, President of the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council, informed him that the MNO Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) was headquartered there. Armed with that knowledge, Copeland immediately looked them up through the MNO website. Copeland visited the MNO CRMC website and learned that the council was looking for volunteers for their community garden. He sent in an e-mail to express his interest and quickly received a response and an invitation to an upcoming council meeting.



▲ Wayne Copeland (right) and fellow MNO citizens attended a culinary workshop held by Liaison College.

For Copeland, it was the beginning of a great experience. Ever since he contacted the MNO CRMC, he has been included in

many of its functions and events. On March 15, Copeland attended a MNO CRMC culinary workshop held by Liaison College in Bram-

pton. The workshop was led by the college's Chef Scott and several enthusiastic MNO citizens were in attendance. Chef Scott hosted a very

informative hands-on orientation on the workings of a professional chef's kitchen. Now that spring is on its way, Copeland is looking forward to helping with the community garden tended by MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent. The community garden's main intention is to share its bounty with those in need. "This same inclusive spirit of care and generosity seems to pervade the intentions and attitudes of all the Métis citizens I've met," Copeland said. "I was warmly welcomed and included from the beginning and have met some wonderful new people." Copeland is looking forward to introducing his daughter and granddaughter to the garden and other MNO CRMC events, so they can also experience the nurturing sense of community. ∞



# MNO citizen speaks at National Youth Conference

submitted by  
an MNO Citizen

Collège Boréal and the Sudbury District Health Unit partnered together to offer two interactive workshops during the Canadian Roots Exchange's Fourth Annual National Youth Conference on March 17 to 19 in Sudbury. The workshops, titled "The Power To Be/Le pouvoir d'être," involved two up-and-coming Métis musicians, MNO citizen Leah Belle and self-identified Métis Martine Fortin, interacting with Indigenous

and non-Indigenous youth from across Canada. Leah is a rising star who has already won several awards, including first place in the 12 and under category of the 2015 Café Music Festival in Azilda and first place in the N'Swakamok Aboriginal Idol competition in 2014. The workshops' goals were to empower youth and make them realize their potential and the endless possibilities to achieve anything they desire. According to their website, the Canadian Roots Exchange is "a group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth who believe that in order to bridge



▲ "The Power To Be/Le pouvoir d'être" workshop participants Leah Gravelle (L) and Martine Fortin.

the gap between Canada's peoples, we need to become educated and aware of the teachings, triumphs, and daily realities of our Indigenous communities." They have hosted youth conferences since

2013. In addition to "The Power To Be/Le pouvoir d'être," the conference included experiential workshops focusing on reconciliation and treaty. Speakers at the conference

inspired youth to take the lead and make positive changes in their respective communities. The next Annual National Youth Conference will take place in Winnipeg in March 2017. ∞

## 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





# ACHIEVEMENTS

## MNO citizen become successful entrepreneur with help from MNO

by  
MNO Staff

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Jason Haney opened his first business enterprise in March 2014. Located in Lasalle, County Computers performs computer sales and repairs and offers electronics such as tablets, computer accessories and Android media boxes.

Getting a new business off the ground can be an intimidating project but with a small capital investment from his family and a bit of help from the MNO's Métis Self-Employment (MES) program, Haney was ready to take on the challenge.

In line with making changes in his life, Haney, a 25-year smoker, also decided to quit smoking by vaping. His customers' interests in vaping and the results of Haney's personal experience with it encouraged him to start a side business: Apothic Vapes.

His ambitions and abilities to adapt to his customers' needs proved to be rewarding. By May 2015, an addition to County Computers was dedicated to Apothic Vapes, providing the best selections of beginner to pro vaping hardware in the Windsor area.

"Striking out on your own to try self-employment is risky and a scary thing to do for most," Haney wrote in an e-mail. "I believe if any citizens of the MNO have a great idea, the courage to take the risk and the flexibility to adapt to a turbulent market, [the MES program] is just enough of a boost to make it possible to succeed and a lot less scary."

Haney was recently featured in the January 2016 issue of Biz X as well as in the *Lasalle Observer*. ∞



▲ The employees and proprietor of County Computers and Apothic Vapes. From left: Quinn Kidd, Jason Haney (proprietor) and Miguel Guillemette.

## MNO helps citizen complete law enforcement training

submitted by  
Ginny Gonneau  
MNO Citizen

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Jeremy Riabov recently completed a 60-day basic constable training program at the Ontario Police College.

The program held a very heavy workload and strict schedules in addition to drills and extra morning and night duties for each student enrolled.

"It took me a long time to get here and it feels overwhelming now that I'm here," he said. "Without [MNO assistance], I would have had to obtain funding from a bank which would have set me and my family back for a long time or it may not have been possible at all to obtain."

After a two-week stint with the Thunder Bay police force, Riabov started 13 weeks of training with the Ontario Police College. Afterward, he returned and spent time training to learn local policies and procedures, being paired up with a veteran constable for the first few months.

When he'd successfully completed his training, Riabov was hired by the Thunder Bay Police Service. He felt that the three years he'd spent training for a career in law enforcement and being sworn in as an officer were some of the biggest accomplishments of his life, next only to meeting and marrying his wife.

Congratulations, Constable Riabov! ∞



▲ MNO citizen  
Constable  
Jeremy Riabov

## Métis youth dancer reaches second stage of national auditions

submitted by  
Stephanie Phoenix  
MNO Citizen

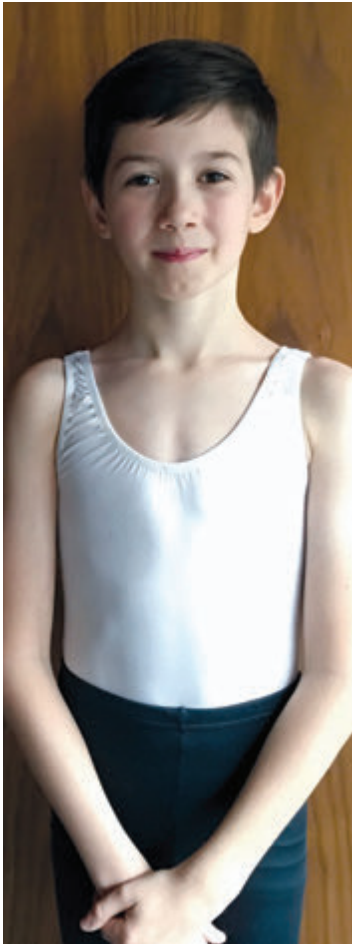
On January 24, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Stephanie Phoenix took her 11-year-old son Atticus to the Toronto audition for Canada's National Ballet School's (NBS) National Audition Tour.

Atticus was one of about 160 students who were chosen for the second stage of this year's auditions.

Every year, the NBS sees over 1,000 dancers during the auditions in cities all across Canada. Following the tour, up to 175 students are chosen for the second stage of the auditioning process. These students will attend a four-week summer school held at the NBS's training facilities in Toronto this summer.

In July, Atticus will be one of the students attending the summer school as the second stage of the auditioning process. Approximately 50 students will be invited to join the full-time Professional Ballet Program in September 2016.

Best of luck, Atticus! ∞



▲ Atticus Phoenix.



Family & Milestones

Birth Announcements



hunter BOESE

Barbara and Carlos Boese are proud to announce the arrival of their new son Hunter, born on November 19, 2015. Congratulations to big brothers Aiden and Grayson and to grandparents Huguette and Doug! ∞



river james PARENT

Proud grandma, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and Region 7 Education and Training Coordinator Jo-Anne Parent wishes to announce the birth of her newest grandchild, River James Parent, to proud parents Scott and Tatiana Parent. River was born on November 15, 2015. Almost immediately, River was caught on camera displaying his and his family's Métis pride. ∞



My Marathon Mom



submitted by  
Richard Aubin, MNO Citizen

Having flashbacks of my childhood made me think Mom was a marathon runner.

There was a time the toboggan went flying through the air, off a cliff but I had jumped off just in time and hung on the edge, crying...my cousin Robert ran to the house and yes, Mom ran down the property, not dressed for winter, to pull me by the arm back up the rock face. (A runner.) I was little and it seemed like a mountain.

Mom also ran to me to provide first aid after I was struck in the corner of my eye with an ice pick. Bloody hand prints left on the yellow porch wall as I was trying to meet her part way... (A runner.)

One day we were both runners...I accidentally swallowed a mouthful of gasoline. I recall running in a horrible daze towards the house and collapsed unconscious. (Ran out of gas.) My mom ran to me, carrying me to the kitchen after calling 911. House call doctor said: "Give him milk...I won't run over...he will either make it or die shortly...call me back." Her running saved my life as time was critical. (A runner.)

This time, she ran away from me...I forget what age I was but I recall one time walking up to my mom, who was busy at the sewing machine. I watched a bit fascinated at her work. Then I showed her what I found during play. I pulled out of my pocket a dried up frog that had been flattened by a car tire. She screamed, jumped out of the chair and ran to the other end of the room as the sewing machine crashed to the floor. (A runner!) Yes, she's afraid of frogs...

Mom, you can't run anymore but just in case I get hurt I know you always make sure your motorized chair is still in running order. ∞

I love you.  
- Rick

Parent tip 101: Love your children and do the opposite of the old saying "Run don't walk." You never know what the kids have been up to.



▲ Participants in a trapping course.

It's Never Too Late!

submitted by  
Darlene Lent  
MNO Credit River Métis Council Treasurer

As a young child, I remember spending winter holidays with my grandparents Julia (Longlade) and Albert Vasseur in the Honey Harbour area. Every winter, hanging in the shed were muskrat pelts on boards and beaver pelts on hoops. At the time this meant nothing to me, this was just something my grandparents did. Now I realize that trapping is a deep rooted part of our Métis culture and heritage. My mother Bertha (Vasseur) Tolles commented that growing up, one of her favorite foods was muskrat.

Prompted by my brother, Jim Tolles (Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council Traditional Knowledge Holder), I

recently decided to take a trapping course. Jim has been trapping for six years and is in the process of trying to secure a trap line in the Georgian Bay region to preserve our culture, heritage and family tradition in trapping.

Almost 62 years old, I wanted to share that I just completed the trapping course and will be receiving my trapping licence.

I would like to thank instructors from the Georgian Bay Trappers Council, Gary Jennings, who has been trapping for 60 years, and Ray Gall for their patience and sharing their extensive knowledge.

This has been a very exciting and rewarding experience for me and I am looking forward to testing my newly acquired knowledge. At my age, to take on trapping, I hope our youth will be inspired.

It truly is never too late to learn something new. ∞



# 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



▲ Youth delegates and facilitators of the Proud of Our Skills youth forum.



▲ The late Don Getty, 11th Premier of Alberta.



▲ Zoey Roy (left) and her mother, Maxine Roy.



▲ Jérémie Wookey (left), Augustine Abraham (centre) and Janelle Wookey (right).

## ■ British Columbia

The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and Métis Youth British Columbia (MYBC) announced the successful completion of the Proud of Our Skills—A Métis Youth Forum on February 16, 2016. The forum took place from February 5 to 8 at the Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Resort. Over 36 MYBC delegates, chaperones, Elders and various facilitators participated in the forum, engaging in various workshops and learning more about their Métis culture. The forum also encourages the youth to explore potential careers paths and enhance their leadership skills. “There was this wonderful energy, totally free of negativity,” one youth delegate commented on the forum. “This forum was so empowering and really changed my outlook on life as a Métis.” MYBC is looking forward to hosting other forums and events in the future. *Source: mnbcc.ca.*

## ■ Alberta

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) shared their heartfelt condolences on the passing of Donald Ross “Don” Getty, Alberta’s 11th Premier, on February 26, 2016. Getty was a true champion of the Métis people and instrumental in the passing of the *Métis Settlements Act* in 1990. The Act turned over control of 1.25 million acres of land to eight Métis Settlements, which led to the creation of the Métis Settlements General Council (MSGC). In 1987, Getty oversaw the signing of the first Government of Alberta-MNA Framework Agreement. This Framework Agreement was the first step towards self-government for over 50,000 Métis living off a settlement in Alberta. It established practical methods of achieving Métis self-government and worked towards improved opportunities for Métis in Alberta. In 1991, Getty was awarded the Order of the Sash by the MNA. *Source: alberta Métis.ca*

## ■ Saskatchewan

When Métis artists Zoey Roy learned she’d won the 2016 National Indspire Award, her number one priority was to ensure that her mother, Maxine Roy, would be going with her to the awards ceremony in Vancouver. The Indspire Awards recognize Aboriginal professionals and youth who demonstrate outstanding career achievement. A well-known local poet, rapper and youth activist in Saskatoon, Zoey started a fundraiser, selling braided bannock and soup to raise money for her mom to join her on the trip. As Métis, selling bannock and soup seemed like a solution that just made sense to Zoey. There were over 50 orders for bannock within the first hour. Maxine had no doubt that her daughter would be recognized for her achievements. “I’m very proud of her,” she said in an interview with CBC. *Source: CBC News-Saskatoon*

## ■ Manitoba

A brother-and-sister duo from Winnipeg is reaching out to Métis across Canada to participate in their *100 Métis* film project that will be produced into a documentary. Jérémie and Janelle Wookey’s project began after interviewing Métis elder Augustine Abraham. During the final interview they had with Abraham, Janelle and Jérémie asked her what her wish might be for the future of the Métis people. “Work to stay united as long as we can, the way we seem to be now. It can easily be perpetuated. The youth can easily be reached because the Métis story is a beautiful story [...] but things need to be made relevant and interesting for them,” Abraham said. Abraham passed away on February 6, 2015. Information on the project can be found at 100Métis.ca. *Source: CBC News – Manitoba*

## Building the MNO Team

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is excited to welcome a new staff member

**CARLA KOSKI**  
Consultation Assessment  
Coordinator  
Fort Frances



The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Carla Koski to the Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch in the position of Consultation Assessment Coordinator for MNO Region 1. She will work out of the Fort Frances office. Carla grew up in Fort Frances and is a long-term resident of the town. Through her educational and professional experiences, Carla has obtained a broad range of knowledge, skills and expertise related to environmental issues. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg and spent nine years working for Resolute Forest Products in Fort Frances as an Environmental Process Coordinator, Lab Supervisor and ISO Coordinator. Prior to her time at Resolute, Carla worked for a brief period at the Stanjikonming First Nation as a Resource Development Coordinator and also worked most recently as an Environmental Engineer for Boise Inc. in International Falls, Minnesota, USA. We are very pleased to welcome Carla to the MNO team! *Submitted by Aly Aliibhai, Director of Lands, Resources and Consultations*

Welcome to the team,  
Carla!

## COUNCIL CORNER

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

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

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

President  
**David Dusome**

Chair  
**Larry Ferris**

Senator  
**Ray Bergie**

Secretary  
**Danielle Callander**

Treasurer  
**Heather Garratt**

Women’s  
Representative  
**Patricia Taylor**

Councillors  
**Mike Duquette**  
**Bernice Paradis**  
**Tricia Paradis**  
**Jo-Anne Secord**



# POLLING STATIONS & MAIL-IN BALLOTS

## Métis Nation of Ontario Election 2016

May 2, 2016

REGION 1

**FORT FRANCES POLL STATION**  
**Sunset Country Métis Council**  
426 Victoria Ave., **Fort Frances**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Barwick
- Emo
- Fort Frances
- Pinewood
- Rainy River
- Sleeman

**DRYDEN POLL STATION**  
**Northwest Métis Nation of Ontario Council**  
34B King Street, **Dryden**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Vermillion Bay
- Minnitaki
- Oxdrift
- Dinorwic
- Wabigoon
- Dryden
- Waldhof

**KENORA POLL STATION**  
**Kenora Métis Community Council**  
Unit 4 - 621 Lakeview Drive, **Kenora**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Kejick
- Clearwater Bay
- Sioux Narrows
- Keewatin
- Redditt
- Longbow Lake
- Kenora

**MAIL IN BALLOTS**  
**Atikokan and Area Métis Council**

Balmertown, Cochenour, Ear Falls, Red Lake, Devlin, Morson, Nestor Falls, Stratton, Eagle River, Ignace, Sioux Lookout, Madsen, Hudson

REGION 2

**THUNDER BAY POLL STATION**  
**Thunder Bay Métis Council**  
226 May Street South, **Thunder Bay**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Kakabeka Falls
- Murillo
- Nolalu
- South Gillies
- Rosslyn Village
- Neebing
- Shuniah
- Thunder Bay

**MAIL IN BALLOTS**  
**Greenstone Métis Council**  
**Superior North Shore Métis Council**

Armstrong, Gorham, Rosspoint, Nipigon, Dorion, Red Rock, Shebandowan, Kaministiquia, Gull Bay, Pickle Lake, Red Rock, Savant Lake, Upsala

REGION 3

**TIMMINS POLL STATION**  
**Timmins Métis Council**  
347 Spruce Street South, **Timmins**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Timmins
- Schumacher
- Gold Centre
- South Porcupine
- Porcupine

**MAIL IN BALLOTS**  
**Chapleau Métis Council**  
**Temiskaming Métis Council**  
**Northern Lights Métis Council**

Chaput Hughes, Matheson, Mattice, Monteith, Moose Factory, Moosonee, Ramore, Hallebourg, West Tree, Shining Tree, Connaught, Val Gagné, Hearst, Jogues, Val Cote

REGION 4

**SAULT STE. MARIE POLL STATION**  
**Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council**  
26 Queen St. East, **Sault Ste. Marie**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Echo Bay
- Garden River
- Sault Ste. Marie

**MAIL IN BALLOTS**  
**North Channel Métis Council**

Batchewana Bay, Dubreuilville, Goulias River, Hawk Junction, Hornepayne, Massey, Searchmont, Serpent River, Spanish, Walford, Wawa, White River, Thessalon, Montreal River Harbour, Prince Township, Aweres Township

REGION 5

**NORTH BAY POLL STATION**  
**North Bay Métis Council**  
101 Worthington St. East, Unit 243, **North Bay**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Thorne
- Eldee
- Tilden Lake
- Sturgeon Falls
- Callander
- Nipissing
- Restoule
- Commanda
- Trout Creek
- Powassan
- Astorville
- Corbeil
- Redbridge
- Field
- South River
- North Bay
- Cache Bay
- Chisholm
- East Ferris

**SUDBURY POLL STATION**  
**Sudbury Métis Council**  
260 Alder Street - Upstairs, **Sudbury**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Azilda
- Cartier
- Lively
- Sudbury
- Hagar
- Garson
- Wahanapitae
- Val Caron
- Chelmsford
- Capreol
- Coniston
- Copper Cliff
- Hammer
- Val Therese
- Falconbridge
- Blezard Valley
- Dowling
- Levack
- Naughton
- Skead
- Whitefish

**MAIL IN BALLOTS**  
**Mattawa Métis Council**

Alban, Killarney, Markstay, McKerrow, Monetville, Noelville, Onaping, River Valley, St. Charles, Verner, Warren, Webbwood, Worthington, Crystal Falls, Birch Island, Britt, Burk's Falls, Byng Inlet, Dunchurch, Emsdale, Espanola, Gore Bay, Kearney, Lavigne, Little Current, Manitowaning, Mindemoya, Nairn Centre, Sheguindah, South Baymouth, Spring Bay, Sunridge, Tehkummah, Worthington, Thorne

REGION 6

**OTTAWA POLL STATION**  
500 Old St. Patrick Street, Unit D, **Ottawa**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Kanata
- Stittsville
- Richmond
- Manotick
- Metcalfe
- Greely
- Gloucester
- Carlsbad Springs
- Casselman
- Navan
- Orleans
- Crysler
- Dunrobin
- Embrun
- Limoges
- Nepean
- Rockland
- Russell
- Vanier
- Winchester
- Ottawa
- Cumberland
- Carp
- Kars
- Osgoode
- Vars
- Winchester
- Clarence Creek

**MAIL IN BALLOTS**  
**High Land Waters Métis Council**

Ashton, Petawawa, Westmeath, Belleville, Pembroke, Renfrew, Arnprior, Carleton Place, Cornwall, Brockville, Clayton, Lefavre, Wendover, Woodlawn, Almonte, Balderson, Chesterville, Clayton, Fitzroy, Harbour, Kemptville, Kinburn, Lanark, Long Sault, Merrickville, Oxford Station, Pendleton, Prescott, St. Albert, Alexandria, Bancroft, Barry's Bay, Beachburg, Bloomfield, Brockville, Cardiff, Cloyne, Cornwall, Denbigh, Douglas, Eganville, Gananoque, Golden Lake, Haley Station, Hawkesbury, Highland Grove, Ingleside, Kilaloe, Lake St. Peter, L'Amable, Long Sault, Lyndhurst, Madawaska, Mallorytown, Maple Leaf, Martintown, Maxville, Maynooth, McArthurs Mills, Moose Creek, Morrisburg, Mountain, North Gower, Norwood, Oxford Mills, Palmer Rapids, Pembroke, Plantagenet, Plevna, Prescott, Renfrew, Round Lake, Spencerville, St. Isadore, Trenton, Westmeath, Whitney, Williamstown, Wilno, Yarker, Maynooth

REGION 7

**MIDLAND POLL STATION**  
**Georgian Bay Métis Council**  
355 Cranston Crescent (off of King Street), **Midland**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Honey Harbour
- Cedar Point
- Port Severn
- Penetanguishene
- Victoria Harbour
- Waubauskene
- Midland
- Perkinsfield
- Wyebridge
- Coldwater
- Vasey
- Moonstone
- Elmvale
- Hilsdale
- Balm Beach
- Port McNicoll
- Tiny
- Wyevale
- Midhurst
- Minesing
- Oro-Mendonte
- Phelpston
- Severn
- Wasaga Beach

**MAIL IN BALLOTS**  
**Moon River Métis Council,**  
**Peterborough & District Wapiti Métis Council, Great Lakes Métis Council**

Stayner, Alliston, Barrie, Bradford, Egbert, Hawkstone, Innisfil, Lisle, New Lowell, Orillia, Stroud, Angus, Beeton, Borden, Cumberland Beach, Everett, Glencairn, Leaskdale, Longford Mills, New Lowell, Queensville, Ramara, Schomberg, Thornton, Tottenham, Utopia, Cookstown, Loretto

REGION 9

**MAIL IN BALLOTS**  
**Niagara Region Métis Council. Clear Waters Métis Council, Windsor/Essex Métis Council, Grand River Métis Council**

**NOTE:** All mail-in ballots must be returned to the chief electoral officer and postmarked no later than **May 2 2016**.

VETERANS (as defined by MNO Veterans' Council)

All MNO veterans as defined by the MNO Veterans' Council will receive mail-in ballots. The names of these MNO veterans will not appear on the voters list at polling stations and they will not be permitted to vote at polling stations.