



# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

ISSUE NO. 91, JUNE 2016



## Métis democracy is thriving

Largest ever voter turnout for an MNO election

Margaret Froh elected as new MNO President  
**Page 3**

Full election results inside  
**Pages 3-6**



President Froh responds to Ontario's commitment to reconciliation. **Pages 13 - 14**



President Froh addresses Indigenous Health Conference. **Pages 15 - 16**



Get to know the new and returning PCMNO members! **Pages 4 - 6**

### Louise Goulding retires

Page 17

### A green legacy

Pages 12 - 13

### Reclaiming her voice

Page 31



THE  
MÉTIS  
VOYAGEUR  
JUNE 2016

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**Submission Policy:**

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

**2016-17 Submission  
deadlines:**

**September 2, 2016  
November 4, 2016  
January 20, 2017**

**Recently Moved or Moving Soon?**

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

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

# What Dad means to me

Submitted by Anne Huguenin

A father is a father,  
But a Dad is a man.  
One you can talk to freely,  
And he always understands.  
A voice so calm and serene,  
His gentle soul is never mean.  
A man who has strength inside,  
And wisdom at his age,  
One who is full of pride,  
He helps you turn life's page.  
A Dad you can rely on,  
In good times and in bad,  
He'll make you smile and laugh,  
Even though you may be sad.  
A Dad puts you first no matter when and where,  
He isn't afraid to hug you and show you that he cares.  
Nor is a Dad to chary to say "I love You",  
And every day he has said those words,  
They mean much more to you.  
A Dad is a role model you look up to with such pride,  
For you, in an instant, he'll put everything aside.  
A Dad never looks for praise,  
He's humble as could be,  
Because you mean the world to him,  
that is obvious to see.  
A Dad's most precious treasures you know,  
Is to watch his children bloom and grow.  
Remember where you're going and where you came from,  
because of him you are the person you've become.



▲ MNO Senator Roland St. Germain with his granddaughter, Autumn.

## The art of reflexology

On May 11, 2016, many Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Healing and Wellness branch clients enjoyed receiving foot care and reflexology at the Maynooth Foot Care Clinic. Foot care services are provided by Margaret Haden Pawlowski, Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative Foot Care Nurse, who trims toenails, inspects feet and provides diabetic information. Reflexology treatments are provided by Nadine Leslie, Certified Reflexologist, who applies pressure to feet by

using special techniques.

The reflexology principle is that every body part, gland and organ is mirrored on the hands and feet. One of the main benefits of receiving a reflexology treatment is that it creates deep relaxation and can reduce stress, which can result in a more restful night's sleep. Reflexology treatments can also increase blood circulation as it improves the oxygen rich blood that flows to the extremities and can bring the body back to balance. ∞



## Provide your feedback on the electoral process

Following the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) general election, the Chief Electoral Officer reviews the election and provides a report to the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). In this report, the Chief Electoral Officer may make recommendations for changes to the *MNO Electoral Code: Part A* in order to make improvements to the code that address issues that may have arose in the operation of the recent election.

PCMNO is also inviting interested MNO citizens to submit their suggestions concerning the Electoral Code and the operation of the recent election. Submissions received from citizens will be considered along with the Chief Electoral Officer's Report. Please limit submissions that flag concerns about the code itself or the electoral process, and instead focus

on suggestions on how it can be improved.

A copy of the current *MNO Electoral Code: Part A* can be viewed on the homepage of the MNO website by clicking on the icon: "MNO Election 2016".

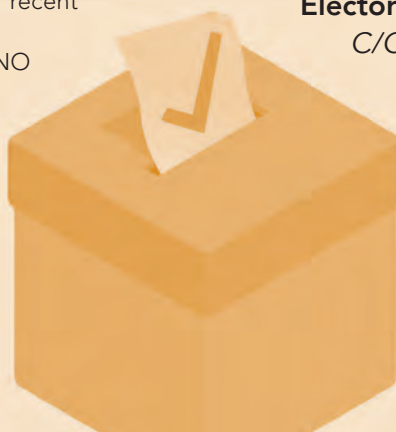
Submissions should be sent in writing (by letter or email) to PCMNO, in care of:

**Electoral Process Feedback**

C/O Monique Richard  
Operations Executive Support

**Métis Nation of Ontario  
500 Old St. Patrick Street  
Ottawa ON K1N 9G4**

Or e-mail:  
**moniquerichard@metisnation.org**





## MNO Election Results

Exciting MNO election concludes with record voter turnout

# Métis democracy is thriving

by  
MNO Staff

In March and April 2016, candidates for positions on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) criss-crossed the province appearing at community events and campaigning in most Métis communities. MNO community councils were keenly interested in the election as evidenced by the number that held all candidates meetings and who invited the candidates to speak at their events. Facebook and other social media added another dimension to this campaign, as candidates and their supporters outlined their positions and responded to questions via Facebook and Twitter. “It was a very exciting election,” stated Christa Lemelin, Chair of the Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Community Council, who was actively involved in the campaign, “it was great to see MNO citizens so engaged in the election. It really demonstrates the strength of the MNO.”

Outgoing MNO President Gary Lipinski also commented: “It was gratifying to see the largest voter turnout in MNO history in the recent election. I think this turnout speaks volumes to the work of the outgoing Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) leadership as well as the hard work and ambitious campaigns of all the candidates and their supporters in this election.”

On May 2, the 2016 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) elections drew a record number of MNO citizens participating in the election of Métis leaders at the regional and provincial levels, with a 44.4% increase from the 2012 election in total ballots cast. Métis lawyer and educator, Margaret Froh, was elected as MNO President and the incumbents were successful in all other Executive PCMNO positions as well as in the three Regional Councillor positions that were contested. (See complete election results in table to right )

“I am deeply honoured and humbled to receive this mandate,” stated President Froh. “So many MNO citizens – right across the province – made

their voices heard in this election. I am especially inspired by the level of engagement of Métis youth throughout this election process.”

“Everyone who ran as candidates and all those citizens who voted in this election have contributed to making our nation stronger,” said President Froh. “I want to thank everyone who was part of our democratic process, including all the candidates, our electoral officials and staff, and the many volunteers who assisted the various campaigns, worked at polling stations, and assisted in the election. Our citizens have spoken and I look forward to working with the new PCMNO and all MNO citizens to make the Métis Nation stronger.”

President Froh stated: “I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to outgoing President Gary Lipinski, and to congratulate all returning and newly elected members of the PCMNO. The MNO is blessed with having an extremely skilled and dedicated Métis public service, and a very strong and experienced group of leaders in the new PCMNO. Thanks to the excellent leadership the MNO has had in the past, our hard working public service, and the incredible depth of leadership at the local, regional and provincial levels within our nation, the Métis Nation of Ontario will be ready to move forward on the many opportunities before us in the coming months and years.”

The other Presidential candidate, Hank Rowlinson, expressed similar sentiments and stated: “I also want to congratulate all of those who have been elected to serve on the Provisional Council of the Metis Nation of Ontario and to thank all candidates for putting their names forward . . . Now that the election is over, it is most important for all of us to focus our energies on developing unified ways.” ∞

“Everyone who ran as candidates and all those citizens who voted in this election have contributed to making our nation stronger.”

- MNO President Margaret Froh



President Froh at the 2015 AGA in Midland. ▶

## 2016 Métis Nation of Ontario Elections Results

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) general elections took place on Monday, May 2, 2016. A total of 3303 ballots were cast, which compares with 2288 that were cast in the last general election in 2012. The results of the election were as follows (successful candidates’ names are bolded):

**PRESIDENT:**  
Hank Rowlinson 1469  
**Margaret Froh 1834**

**CHAIR:**  
Richard Meilleur 772  
**France Picotte 1906**  
Kevin Muloin 565

**VICE-CHAIR:**  
Marc Laurin 1393  
**Sharon McBride 1840**

**SECRETARY-TREASURER**  
Maurice Sarrazin 513  
Lawrence (Larry) O’Connor 800  
**Tim Pile 1253**  
Heidi Kimberley 674

**REGION 2 PCMNO COUNCILLOR**  
**Cameron Burgess 117**  
Bryanna Scott 32

**REGION 3 PCMNO COUNCILLOR**  
Tina Nichol 108  
**Marcel Lafrance 156**

**REGION 9 PCMNO COUNCILLOR**  
Derrick Pont 130  
**Peter Rivers 291**

**REGION 7 MNO YOUTH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**  
**Jordyn Playne 27**  
Tyler Logue 24

### Acclaimed Candidates

The following positions have been acclaimed.

REGION 1 PCMNO COUNCILLOR: **Theresa Stenlund**  
REGION 4 PCMNO COUNCILLOR: **Ernie Gatien**  
REGION 5 PCMNO COUNCILLOR: **Daniel Boulard**  
REGION 6 PCMNO COUNCILLOR: **Thomas Thompson**  
REGION 7 PCMNO COUNCILLOR: **Pauline Richardson**  
REGION 8 PCMNO COUNCILLOR: **Anita Tucker**  
PCMNO YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE: **Mitch Case**  
PCMNO POST-SECONDARY REPRESENTATIVE: **Katelyn LaCroix**

### MNO Veterans Council

PRESIDENT: **Joseph Paquette**  
CHAIR: **Guy Mandeville**  
SECRETARY: **Greg Garratt**  
SENATOR FOR VETERANS: **Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy**  
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: **Robert Baskey**  
WOMEN’S REPRESENTATIVE: **Shelly Claus**

### MNO Youth Council

REGION 1 REPRESENTATIVE: **Kelly Duquette**  
REGION 2 REPRESENTATIVE: **Paul Robitaille**  
REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE: **Brianne Gosselin**  
REGION 6 REPRESENTATIVE: **Alexandra Dusome**

**VACANT POSITIONS:**  
YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES FOR REGIONS 4, 5, 8, & 9  
TREASURER, MNO Veterans’ Council

Article 10 of the MNO Electoral Code: Part A contains a provision for filling vacancies at the Annual General Assembly. Please contact the Chief Electoral Officer at [mnoelections@metisnation.org](mailto:mnoelections@metisnation.org) should you have any questions in this regard.

## MNO Election Results

# 2016 PCMNO Biographies

Below are the biographies of PCMNO members elected and acclaimed in the 2016 election:



**MARGARET FROH**  
MNO President  
*Elected*

Elected in May 2016, Margaret Froh is the first woman to serve as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). She lives in Barrie, Ontario, which is within the traditional territory of the Georgian Bay Métis Community. Margaret is one of eight children born to Frank and Marie (Marchand) Froh. Growing up, Margaret spent her youth fishing and canoeing and was active in air cadets and sports. Her parents instilled strong values in their children, including the importance of volunteerism and education. Originally from the Qu'Appelle Valley in Saskatchewan (near Fort Qu'Appelle), Margaret has lived in Ontario for over 20 years. She moved to Ontario in 1993 to attend law school at the University of Toronto and made Ontario her home. She decided to pursue a law degree after volunteering on a legal defence committee for Mary Pitawanakwat, an Ontario Ojibway-Potawatomi woman who was

fighting discrimination within the federal public service. Margaret wanted to gain a legal education and skills in order to advocate on behalf of her own people and other Indigenous peoples. She has spent her career working on behalf of Métis, First Nations and Inuit peoples. This work has included:

- Acting as Aboriginal Issues Coordinator for the Law Society of Upper Canada, where she established a formal partnership between the MNO and the Law Society, which included the first Louis Riel Day event. This partnership and annual event continues to this day. In recent years, Margaret has also chaired many of these Louis Riel Day events.
- Acting as part of the in-house legal counsel group for the Chippewas of Rama First Nation where her work focused on strengthening the First Nation's governance, law and policy.
- Since 2013, Margaret has worked for the MNO as its first in-house legal counsel and Director of Strategic Policy, Law and Compliance. Until her election as President, she served as the MNO's Associate Chief Operating Officer. In these roles, Margaret has become familiar with the management and oversight of all aspects of the MNO's province-wide operations, including working with all of the MNO Branches, Community Councils and the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO).
- In addition to her work for the MNO and her other community volunteer activity, Margaret sits on various committees and advisory groups focusing on access to justice for Indigenous peoples in Ontario. She brings a Métis voice to these critical discussions of justice and child welfare, including:
- The Debwewin First Nation Jury Review

Implementation Committee; the committee tasked with overseeing Ontario's implementation of the 2013 report issued by former Supreme Court of Canada Justice Frank Iacobucci regarding the lack of First Nation representation on Ontario Juries; and

- the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Group that advises the Attorney General on Indigenous justice issues.
- Over the last 20 years, Margaret has also served in elected and executive positions— including the role of President— of various boards of Indigenous community organizations, associations and businesses operating at the local, provincial and national levels in Canada.

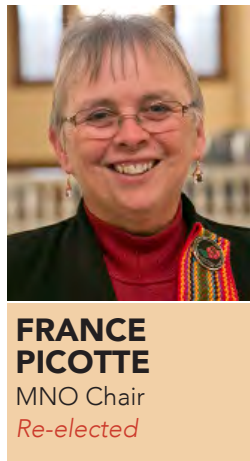
Notably, Margaret is the former President of the Indigenous Bar Association in Canada (IBA), a national professional association of Métis, First Nation and Inuit lawyers, judges, law professors and law students. She is the current Chair of the IBA's Law Student Scholarship Foundation. She has chaired numerous committees of the IBA, including the IBA Ethics Committee, and served as Chair of the Steering Committee for the Accessing Justice & Reconciliation national community-based research project working with Indigenous communities to revitalize Indigenous law in Canada.

In addition to her volunteer work at the national level, Margaret supports an exciting local initiative aimed at raising awareness around the need for mental health supports for youth in the region, and with a local animal rescue. One of her favourite activities is mentoring Indigenous youth and encouraging them on their academic and professional journeys.

Margaret also shares her knowledge and leadership experience in her role as faculty for the Banff Centre's Indigenous Leadership & Management Program (now the Lougheed

*Over the last 20 years, Margaret has...served in elected and executive positions – including the role of President – of various boards of Indigenous community organizations, associations and businesses operating at the local, provincial and national levels in Canada.*

Leadership Institute). Margaret teaches part-time for the Banff Centre and has helped Métis, First Nations and Inuit leaders from across Canada develop their leadership skills, with a particular focus on nation-building and good governance. She has also taught as Adjunct Faculty at the University of Toronto Faculty Of Law, and has lectured on Métis, First Nations and Inuit legal issues across Canada and internationally. A former competitive athlete and inspired by her very active mother, Margaret has been working on getting fit again. She happily reports that she is in better shape entering her 50's than she was in her 40's. She is an avid yoga practitioner and works out daily. She enjoys cooking, gardening and being outside and enjoying nature. Her first freighter canoe outing in Blind River while attending the MNO North Channel Métis Council 2015 Annual General Meeting has inspired her to get back to her canoeing roots, so watch for her soon on Lake Simcoe and the surrounding waterways! Margaret and her spouse, Rachel, live in Barrie. They recently celebrated their sixteenth anniversary. Margaret is a proud auntie of 26 nieces and nephews. ∞



**FRANCE PICOTTE**  
MNO Chair  
*Re-elected*

France succeeded President Lipinski as the Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in 2008. Chair Picotte first got involved in Métis politics in Ontario when she served as President of the MNO Timmins Métis

Community Council; she then became PCMNO Vice-chair and later PCMNO Chair. France is a strong woman and proud Métis citizen fluent in Michif, English and French. Currently, she is the PCMNO Provincial Secretary for Education and Training, as well as Healing and Wellness. Besides taking an active role in over-seeing these branches, France travels across the country and throughout the province raising awareness about the Métis and Métis culture in Ontario. France, a lab technologist, has also been instrumental in promoting and advancing health issues in the Métis community. Her passion for the preservation of Métis culture was recognized when she received the Ontario Heritage Trust Award for her dedication to preserving the Michif language and the traditional finger weaving practice of the Métis people. Her effort to record more Métis stories is now taking her into the area of research. France has been instrumental in establishing relationships with research bodies and institutions that can shine light on the often untold stories of the Métis in Ontario. ∞



**SHARON McBRIDE**  
MNO Vice-Chair  
*Re-elected*

Sharon McBride is a municipal law enforcement officer and has served as MNO Vice-Chair and spokesperson for the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) since 2008. She became actively involved in Métis politics in 1999 when she first learned of her Métis ancestry. She was founding President of the MNO Credit River Métis Council based in Brampton and has served as PCMNO Councillor for Region Eight. Her work on behalf of

the WSMNO is focused on securing the funding required to carry out the important advocacy and public awareness role of the Women's Secretariat. Vice-chair McBride, whose Métis roots have been traced to Penetanguishene, was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and has lived in Germany, Nova Scotia and Ontario. Her contributions to the Métis community include work on several different boards and committees. Vice-Chair McBride is committed to ensuring the voice of the Métis Nation is heard throughout the province. She received the Ontario Heritage Trust Award in recognition of her work with Mississauga Heritage and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. ∞



**TIM PILE**  
MNO Secretary-Treasurer  
*Re-elected*

Tim Pile lives in Thunder Bay and has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the MNO since 2001. Tim is also Chair of the MNO Finance Committee, Provincial Secretary for Housing and has responsibilities in the MNO Health and Education portfolios. Tim's early involvement with the MNO began as the Region 2 Councillor. Shortly after assuming this position,

his peers elected him to the position of Secretary-Treasurer. Tim is a graduate of Ryerson University, earning his Bachelor of Arts in Photo Technology. Aside from his creative work as a professional photographer, Tim received accolades for his work as one of Canada's top marketing representatives for a Fortune 500 company and played a seminal role in shaping the development of a company in North America's added-value wood sector. He has been an independent business-owner and represented the interests of the Métis Nation for many years. Born in the small northern Ontario gold-mining town of Geraldton, Tim traces his roots to Peace River, Alberta where his paternal great-grandmother, Ida Cameron, was raised. Tim was raised with strong family values where a passion for life outdoors was reinforced by a healthy respect for nature and the environment. When considering business initiatives, the same principles that protect Ontario's natural heritage are prioritized and applied. Tim has been a resident of Thunder Bay for the past 35 years and is the proud father of three children. Tim contributions to the Métis community include work on several different committees and boards, including Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services, Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Anishnawbe Mushkiki Health Centre and more. Tim has also worked in several advisory roles as well. ∞



MNO Election Results

2016 PCMNO Biographies

Regional Councillors



**THERESA STENLUND**  
Region 1  
*Acclaimed*

Theresa Stenlund has been acclaimed to serve a third term as Region 1 Councillor. Theresa, who is also the Chair of the Region 1 Consultation Committee, first joined the PCMNO in 2008 and served as a councillor on the MNO Kenora Métis Council from 2001 to 2008. She received a Social Services Diploma (Honour Roll) in 1996 and has worked in Child and Family Services ever since. Theresa completed an Honours Bachelor of Social Work degree at Laurentian University, (Honour Roll) in June 2012. Married with two children, Theresa believes it is very important that Métis children know their identity at an early age. She tries to make sure that her Métis children are immersed in their culture. Theresa has a strong interest in the MNO's work in child and family services, Métis culture and heritage, children with disabilities and Métis rights. ∞



**CAM BURGESS**  
Region 2  
*Elected*

Cam Burgess lives in Thunder Bay and has been Region 2 Councillor since 2003. Cam serves on the PCMNO Finance and Economic Development Committees and represents the MNO at environmental meetings at both the federal and provincial levels. He chairs the Consultation Committee in Region 2. In Thunder Bay, Cam sits on four different boards or committees and every May for the last six years has been the local coordinator for two first year medical students. He is involved with them at both the clinical and Métis cultural levels. Cam's first PCMNO meeting was in Ottawa just prior to the Supreme Court's handing down the historic Powley Decision in 2003. After meeting with Steve Powley, the PCMNO and MNO staff, Cam was hooked and is very grateful for the extended family he now has in the MNO. He considers it a privilege to work with the three community councils in Region 2 as well as MNO citizens and the PCMNO. ∞



**MARCEL LAFRANCE**  
Region 3  
*Elected*

Marcel Lafrance was elected for a third term as Regional Councillor for Region 3. He was first elected in 2008, and is also the Chair for Region 3 Consultation Committee. Prior to his election to the PCMNO, he was a Community Councillor and President. As

Chair of Region 3 Consultation Committee, he was instrumental in the signing of several Memorandum's of Understanding (MOU). He also signed the first MNO IBA with Detour Gold. Marcel lives in Matachewan and has been married for 41 years and has two children. He is very keen on involving an educating youth in the Métis way of life and wants youth to learn from Métis Knowledge Holders. Marcel looks forward to seeing all of his friends at the AGA this year. ∞



**ERNEST GATIEN**  
Region 4  
*Acclaimed*

Ernest Gatien is a new member of the PCMNO who has been acclaimed as Regional Councillor for Region 4. He is a former Captain of the Hunt and councillor for the MNO North Channel Métis Council and has been a resource person for the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Consultation Committee. Ernest lives in Blind River and is retired after serving 35 years with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. He holds an Arts degree from Laurentian University and a Diploma in Resource Management from Sault College. While with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ernest worked at various times as a forest fire fighter, a Regional Lands and Waters Technical Specialist, assistant to the Mining Recorder (MNDM, during the Hemlo Gold rush) and a member of First Nations' land claims negotiating teams. He was also involved with the Elliot Lake uranium mines decommissioning and did contract management including road and dam construction. Ernest was also a member of the Town of Blind River Planning Board. Ernest has been active for years attending local council meetings and several MNO Annual General Assemblies (AGA) and plans to continue working to keep the MNO moving forward in its struggle to attain for MNO citizens what is their heritage and birth right in practice and in law. At the 2015 AGA, Ernest was awarded the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award. ∞



**DANIEL BOULARD**  
Region 5  
*Acclaimed*

Daniel Boulard is a new member of the PCMNO who has been acclaimed as Regional Councillor for Region 5. He is a former councillor on the MNO Sudbury Métis Council and has been an MNO citizen since 1999. Dan lives in Hanmer. He graduated Cambrian College as a Civil Engineer Technician in 1986 and also graduated George Brown College as a Journeyman Ironworker in 1989. He pursued his career in the construction sector from superintendent, project management, and vice-president of a local construction firm. For the past six years, Dan has founded Ferus Industrial Contracting and is a proud Métis entrepreneur servicing the pulp and paper, mines, mills, smelters, and power generating plants. Dan has always been active with the

MNO participating in several Annual General Assemblies and local community council meetings. Dan looks forward in participating with PCMNO to advance Métis rights. ∞



**THOMAS THOMPSON**  
Region 6  
*Acclaimed*

Thomas Thompson has been acclaimed to serve a second term as Region 6 Councillor. Thomas, who is also the Chair of the MNO Region 6 Consultation Committee, joined the MNO in 2000. He served as a Councillor on the MNO Seven Rivers Métis Council before taking the role of President on what is now called the MNO High Land Waters Métis Community Council. Thomas has volunteered many hours to help over the years including the countless hours he has put into helping other MNO citizens file their paperwork for their MNO citizenship cards.

For the past 30 years, Thomas has been a licensed steam fitter and plumber and therefore has an extensive background in the mechanical, oil, natural gas and water fields. His goal is to make the Métis Nation aware of what proponents will bring to the table. With this knowledge and the information others bring to the table, it will make it hard for people to continue to take advantage of the Métis.

Thomas is no stranger to hard work and dedication. In the past four years, Thomas has attended every PCMNO meeting and Annual General Assembly (AGA) in the hopes of making a difference. Thomas looks forward to being able to continue his work with the MNO to better his community and the Métis Nation.

In his spare time, Thomas teaches his children and grandchildren the way of the Métis. Thomas focuses on his family and makes sure that they are proud of who they are. He also makes sure that they know they always have a friend. ∞



**PAULINE RICHARDSON**  
Region 7  
*Acclaimed*

Pauline Richardson has been acclaimed to serve another term as Regional Councillor for Region 7. Pauline was first elected to the PCMNO in 2005 and is a former president of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council. She is a member of the PCMNO Finance Committee, Chair of the Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Committee and a member of the Michif Committee. Pauline lives in Tiny and has been an Ontario Disability Support Program bilingual caseworker with the Ministry of Community and Social Services since 1987. She was the 2010 recipient of the MNO Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award and the 2012 recipient of the Ontario Public Servant Employee Union, Tim Brown Award. Pauline was remarried on May 3 2014, has three children and

two grandchildren. Pauline feels she owes a duty of care to the Metis Nation future generation by preserving, by protecting and by monitoring the waterways and the lands used by our Metis citizens. Pauline also believes that Metis Nation of Ontario needs to find a positive balance between preserving our culture and moving forward in a modern society. ∞



**ANITA TUCKER**  
Region 8  
*Acclaimed*

Dr. Anita Tucker was born and raised in Fort Frances, Ontario, however she later moved to southern Ontario to attend the University of Guelph. Anita was first elected to PCMNO in 2003 as the Postsecondary Representative and served three terms in this position before being acclaimed in 2012 to the position of Region 8 Councillor. Dr. Tucker holds a Bachelor of Science, Honours in Wildlife Biology, a Master of Science in Wildlife Nutrition and Toxicology, and a PhD in Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Physiology. Anita lives in Georgetown and has worked as both a researcher and the Aboriginal Liaison for the University of Guelph. She plans on combining what she has learned through her education and her Métis heritage to help make the lives of all Canadians better through equal opportunity, education and advocacy. Anita has a passion for developing strong collaborative working relationships and research partnerships that will benefit the Métis Nation. She feels extremely fortunate to have grown up in a traditional Métis family where trapping and commercial fishing were a huge part of her life. ∞



**PETER RIVERS**  
Region 9  
*Elected*

Peter Rivers has been elected to serve a second term as Regional Councillor for Region 9. First elected to the PCMNO in 2008, Peter is also Captain of the Hunt for Region 9. Peter lives in Windsor and is a fire fighter. He has an Associates Degree in Fire Science from Lake Superior State University and is qualified as a captain in all fire fighting disciplines (fire rescue, training and inspections). He was a rescue operations manager for an urban search and rescue team in Michigan for seven years where he was deployed across North and South America. He has also been a Fire Marshal and served on the Public Fire Safety Council. Peter has a strong interest in Métis culture, heritage and way of life. He looks forward to continuing to press for Métis rights. ∞



## MNO Election Results

# 2016 PCMNO Biographies



**KATELYN LACROIX**  
Post-Secondary Representative  
*Acclaimed*

Katelyn LaCroix has been acclaimed as the post-secondary representative on PCMNO. She is entering her first year of her Master's degree in Social Work, and will be graduating with an undergraduate degree, double majoring in Honors Psychology and Women and Gender Studies. Her involvement in Métis governance began when she served as youth representative on the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council. She would then go on to serve as Region 7 Youth representative on the Provincial youth council. She also was involved for two years as an Infinite Reach Facilitator, and volunteered in her community teaching jigging and fingerweaving to local children. She worked for the MNO as a Summer Youth Cultural Interpreter for two years, and then was promoted to a lead position for the following two years. She hopes to increase awareness about mental health issues, and promote healthy coping mechanisms among the Métis students she will meet through this position. She also plans to advocate for funding opportunities for graduate students. ∞



**MITCH CASE**  
Youth Representative  
*Acclaimed*

Mitch has been acclaimed for his second and final term as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council and Youth Representative on the Provisional Council of the Metis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). Mitch previously served as Youth Representative on the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council and Region 4 Representative on the MNO Youth Council. Mitch served as a member of the Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities advising 18 government ministries on issues affecting youth in Ontario. Mitch is passionate about increasing the number of youth involved in all aspects of the MNO and was proud to lead the MNO Youth Council in becoming one of the most active councils in the MNO. The MNO Youth Council brought forward more resolutions than any other constituency in the MNO over the past four years. Mitch is a graduate of Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig and Algoma University where he studied History and Anishinaabe studies; he focused his research on Ontario Métis History. Mitch was awarded the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers in 2014 as well as in 2015 the Charlie Hunter Scholarship. Mitch is a First Degree Midewiwin of the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge. In his spare time Mitch enjoys beading traditional Métis floral designs. ∞

## Congratulations to all new and returning PCMNO representatives!

# Congratulations to the new President and PCMNO!

Since the announcement of the election results on May 11, many Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens and friends of the MNO have been congratulating Margaret Froh, the new MNO President, as well as the other new elected and re-elected members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). This outpouring of good will is a testament to the positive spirit that permeates the MNO.

"In choosing Margaret, MNO citizens have elected an individual with exceptional qualities and qualifications to lead the MNO. I have every confidence that she will build on the work of the past and make the Métis Nation even stronger.  
I also want to congratulate the other elected and acclaimed candidates. Margaret will head up a strong team of leaders who will advance the work of the MNO tremendously in the next four years."  
– Gary Lipinski, Outgoing MNO President

"On behalf of the Government of Ontario, we would like to extend our congratulations to Margaret Froh on her election as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario.  
Margaret Froh has spent her career working on behalf of Métis people, with a particular focus on legal and justice issues. With the election results, the Métis Nation of Ontario has recognized her leadership, vision and commitment to strengthening Métis communities across the province.  
The Métis Nation of Ontario and the Government of Ontario have accomplished much in recent years, including the renewal of the Framework Agreement that sets out how we will work together to improve the well-being of Métis children, families and communities, and the incorporation of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act, 2015, which recognizes the Métis Nation of Ontario's unique corporate structure within the existing provincial corporate law framework.  
The Ontario government is committed to continuing to build a positive relationship with the Métis Nation of Ontario, and to working together in the spirit of mutual respect and collaboration. We look forward to working with Margaret Froh and wish her the best in this new role."  
– Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer

"I have been warmly welcomed by Members of the executive for some time now and have been received by past president Gary Lipinski in friendship. For that, I am truly grateful and honoured. I hope we can continue to strengthen and expand our relationship and friendship. I look forward to meeting you to start our friendship journey."  
– Dave Levac, Speaker of the Ontario Legislature

"I am confident given Ms. Froh's credentials that she will also do the Métis Nation of Ontario very proud. Métis Nation BC is very much looking forward to seeing how the collective vision of the leadership of the MNO unfolds in the coming years and we look forward to continuing our strong working relationship on behalf of all Métis people."  
– Bruce Dumont, President of Métis Nation British Columbia

"On behalf of the Board of Governor of the Métis National Council, I congratulate you on your election as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. I also wish to congratulate the MNO on the record number of electors who voted for candidates at the regional and provincial levels."  
– Clément Chartier QC, President, Métis National Council

"Congratulations and sincere best wishes to Margaret Froh on her election as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. I wish her well as she takes on the many challenges and obligations that come with being President and I look forward to seeing the continued growth and success of the MNO under her leadership. I also want to congratulate all those who were re-elected or are newly elected to the Provisional Council of the Metis Nation of Ontario. I am confident that the leadership of our proud Nation is in good hands."  
– Tony Belcourt, past MNO President

"On behalf of the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA), I would like to extend our heartfelt and sincerest congratulations that you have been elected as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. We also congratulate you on being a huge contributing factor to the largest voter turnout in the history of the MNO and on becoming the first female President. We are extremely pleased and celebrate this victory; the victory of a fellow indigenous woman being elected to a vital, political position."  
– Dr. Dawn M. Lavell-Harvard, President, Native Women's Association of Canada

"As the first female president, your election is a significant milestone in the history of the Métis Nation, and I cannot think of a person more qualified to break new ground and inspire the next generation of Indigenous women leaders. I am confident that your compassion, perseverance and dedication will serve you well in your new role and I wish you and the re-elected members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario every success."  
– Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, Nishnawbe Aski Nation

"I would like to extend my warm congratulations to you on your recent election as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. I wish you all the best as you begin your term and I look forward to working with you on continuing to strengthen the relationship between the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Your outstanding commitment to justice and child welfare and your legal advocacy on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario and other Indigenous communities are well-recognized in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry."  
– Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

"I would like to congratulate Margaret Froh on her election as the next President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. I call on all MNO citizens to join me in commending her on her victory and to extend our best wishes to her as she now takes the helm of our proud nation in Ontario."  
– Hank Rowlinson, 2016 MNO Presidential candidate

"I wish to congratulate you on your recent election as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. ...I look forward to working with you and your citizens throughout the province, particularly those residing in Regions 1 and 2. Best wishes as you embark on this amazing journey."  
– Don Rusnak, MP Thunder Bay–Rainy River



## MNO Election Results

# Congratulations to the new President and PCMNO!

<p>“Congratulations on being elected President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. I look forward to meeting with you in the near future to discuss how Lakehead can continue to help with the MNO’s strategic goals.”</p> <p>– <b>Dr. Brian Stevenson, President and Vice-Chancellor of Lakehead University</b></p>	<p>“I want to congratulate you on your election of President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. As the Aboriginal critic for my party, I look forward to working with you. Don’t hesitate to reach out if I can be helpful.”</p> <p>– <b>France Gélinas, MPP Nickel Belt</b></p>
<p>“Congratulations!! So privileged to know you and call you friend. Great things are ahead with you at the helm.”</p> <p>– <b>Suzanne Jackson, MNO Citizen</b></p>	<p>“Yes Margaret! So excited for what’s to come!”</p> <p>– <b>Chris Danger McLeod, MNO Citizen</b></p>
<p> @MetisNationON Congratulations to Margaret Froh, new President of Metis Nation of Ontario. Best wishes &amp; I look forward to working with you.</p> <p><b>@Sarah4NWO (Sarah Campbell, MPP for Rainy River)</b></p>	<p> On behalf of Manitoba’s #Metis Government &amp; Citizens we congratulate Margaret Froh on being elected President of @MetisNationON #MetisStrong</p> <p><b>@MBMetis_MMF (Manitoba Métis Federation)</b></p>
<p> Exciting times!!! @FrohMargaret hope we can sit down together soon!!! Congrats again! #MNO #onpoli #cdnpoli</p> <p><b>@carolyn_bennett (Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous &amp; Northern Affairs)</b></p>	<p> Alumna Margaret Froh, LLB ‘96, is the new and first female president of the #Metis Nation of Ontario. #UofT #onpoli</p> <p><b>@UTLaw (University of Toronto Law Faculty)</b></p>

## MNO citizens gather for fun, food and facts

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff working in the Sault Ste. Marie office will be hosting their monthly Fun, Food and Facts Workshops once again this year. “Our Tuesday groups, as our staff like to call them because they happen on select Tuesdays,” stated Jamie Panco Fox, MNO Métis Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Worker and one of three workshop coordinators, “provide a wonderful opportunity for men and women, 18 years and older to learn together about Métis culture and how they can improve their health and well-being in a friendly and welcoming environment.” The workshops, offered once per month with the exception of July and August, are held in the Powley Room at the Sault Métis Centre from 11:45 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The workshops are free.

“There is always a lot of banter and laughter as regular participants have fun visiting with each other while they enjoy home-cooked, healthy food,” stated MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Donna St. Jules who is another one of the organizers. “The fun continues during the facts portion of the day where we share Métis health information using traditional teaching styles, hands-on activities, crafts and story work.”

“Our Tuesday groups have created a community; where once it was fractured, it is now interconnected,” stated Shawna Hansen, MNO Community Wellness Coordinator and coordinator. “People are once again looking out for each other and it spans the generations.” ∞

### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

- Plan Well, Eat Well, Live Well
- Sleep Your Way to Better Health
- Making the Most of your Money
- Métis Healing Scarf
- Make your own Métis Mittens
- Winter Crafts and Activities
- Earth Angel Ornaments
- Faceless Dolls Workshop
- Walk and Sharing Circle to Honour
- Murdered and Missing Women
- Sacred Medicines & Smoking Cessation

For more information about our workshops, please call the MNO Healing and Wellness branch staff in Sault Ste. Marie at:

**(705) 254-1768**

Come out and join in the fun, enjoy some food and get the facts!



# What Motherhood means to me

Submitted by Anne Huguenin

A mother you can talk to no matter what you say  
She is always there to listen as well as she hears  
A mother is someone who even when you’re away  
You feel her arms around you near  
A mother gives all she has and a thousand times more  
for her children are her everything she loves them to the core  
A mother is a person you want to be around  
one who makes you laugh till you’re falling to the ground  
A mother makes you special in the way that you should feel  
She will set aside everything and cook your favorite meal  
A mother gladly invites your friends to join you at the table  
And she prepares a feast each time that she is able  
There is no place for judgement in a true mother’s eyes  
For that special bond makes for a lifetime of stronger ties  
A mother is always proud of you no matter what you do  
She is there to love, support and forever encourage you

A mother can be your kiith and kin  
It’s how she makes you feel within  
She will always dress your skinned knees  
And put a face on your grilled cheese  
She will always dry your tears  
And hold you close and shed your fears  
She’ll laugh with you and put a smile on your face  
She’ll always be there to keep you safe  
A mother is anyone you proudly call “Mom”  
Her voice alone will keep you calm  
A mother calls you up for no reason but to say hello  
and there is no length a true mother would not go  
A mother loves you unconditionally and till the very end  
for there is no stronger bond  
than that of a mother and her children. ∞





## VICTORY IN THE DANIELS CASE



▲ Métis citizens and leaders from across Canada march in a procession to Parliament Hill on April 14, 2016 to await the Daniels decision.

## The Daniels Case

# A significant victory for the Métis Nation

The Daniels case was initiated by well-known Métis leader Harry Daniels in 1999. Following trial and appeal court decisions, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) heard the case in October 2015 and released its final judgement on *Daniels v Canada* on April 14, 2016.

*The Daniels decision is going to open many doors for us as a people and it's going to help move us forward towards a process of reconciliation between Canada and our Nation.*

— MNO President Margaret Froh

In its unanimous decision, the SCC issued a declaration that Métis and non-status Indians are included in section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, and affirmed that the federal Crown owes a fiduciary duty to Métis and non-status Indians; and that Métis and non-status Indians have the right to be consulted and negotiated with, in good faith, by the federal government on a collective basis through representatives of their choice.

At the time of this historic decision, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski

stated: “This is a significant victory for the Métis Nation. It will facilitate reconciliation between Canada and Métis communities from Ontario westward.”

Mr. Lipinski noted the need for the federal government to “not delay and move quickly to the negotiating table with Métis governments.” He stressed the importance of establishing a land claims process for the Métis Nation. “Starting negotiations immediately on land claims is essential to deal with the historic grievance of the Métis Nation. We can no longer be a landless people in our own country.”

This past May, the MNO held their general election and Margaret Froh was elected as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. In response to the Daniels’ decision, President Froh proudly remarked that, “the stars are aligning for the Métis in Ontario. The Daniels’ case marks the end of a historic run-around that the Métis have had for recognition in Canada. The Daniels decision is yet another star that has come into line for our people and it is going to mean long lasting and significant change for the Métis in Ontario.”

President Froh added: “The Dan-



▲ Métis delegates play traditional music as they lead the procession to the Supreme Court.



▲ Citizens jig on the steps of the Supreme Court as they wait to be admitted inside to hear the verdict.



VICTORY IN THE DANIELS CASE

iels' decision is going to open many doors for us as a people and it's going to help move us forward towards a process of reconciliation between Canada and our Nation. We've got a big job ahead of us. We are going to be taking our seat at the table negotiating a nation-to-nation relationship with the federal government of Canada and we're going to be dealing with things like lands, like programs and services—things that are going to have real and lasting benefits for our citizens."

She stressed that the Daniels' decision does not take away our identity. "We are Métis. We are proud to be Métis. That does not

change. It does not impact in any way on our citizenship. It is the citizens of the Métis Nation that will determine who we are as a people."

She also asserted that the Daniels' case does not impact in any way on our harvesting rights. "We are going to continue to assert our harvesting rights and to defend our citizens that are out exercising those rights."

Looking ahead, President Froh sees negotiating self-government as a major goal. "Over the coming months and years, this will be our task. It's real and lasting change for our citizens and the Métis Nation of Ontario is ready for it." ∞



▲ The procession makes its way down Bank Street in Ottawa.



▲ MNO Chair France Picotte and Métis National Council president Clément Chartier address the media following the Daniels verdict.



▲ The procession pauses for a group photo before continuing on to the Supreme Court of Canada.



▲ Métis youth (L-R) Brittany Matthews, Kelly Duquette and Paul Robichaud celebrate the Daniels victory at the Supreme Court of Canada.



▲ An assembled group of Métis from across the Métis homeland stand proudly on the steps of the Supreme Court of Canada.



## VICTORY IN THE DANIELS CASE

A summary of *Daniels v. Canada* at the Supreme Court of Canada

# "Another Chapter in the Pursuit of Reconciliation and Redress..."

### WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE CASE?

The representative plaintiffs were well-known Métis leader Harry Daniels (now deceased), Gabriel Daniels (Harry's son), Leah Gardner (a non-status Indian from Ontario), Terry Joudrey (a non-status Mi'kmaq from Nova Scotia) and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (the "Plaintiffs"). The case was filed against the federal government as represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development ("Canada").

At the Supreme Court of Canada, the MNC, Métis Settlements General Council and Gift Lake Métis Settlement intervened on behalf of the Métis Nation. Groups such as the Assembly of First Nations and Chiefs of Ontario amongst others intervened on behalf of First Nations and non-status Indians. Alberta and Saskatchewan also intervened.

### WHAT DID THE PLAINTIFFS ASK FOR?

The Plaintiffs asked for three judicial declarations:

1. that Métis and non-status Indians are in s. 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*;
2. that the federal Crown owes a fiduciary duty to Métis and non-status Indians; and
3. that Métis and non-status Indians have the right to be consulted and negotiated with, in good faith, by the federal government on a collective basis through representatives of their choice.

A declaration is a common court remedy in Aboriginal claims cases. A court declares the law in relation to a dispute between government and Aboriginal peoples. The parties are then expected to change their behavior to be consistent with the law.

### WHAT THE SUPREME COURT SAID

#### WHAT IS SECTION 91(24) OF THE CONSTITUTION ACT, 1867?

In 1867, when Canada was created—as a new country—various "jurisdictions" were divided up between Parliament and provincial legislatures. Parliament was assigned "exclusive Legislative Authority" for "Indians, and Land reserved for the Indians" through s. 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*. This jurisdiction was assigned to Canada to achieve "the broader goals of Confederation," which included expansion into Rupert's Land and the North-Western Territory as well as building a national railway to British Columbia (para. 25).

*The Métis Nation was...crucial in ushering in western and northern Canada into Confederation and in increasing the wealth of the Canadian nation by opening up the prairies to agriculture and settlement. These developments could not have occurred without Métis intercession and legal presence. —Daniels, para. 16 (citing Professor John Borrows)*

Section 91(24) provided Parliament, and, by extension, the federal government, the "authority over all Aboriginal peoples" in order to facilitate the "westward expansion of the Dominion" (para. 25). This expansion was advanced through Canada's treaty making, agreements and alliances with the diverse Aboriginal populations it encountered. These "relationships" with Aboriginal groups allowed the federal government to "protect the railway from attack" and to smooth the way for settlement (para. 25).

The "Indians" in s. 91(24) included all of the Aboriginal peoples within Canada in 1867 as well as those to be encountered as the country expanded (para. 46). Notably, in the "western territories," the Aboriginal peoples encountered included various Indian tribes, bands, etc. (i.e., First Nations) as well as the Métis (i.e., the Métis Nation) (para. 16; see also *Manitoba Metis Federation v. Canada*, para. 2). Both of these groups—First Nations and Métis—were considered "Indians" within s. 91(24) because they were indigenous to the territory and necessary "partners in Confederation" (para. 37).

In modern times, s. 91(24) continues to be about advancing Parliament's "relationship with all of Canada's Aboriginal peoples," thereby making "reconciliation with all of Canada's Aboriginal peoples is Parliament's goal" (paras. 36-37). The Court notes, however, that s. 91(24)'s "relationship" function plays a "very different constitutional purpose" than s. 35 (paras. 37, 49) as explained further below.

#### WHY DOES INCLUSION IN SECTION 91(24) MATTER TO MÉTIS AND NON-STATUS INDIANS?

The Court held that uncertainty about whether Métis and non-status Indians are in s. 91(24) has left them in a "jurisdictional wasteland with significant and obvious disadvantaging consequences." The Court upheld the Trial Judge's findings that the "political football—buck passing" tactics of governments towards these

groups had "produced a large population of collaterally damaged" people (para. 14). While inclusion in s. 91(24) doesn't create a duty on to legislate, the granting of a declaration that these groups are included in s. 91(24) provides them with "certainty and accountability" about "where to turn for policy redress" and has an "undeniable salutary benefit" (paras. 15, 50).

#### WHY NON-STATUS INDIANS ARE INCLUDED IN SECTION 91(24)

At the hearing of the appeal, Canada conceded that non-status Indians are in s. 91(24). The Court noted that Canada's concession was not determinative, so answering the legal question still had practical utility. As such, a declaration that non-status Indians are in s. 91(24) was issued (paras. 20, 50). The Court also noted that since all Aboriginal peoples are in s. 91(24) (and non-status Indians are included within those peoples) any "definitional ambiguities" about who non-status Indians are did not preclude a judicial determination that they are in s. 91(24) as a starting point (para. 19) with specifics to be "decided on a case-by-basis in the future" (para. 47).

#### WHY MÉTIS ARE INCLUDED IN SECTION 91(24)

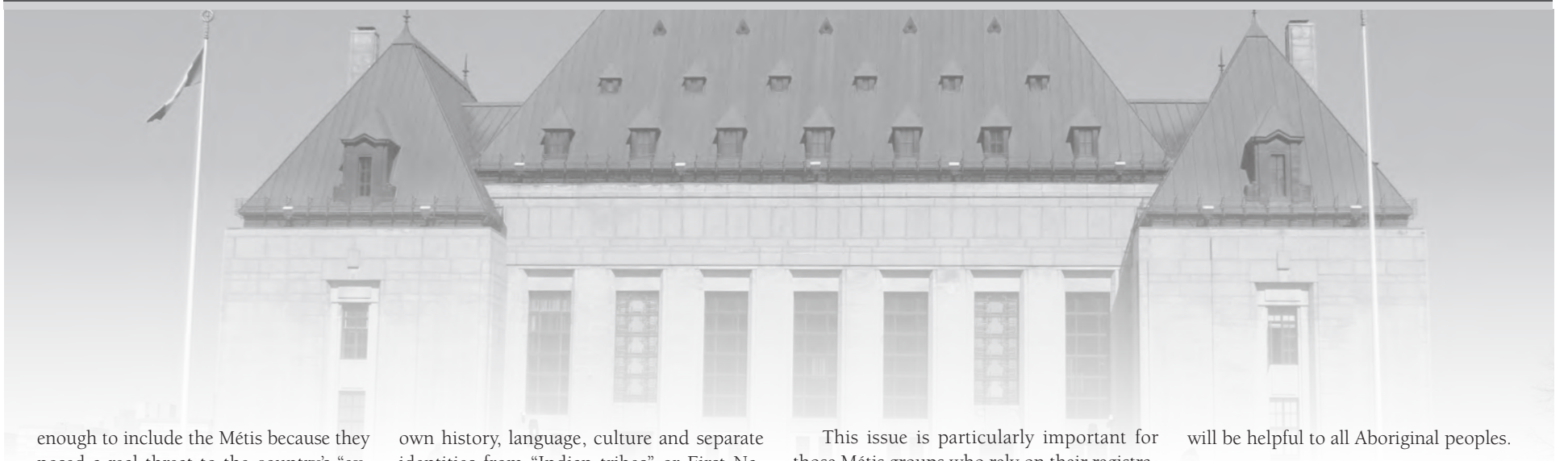
In order to achieve its expansionist goals, Canada needed to facilitate positive "relationships" with the large and diverse Aboriginal population it encountered. This included dealing with the Métis—as "Indians" under s. 91(24)—both prior to and post Confederation. As such, the Court issued a declaration that the Métis are included in s. 91(24) (para. 50). In order to support its conclusion, the Court noted:

- Métis were considered "Indians" for the purposes of pre-Confederation treaties such as the Robinson Treaties of 1850 (para. 24).
- Many post-Confederation statutes considered Métis to be "Indians" (para. 24), including an amendment to the Indian Act in 1894 to include "Halfbreeds" in liquor prohibitions (para. 27).
- Canada's jurisdiction needed to be broad

**ABOUT:** This is a summary of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *Daniels v. Canada*, 2016 SCC 12 ("Daniels"). It has been prepared for the Métis National Council ("MNC") and its Governing Members. It is not legal advice and should not be relied on as such. It does not necessarily represent the views of the MNC or its Governing Members.



## VICTORY IN THE DANIELS CASE



enough to include the Métis because they posed a real threat to the country's "expansionist agenda" (paras. 25-26).

- The "Métis Nation was ... crucial in ushering western and northern Canada into Confederation ... These developments could not have occurred without Métis intercession and legal presence" (para. 26).
- Although applied haphazardly, the federal government's residential school policy encompassed Métis, including establishing a federally funded industrial school at Saint-Paul-des-Métis in Alberta (paras. 28-30).
- In the early 20th Century the federal government continued to be willing to recognize Métis as "Indians" whenever it was convenient to do so, including, the issuance of Métis scrip and moving Métis in and out of treaties and the Indian Act (paras. 31-32).
- In 1980, a federal Cabinet document acknowledged that "Métis people ... are presently in the same legal position as other Indians who signed land cession treaties" and those Métis who received scrip are still "Indians" within the meaning of s. 91(24) (para. 33).

The Court held that the term "Indians" in s. 91(24) could be equated to the way we use the term "Aboriginal" today (i.e., it includes all the Aboriginal peoples in s. 35). It also noted that it would be strange for the Métis to be excluded from s. 91(24), while all other Aboriginal peoples enumerated in s. 35 were included (para. 35).

The Court distinguished its decision in *R. v. Blais* where it held Métis were not included as "Indians" in *Manitoba's Natural Resources Transfer Agreement, 1930*. It noted that *Blais* was about whether Métis were included in a specific constitutional agreement, while this case was about jurisdiction in the Constitution (paras. 44-45).

*"The [1982] constitutional changes, the apologies for historic wrongs, a growing appreciation that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people are partners in Confederation,...all indicate that reconciliation with all of Canada's Aboriginal peoples is Parliament's goal"*  
—*Daniels, para. 37*

## MÉTIS INCLUSION AS SECTION 91(24) "INDIANS" DOES NOT COMPROMISE MÉTIS DISTINCTIVENESS

Since the term "Indians" in s. 91(24) includes all of the Aboriginal peoples recognized in s. 35, the Court emphasized that Métis inclusion in s. 91(24) does not undermine Métis distinctiveness—as a unique Aboriginal people—in any way. The Court emphasized that "[t]here is no doubt that the Métis are a distinct people" and noted it has previously recognized Métis communities in both Alberta and Manitoba as a "culturally distinct Aboriginal people" (paras. 42-43). The Court also highlighted that the Inuit—who have their

own history, language, culture and separate identities from "Indian tribes" or First Nations—are already recognized as "Indians" in s. 91(24) and their distinctiveness has not been compromised through this inclusion (paras. 39, 41).

## SECTION 35 RIGHTS AND DEFINITIONAL ISSUES ARE ADDRESSED DOWNSTREAM FROM JURISDICTION

Since *Daniels* was not about whether Métis or non-status Indian communities possess Aboriginal rights or claims recognized by s. 35, the Court found "there is no need to delineate which mixed-ancestry communities are Métis and which are non-status Indians" at this determination of jurisdiction stage. Essentially, all of these groups are included in s. 91(24) "by virtue of the fact that they are all Aboriginal peoples" (para. 46).

Determining whether "particular individuals or communities" are in s. 91(24) are "fact-driven question[s] to be decided on a case-by-case basis" (para. 47). At the jurisdiction stage, "community acceptance" is not required because the net is widely cast to include all Aboriginal peoples, including, "people who may no longer be accepted by their communities because they were separated from them as a result, for example, of government policies such as Indian Residential Schools" (paras. 46-49).

The Court, however, went on to highlight that Métis or non-status Indian inclusion in s. 91(24) is not the same as being recognized as a rights-bearing community or rights-holder for the purpose of s. 35 (para. 49). Section 91(24) serves "a very different constitutional purpose" than s. 35. Section 91(24) casts a wide net and deals with Parliament's "relationships" with all Aboriginal peoples. Section 35, on the other hand, protects "historic community-held rights" and calls for the just settlement of rights and claims (paras. 34, 49, *Haida Nation v. BC*, paras. 20, 25). In effect, rights and definitional issues are answered downstream from jurisdiction.

The Court reaffirmed that in the Métis context, the criteria in *R. v. Powley* must still be met to establish Métis rights (paras. 48-49). In the non-status Indian community context, *R. v. Van der Peet* likely applies or an individual must show they are a descendant/beneficiary of a treaty or a non-status member of a First Nation community.

Specifically, in relation to Métis rights, the *Powley* criteria for establishing a rights-bearing Métis community or identifying rights-holders (i.e., self-identification, ancestral connection to the historic community and community acceptance) still applies (paras. 48-49). *Daniels* does not change these requirements. As the Court previously held,

*It is important to remember that, no matter how a contemporary community defines membership, only those members with a demonstrable ancestral connection to the historic community can claim a s. 35 right. Verifying membership is crucial, since individuals are only entitled to exercise Métis aboriginal rights by virtue of their ancestral connection to and current membership in a Métis community. (Powley, para. 34)*

This issue is particularly important for those Métis groups who rely on their registration systems for the identification of rights-holders and asserting s. 35 Métis rights for the purposes of Crown consultation, harvesting, etc. *Daniels* does not mean that anyone who claims to be "Métis" under s. 91(24) is now a s. 35 Métis rights-holder or could be "accepted" for such a purpose without still meeting the criteria set out in *Powley*.

## PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION INCLUDING MÉTIS AND NON-STATUS INDIANS NOT AUTOMATICALLY INVALID

The Court held that provincial laws pertaining to Métis and non-status Indians are not inherently beyond the scope of provincial legislatures (para. 51). Provinces can pass laws in relation to provincial areas of jurisdiction, which affect or specifically deal with Métis or non-status Indians, as long as those laws do not impair the core of s. 91(24). *The Métis Settlements Act (Alberta)*, *The Métis Act (Saskatchewan)* or *Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act (Ontario)* are all examples of this type of permissible provincial law, wherein provinces have acted in their respective jurisdictional spheres.

## THE CROWN IS IN A FIDUCIARY RELATIONSHIP WITH MÉTIS AND NON-STATUS INDIANS

The Court reaffirmed based on *Delgamuukw v. BC* and *Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. v. Canada* that the Crown is in a fiduciary relationship with all Aboriginal peoples, including, Métis and non-status Indians. The Court did not issue a declaration on this issue because it would just be "restating settled law" (para. 53).

*"The relationship between the Métis and the Crown, viewed generally, is fiduciary in nature."* —*Manitoba Métis Federation, para. 48*

## THE DUTY TO NEGOTIATE WITH MÉTIS AND NON-STATUS INDIANS

The Court reaffirmed based on *Haida Nation v. BC*, *Tsilhqot'in Nation v. BC* and *Powley* that "a context-specific duty to negotiate" exists "when Aboriginal rights are engaged." This duty is not triggered by mere inclusion in s. 91(24); however, it applies where Métis or non-status Indian communities have credible or established s. 35 rights or claims. Again, the Court did not issue a declaration on this issue because to do so would have been "a restatement of the existing law" (para. 56).

This is a particularly significant development for Métis communities from Ontario westward whose s. 35 rights and/or claims have already been recognized by courts and/or provincial governments but who yet find that the federal government does not have any negotiation processes available to them. Further, they are excluded from Canada's specific and comprehensive claims policies available to First Nations and the Inuit. This clear statement from the Court that there is a duty to negotiate (related to but distinct from the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate)

will be helpful to all Aboriginal peoples.

## THE IMPLICATIONS OF DANIELS FOR THE MÉTIS NATION

Nothing immediately changes for Métis based on the *Daniels* judgment. For example, Métis are not now registered as "status Indians" under the Indian Act or eligible to be registered as such. Various federal programs and services available to status Indians and Inuit are not now available to Métis (i.e., non-insured health benefits, post-secondary education funding, etc.). Métis are not now eligible for tax exemptions available to some status Indians.

Going forward, however, it will be incumbent on Canada to move forward on several fronts with the authorized representatives of rights-bearing Métis communities. Given the Court's clarity in relation to jurisdiction, the fiduciary relationship and the duty to negotiate, the status quo is not an option.

For example, based on the Crown's duty to negotiate—where there are established or credible Métis rights and claims that implicate federal jurisdiction (i.e., claims against the federal Crown, issues that go to the "core" of s. 91(24) such as Métis identification, self-government, etc.)—the ongoing exclusion of Métis from all federal negotiation processes cannot be sustained. Clearly, some type of federal negotiation and/or claims process for Métis must be established in order to meet the constitutional duty the Court reaffirmed. If not, rights-bearing Métis communities will likely turn to the courts again—this time for orders in relation to some type of negotiation processes being made available to them.

In addition, the policy rationales for Métis exclusion from a majority of federal programs and benefits (i.e., non-insured health benefits, education supports, etc.) that are made available to other s. 91(24) "Indians" (i.e., Inuit, status Indians, etc.) will likely need to be reviewed to assess if ongoing exclusion is justifiable. Notably, some of the arguments recently accepted by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal with respect to the discrimination faced by First Nation communities in relation to child and family services have parallels to the situation faced by Métis communities. In particular, federal programs for First Nations and Inuit that deal with right-related issues will be particularly vulnerable to challenge since Métis exclusion could not be justified pursuant to s. 15(2) of the Charter.

It is also very likely that Tom Isaac's report (the federally appointed Ministerial Special Representative on Métis s. 35 rights) will inform what Canada does next. Mr. Isaac's report will likely be finalized and made publicly available in the next few months. For details visit: [www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1433442735272/1433442757318](http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1433442735272/1433442757318).

*About The Authors:* This summary was prepared by Jason Madden, Nuri Frame, Zachary Davis and Megan Strachan of the law firm Pape Salter Teillet LLP. Additional information about the firm is available at [www.pstlaw.ca](http://www.pstlaw.ca). Jason Madden, along with Clément Chartier, Q.C., Kathy Hodgson-Smith and Marc LeClair, were legal counsel for the MNC and intervened in *Daniels* at the Supreme Court of Canada.



Nominations for the 2016 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award close on: **July 22, 2016**



**Ernest  
GATIEN**  
  
2015



**Bob  
MCKAY**  
  
2014



**Brenda  
POWLEY**  
  
2013



**Marlene  
GREENWOOD**  
  
2012



**Olivine  
BOUSQUET-  
TIEDEMA**  
  
2012



**Gordon  
CALDER**  
  
2011



**Pauline  
RICHARDSON**  
  
2010



**Louise  
GOULDING**  
  
2009



**Richard  
SARRAZIN**  
  
2008



**Reta  
GORDON**  
  
2007

# The Suzanne Rochon-Burnett VOLUNTEER of the YEAR AWARD 2016

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

The 2015 recipient was Ernest Gatien, the MNO Region 4 PCMNO Councillor, who has been involved in the MNO for over 10 years. Ernie has spent countless hours promoting Métis culture and heritage; in particular, he is well-known for being available anytime for his fellow Métis.

The 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented at the MNO Annual General Assembly in North Bay, August 27-29.

**If you know of a dedicated MNO citizen who deserves to be considered for the award please read the information below and complete the nomination form.**



**DR. SUZANNE ROCHON-BURNETT**  
was a founding member of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Named to the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, Suzanne was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Brock University where she served on the Board of Trustees. She was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and the first woman inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. Suzanne passed away in 2006. To honour her memory and recognize her outstanding service as a volunteer the MNO named Suzanne as the first recipient of the inaugural *Volunteer of the Year Award* which now bears her name.

**OBJECTIVE:** The objective of the *Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award* is to recognize individuals who contribute as a volunteer to the Métis Nation of Ontario year round and have done so for a number of years. Each year a volunteer meeting the criteria is named as the recipient of the *Suzanne-Rochon Volunteer of the Year* by a Selection Committee of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

**PROCESS:** Any MNO citizen can nominate a volunteer for the award by completing a nomination form and sending it to: **Suzanne-Rochon Volunteer of the Year, Hunter Courchene Consulting Group, 1065 Boulevard de la Carrière, Gatineau, QC J8Y 6V5,** or e-mail: **carolyn@huntercourchene.com.**

Deadline for nominations is **July 22, 2016**

**CRITERIA:** The individuals nominated must exemplify the kind of volunteer contribution demonstrated by Suzanne Rochon-Burnett. They will have given generously of their time and effort, are strong advocates of the Métis Nation and their record of selfless commitment has been firmly established. They are seen as caring, giving individuals that others look up to and admire. The candidates will have provided an extended period of service as a volunteer.

Métis Nation  
of Ontario ∞



## Redrock Fire Camps

We are hiring 1<sup>st</sup> Cooks, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cooks  
and General Helpers for our  
Northern Ontario Fire Camps

Apply at: [www.redrockcamps.com](http://www.redrockcamps.com)





# NATION



▲ (L-R) PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case, MNO President Margaret Froh, Provincial NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, and MNO Chair France Picotte at Queen's Park.

## President Froh responds to Ontario's commitment to reconciliation

by  
MNO Staff

On May 30, 2016 in the provincial Legislature, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh along with other Indigenous leaders responded to the announcement from Premier Wynne concerning the Ontario government's commitment to reconciliation.

The Ontario government's commitment arose out of the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) final report that called on governments to work with Indigenous partners to address the terrible legacy of residential schools in Canada. The Ontario government's commitments include measures to close gaps and remove barriers, create a culturally relevant and responsive



*Together we must chart a new course forward for our province, and for our country, based on respect, understanding and trust.*

- MNO President Margaret Froh

justice system, support Indigenous culture and reconcile relationships

with Indigenous peoples.

President Froh stated: "Ontario's announcement today acknowledges the hugely negative impact these schools had, and continue to have within our communities; and it charts a course of action to begin to address them."

Quoting from the TRC report itself, President Froh stressed: "The Métis experience of residential schooling has been overlooked for too long ... There is no denying that the harm done to the children, their parents and the Métis community was substantial. It is an ongoing shame that this damage has not been addressed and rectified."

President Froh also emphasized the importance of Ontario working with Indigenous partners like the MNO. "I commend the Government of Ontario for taking the important steps announced today to begin to specifically address the 94 Calls to Ac-

## President Froh addresses the Ontario Legislature

May 16, 2016

Good morning. Bonjour. Tawnshi kiya mataen, Margaret Froh dishnikashon.

I am the President of the Métis Nation of Ontario and I am very honoured to be here this morning to address the Legislature along with First Nations and Inuit leaders.

I want to begin by acknowledging the territory that we are on, and by thanking the Elder for the opening prayer.

I also want to acknowledge:

- all Members of the Ontario Legislature;
- the First Nations and Inuit elders, community leaders, citizens and guests who are present in the House this morning;
- and the Métis citizens and members of our Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario—our Métis provincial government—who are in the gallery today to witness this historic event.

Premier Wynne's announcement today on reconciliation is another significant milestone marking Ontario's commitment to establish strong, collaborative and mutually respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples in Ontario.

Last year, the work of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada – the TRC – came to a close, and it issued its Final Report and 94 Calls to Action to address the legacy of the Indian Residential School system in Canada.

Ontario's announcement today acknowledges the hugely negative impact these schools had, and continue to have within our communities; and it charts a course of action to begin to address them.

Métis, First Nations and Inuit children, families and communities suffered under Canada's residential school system, and its assimilationist policies; however, the Métis experience of residential schooling remains largely untold.

For many Métis children, residential schools and day schools operated by the churches and supported by provincial and federal governments were the only option for receiving an education. Some were forced to attend, while others were sent by their families in the hope of an education and a better future.

As with First Nations and Inuit – Métis families and communities continue to be deeply affected by the legacy of residential schools.

The TRC dedicated an entire volume of its 2015 Final Report to the experience of Métis within the residential school system.

Quoting from that Report, "The Métis experience of residential schooling has been overlooked for too long...There is no denying that the harm done to the children, their parents, and the Métis community was substantial. It is an ongoing shame that this damage has not been addressed and rectified."

The vast majority of the 94 Calls to Action issued by the TRC in their Final Report include all Indigenous Peoples.

The actions announced here today must do the SAME – they must include Métis, First Nations and Inuit – if we are to effect real change and achieve reconciliation in Ontario.

I want to acknowledge and give thanks to TRC Commission Chair, Justice – now Senator – Murray Sinclair, and Commissioners Chief Wilton Littlechild and Dr. Marie Wilson, for the care, attention and compassion they showed in dedicating themselves so completely to the work of the TRC. They have provided all Canadians with a true gift in the statements they have gathered on behalf of survivors, and the vision they have provided for a better way forward.

Continued on page 13



▲ (L-R) MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations Joanne Meyer, MNO citizen and residential school survivor Ryscilia Shaw, MNO Chair France Picotte, and PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle.



tion in the TRC's Final Report, and to do so through a collaborative process in close partnership with Métis, First Nations and Inuit peoples in Ontario," she said.

President Froh highlighted that the MNO is proud of the respectful and productive relationship it has developed with the Province of Ontario as demonstrated through the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*. "We will build on that solid foundation to work – together – to advance reconciliation," she explained. "Six months ago, all three parties of the Ontario Legislature stood together in support of the passage of the *Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act* – recognizing the Métis Nation of Ontario's unique governance structure. That was an act

of reconciliation," she added.

In conclusion, President Froh stated: "The Métis Nation of Ontario is committed to working with Ontario, with all parties of the Legislature, with other Indigenous Peoples, and with all Ontarians to this end – together we must chart a new course forward for our province, and for our country, based on respect, understanding and trust. That is the brighter future for all of Ontario."

The announcement of Ontario's reconciliation plan was a major event at the Legislature. It included apologies to the victims of residential schools from Premier Kathleen Wynne, Opposition Leader Patrick Brown and New Democratic Party leader Andrea Horwath and started with a Sunrise Cer-

emony. Other members of the MNO leadership who attended included former MNO President Gary Lipinski, PCMNO Chair France Picotte, MNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle, MNO Youth Council President and Youth Representative Mitch Case, and MNO Post-Secondary Representative Kate-lynn Lacroix.

Appropriately several residential school survivors were part of the events at the Legislature and among these was Riscylia Shaw, who is an MNO citizen. President Froh and the other MNO leaders present had the opportunity to meet Ms. Shaw as was as numerous government representatives and the representatives of First Nations and Inuit governments that were also present. ∞



▲ President Froh with Parry Sound MPP Norm Miller.



▲ (L - R) Natan Obed, President of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami; Verna Porter-Brunelle, PCMNO Senator; Hon. David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; the Right Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario; Andrew Wesley, Residential School survivor; the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; Dr. Dawn Lavell-Harvard, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada; Margaret Froh, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario; and Isadore Day, Regional Chief with the Chiefs of Ontario.



▲ President Froh (middle) and Ontario Minister for Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer (middle-right) greet supporters following President Froh's address to the Ontario Legislature.

## Continued from page 12

And I want to acknowledge and give thanks to all of the survivors and their families that shared so much in the TRC's truth telling process.

What is abundantly clear from Canada's Truth & Reconciliation process is that there is much work to be done to advance healing and reconciliation in Canada – both as between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians, as well as between and among our own Indigenous Nations.

The TRC Final Report and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, together, provide a blueprint to advance healing and reconciliation in Canada.

Six months ago, all three parties of the Ontario Legislature stood together in support of the passage of the *Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act* – recognizing the Métis Nation of Ontario's unique governance structure. that was an act of reconciliation.

We stand here again today, this time with all-party support for the Ontario Government's Statement on Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

On behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario, I commend the Government of Ontario for taking the important steps announced today to begin to specifically address the 94 Calls to Action in the TRC's Final Report, and to do so through a collaborative process in close partnership with Métis, First Nations and Inuit peoples in Ontario.

The Métis Nation of Ontario is proud of the respectful and productive relationship it has developed with the Province of Ontario as demonstrated through the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*. We will build on that solid foundation to work – together – to advance reconciliation.

As a Canadian, I recognize that I have a role to play in the process of healing and reconciliation – indeed, each and every one of us have a role to play in that process.

The Métis Nation of Ontario is committed to working with Ontario, with all parties of the Legislature, with other Indigenous Peoples, and with all Ontarians to this end.

Together we must chart a new course forward for our province, and for our country, based on respect, understanding and trust. That is the brighter future for all of Ontario.

Merci – Thank you - Marsee



▲ President Froh addresses the Ontario Legislature at Queen's Park.



▲ MNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle (R) and other Indigenous Elders at the Ontario Legislature.





## INDIGENOUS HEALTH CONFERENCE 2016: *Towards Health & Reconciliation*



▲ MNO President Margaret Froh delivering her keynote address at the Indigenous Health Conference (IHC) 2016: Towards Health and Reconciliation.

# MNO and Métis Way of Life showcased at recent Indigenous Health Conference

by  
MNO Staff

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) had a strong and vibrant presence at the recent Indigenous Health Conference (IHC) 2016: Towards Health and Reconciliation held on May 26 to 27, 2016 at the Hilton Meadowvale in Mississauga. The main conference theme of reconciliation was complemented by a focus on identifying solutions for improving health for Indigenous peoples through addressing the environmental, social and other determinants of health.

The conference, hosted by the University of Toronto, attracted a large and diverse audience of over 750 delegates from across Canada and beyond, including Métis, First Nations and Inuit leaders and representatives, healthcare providers, researchers, policy makers, and senior government officials.

Key note speakers and panelists included: Dr. David Suzuki, Dr. Cindy Blackstock, Dr. Evan Adams, Dr. Thomas Wong, Dr. Malcolm King, MNO President Margaret Froh, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President Natan Obed, Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day, Chief Wilton Littlechild, Dr. Ian Mosby, and Dr. Barry Lavallee, among others.

In opening the conference, the organizer Dr. Anna Banerji stressed the critical role health care providers have to play in reconciliation

*President Froh spoke about the significant health needs of the Métis people of Ontario, highlighting the substantial research being carried out by MNO and partners to bring to light key Métis health, social and wellness priorities.*

and in advocating for the improved health status of the individual, family, and the community in Indigenous populations.

Following Dr. Banerji's welcome and opening remarks, President Froh delivered an invited, keynote address on the topic of reconciliation and highlighted the historical presence of Métis people across Canada. She flagged recent events that have the potential to contribute positively to the process of reconciliation with the Métis Nation—most notably, the April 14, 2016 Supreme Court decision in the Daniels case as well as current

federal commitments to addressing outstanding Indigenous rights issues in Canada.

President Froh also spoke about the significant health needs of the Métis people of Ontario, highlighting the substantial research being carried out by MNO and partners to bring to light key Métis health, social and wellness priorities.

On the following day, MNO staff and research partners—which included, Dr. Storm J. Russell, MNO Senior Policy and Research Analyst; Cody Carmody, MNO Policy Analyst and Project Coordinator; Dr. Jennifer Walker, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences; Dr. Martin Cooke, University of Waterloo; and Dr. Loraine Marrett, Cancer Care Ontario—gave a one hour workshop that discussed MNO's collaborative research and broader efforts to improve Métis health and well-being. MNO Senator Joseph Poitras also participated in this discussion. The workshop outlined the MNO's evidence and culture-based approach to research, program development and service delivery, and highlighted the important role the MNO frontline workers play in improving Métis health and well-being in Ontario.

MNO youth representatives were also present in force at the conference and served as Métis cultural ambassadors throughout the event. They hosted two tables in the main exhibition area that displayed a wide array of Métis art work, cultural artefacts and other



▲ MNO President Margaret Froh (R) and Regional Chief Isadore Day with the Chiefs of Ontario (L), keynote speakers at the Indigenous Health Conference (IHC) 2016: Towards Health and Reconciliation.



▲ MNO Senator Joseph Poitras providing welcoming remarks to delegates at the Indigenous Health Conference (IHC) 2016: Towards Health and Reconciliation.



# INDIGENOUS HEALTH CONFERENCE 2016: *Towards Health & Reconciliation*



items that showcase the rich history and way of life of the Métis people of Ontario. Representatives from both MNO Education and Training and MNO Healing and Wellness branches staffed a third table that provided more specific information about the substantial work being carried out by all MNO branches and within the MNO public service more generally.

Both MNO staff and the Métis youth cultural ambassadors reported a constant flow of visitors at the tables, with keen interest being shown in the broader work of the MNO as well as the Métis traditional games, art and bead works, harvesting activities, and the animal furs that were on display.

Métis culture and way of life was again featured prominently at the conference reception held on the evening of May 26. The recep-

tion was opened with a traditional prayer by MNO Senator Joseph Poitras and was emceed by MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations Joanne Meyer. Following the blessing, MNO citizens and musicians Alicia and Liam Blore and Métis dancers Simone Blais and Joanna Burt entertained conference delegates with traditional music and jigging to a song from the Louis Riel Opera. The entertainment was very well received, with a number of delegates taking to the floor to join in the dancing.

The MNO is proud to have been a part of this important event and of its broader efforts to bring much needed attention to the Métis history, way of life, and the substantial work being done by the MNO to improve the health and well-being of the Métis people of Ontario. ∞



▲ From left to right: Dr. Malcolm King, Director, Institute for Aboriginal People's Health, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and members of the Indigenous Health Conference 2016 Planning Committee, Dr. Storm Russell, MNO Senior Policy and Research Analyst, and Dr. Anna Banerji, Conference Director and Director of Global and Indigenous Health, Continuing Professional Development, University of Toronto.

For more information about the conference, please visit:  
[www.cpd.utoronto.ca/indigenoushealth/](http://www.cpd.utoronto.ca/indigenoushealth/).



▲ From left to right: Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day, MNO President Margaret Froh, and MNO Senator Joseph Poitras.



▲ Métis singer and MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) Lead Joanna Burt entertains delegates with her singing at the Opening Reception of the IHC Conference.



▲ From left to right: MNO Education Officer Alicia Blore, MNO SYCP Lead Joanna Burt, and MNO SYCP Facilitator Simone Blais at the IHC Conference.



▲ MNO SYCP Facilitator Simone Blais leads a group of conference attendants in a traditional Métis jig during a break in the proceedings.



▲ MNO staff respond to the many queries received from delegates at the MNO Information Table at the IHC Conference



▲ MNO citizen Liam Blore (left) and MNO Education Officer Alicia Blore (right) entertain guests during the IHC conference.





▲ The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell (left), Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and Outgoing MNO President Gary Lipinski.

## Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell congratulates outgoing President Lipinski on his tremendous leadership

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

On April 27, 2016, Outgoing Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski met with the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, for the second time. Her Honour requested the meeting to congratulate Mr. Lipinski on his tremendous leadership as President of the MNO.

“You have dedicated yourself for over two decades to improving the quality of life for many,” stated Her Honour. “Through the MNO, you have contributed to achievements that are of historical significance to our province, as well

a source of great pride among all Ontarians.”

Her Honour has shown particular interest in the Métis and has attended several events with the Métis Nation of Ontario including the 2015 Louis Riel ceremony in Toronto as well as a meeting in Fort Frances in August 2015. Reminiscing on this meeting, Her Honour stated, “I enjoyed our meeting when I was in Fort Frances and to learning more about Métis issues in our province.”

Earlier this year on February 26, 2016, Her Honour presented the MNO with the Lieutenant Governor’s Ontario Heritage Trust Award for Community Leadership at Queen’s Park in Toronto. ∞



▲ Outgoing MNO President Gary Lipinski (right) meets with the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

## Outgoing President Lipinski has last formal meeting with the Honourable Carolyn Bennett

by  
*MNO Staff*

On April 28, 2016, Outgoing Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski met with the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, in the MNO’s Toronto office. This meeting represented Mr. Lipinski’s last official meeting with a Minister of the Crown in his capacity as MNO President.

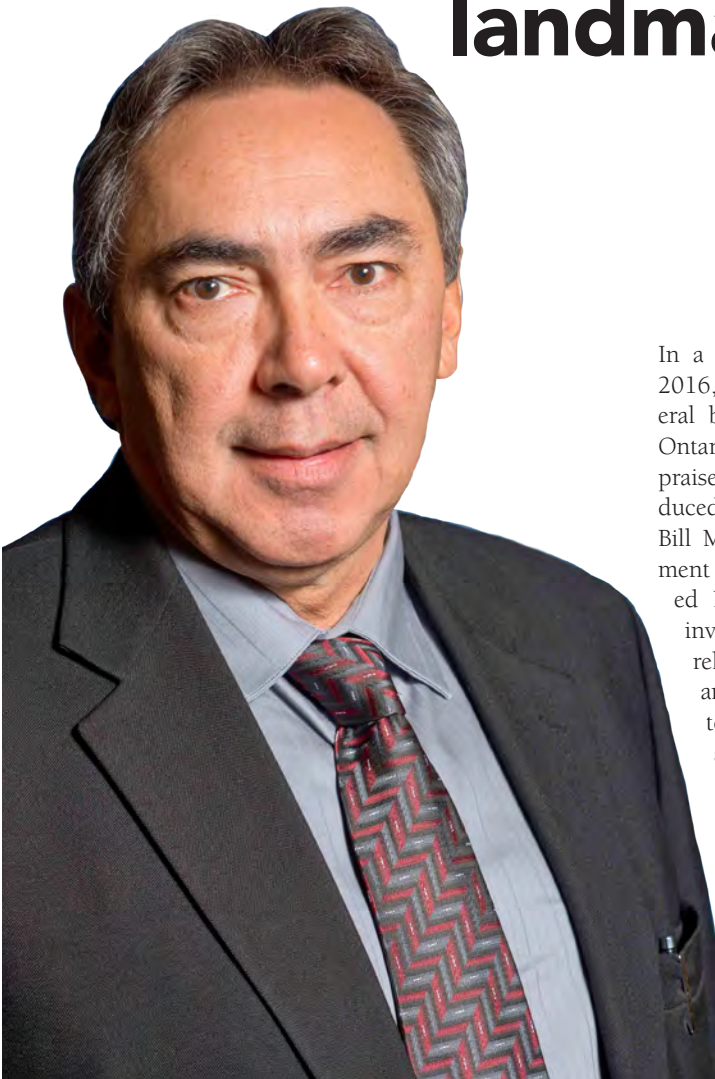
At the meeting, Minister Bennett

thanked Mr. Lipinski on his two decades of service to the Métis Nation and congratulated him on the remarkable turnaround and successes of the MNO over the last eight years.

Mr. Lipinski presented Minister Bennett with a formal invitation to the MNO’s upcoming 2016 AGA in North Bay. Mr. Lipinski stressed the need for Canada to quickly move forward on implementing the historic Daniels decision as well as establishing a federal Métis claims process. ∞

# Outgoing MNO President Lipinski praises 2016 Federal Budget as landmark for Indigenous Peoples

### Commitments to Métis Economic Development Strategy among many highlights for the Métis Nation



In a statement released on March 22, 2016, shortly after the release of the federal budget, outgoing Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski praised the 2016 Federal Budget introduced in Parliament by Finance Minister Bill Morneau. “What we saw in Parliament today was truly historic,” commented Mr. Lipinski, “the government is invested unprecedented funds in its relationship with Indigenous peoples and it is honouring its commitment to deal with Indigenous peoples on a nation-to-nation basis.”

Mr. Lipinski cited the government’s provision of \$25 million over five years on a Métis Nation economic development strategy as being especially heartening. “Here we see the government keeping its word on a measure that will do immeasurable good

to strengthen Métis communities, businesses and governments across Canada,” explained Mr. Lipinski.

“One of the most critical commitments made in the budget,” said Mr. Lipinski, “is the \$96 million over five years the federal government is committing to engage Indigenous governments like the MNO in order to make progress on the issues that are important to us. This is truly dealing with Indigenous governments on a nation-to-nation basis.”

Métis communities and people can also expect to benefit from the federal government’s impressive investment of \$8.4 billion dollars over five years to improve socio-economic conditions for Indigenous peoples. “These investments will include education, infrastructure and training,” stated Mr. Lipinski, “and it will make a huge inter-generational dif-

ference in the lives of Métis and other Indigenous peoples.”

“Another key element of the budget,” added Mr. Lipinski, “is the commitment to renew the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). ASETS has been very important to the MNO and has helped many Métis youth become true success stories and role models. We look forward to this program continuing to make a big difference for our people and especially our youth.”

“We were also pleased to see the government repeat its commitment to the National Inquiry in to Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and girls,” concluded Mr. Lipinski. ∞



## MNO SOLAR PROJECTS



Outgoing MNO President Gary Lipinski (left) with CarbonFree Technology Chief Executive Officer (CEO) David Oxtoby at Upper Canada College where one of the MNO's solar projects is located. ▶

Photos by Kyle Burton

# A green legacy

## Moving Métis self-government forward

by  
MNO Staff

It is not every day that outgoing Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski finds himself exploring the rooftop of a building in Toronto but Wednesday, April 27, 2016 turned out to be just that kind of day. President Lipinski was on the roof of a building at Upper Canada College to tour one of the 50 solar energy projects that the MNO is a 50.1 % or more owner of in Ontario. President Lipinski received the tour from David Oxtoby, CEO; Ven Seshadri, Vice-President; and Syd Healey, Project Development Manager; of CarbonFree Technology—the MNO's partner in these exciting ventures.

"This is my first tour of one of our solar facilities," Mr. Lipinski commented. "It was wonderful to see. It's a beautiful sunny day today, and to see the facilities in full production was great. Green energy, to me, is very in line with the values the Métis Nation of Ontario puts on reducing our carbon footprint."

The fact that the MNO has solar projects in 50 locations is an impressive accomplishment especially when considering that the MNO only entered into the business of providing solar energy in 2012. In 2011, the government of Ontario amended its contracting policies for its Feed-in Tariff (FIT) program in order to encourage solar

energy companies to recruit Aboriginal partners. One of these companies was CarbonFree Technology—a major player in the solar industry that had already developed a large number of solar facilities in both Canada and the United States. The MNO was also aware of the changes to the FIT program and in 2012 the two entities entered into talks that resulted in the creation of the Métis Nation of Ontario – BrightRoof Solar Limited Partnership (LP). MNO owns 50.1% of the economic interest in the partnership and BrightRoof Solar LP, an investor in Ontario solar projects managed by CarbonFree Technology, owns the remaining 49.9%.

On the partnership with the MNO, CarbonFree's CEO Oxtoby stated: "Working with the MNO has been a dream come true. Gary and the MNO leadership are easy to work with; very professional and businesslike. We are so glad they chose us as their partner."

In mid-2013, the Ontario Power Authority awarded 63 contracts for rooftop and small ground-based solar projects to Métis Nation of Ontario –

BrightRoof Solar LP. This was formally announced by Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli prior to the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly. Of these projects, 50 were eventually built and commissioned while the remaining 13 were not built due to failing various technical feasibility assessments.

*"This is my first tour of one of our solar facilities ... Green energy, to me, is very in line with the values the Métis Nation of Ontario puts on reducing our carbon footprint."*

- Former MNO President  
Gary Lipinski



▲ Calvary Church, Peterborough



▲ Upper Canada College, Toronto



## MNO SOLAR PROJECTS



▲ Mr. Lipinski with Minister Chiarelli in 2013 during the announcement of MNO FIT contract awards.



▲ CarbonFree Vice-President Ven Seshadri explains the workings of the solar panels to Mr. Lipinski.

It was very timely that the FIT contracts were announced just prior to the AGA because at the 2013 AGA the MNO also passed its first law: The MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law. This law is an essential element in the MNO drive for self-government and the new solar projects are a key ingredient to making the law effective. As outlined in the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*, economic self-sufficiency is a necessary element of self-government. As long as the MNO is dependent on grants and support from other governments it will never be totally self-governing. With the MNO solar projects, the MNO now has the potential to raise revenue independent of other governments. “Someone can’t give you self-government,” Mr. Lipinski stated at the 2013 AGA, “it is something we must build for ourselves.”

“This [solar energy project] partnership creates business opportunities that produce revenue generating streams for future generations,” explained Mr. Lipinski, “so I think this is a wonderful fit on so many fronts. We can do good things for the environment, do good things to reduce climate change, and create revenue streams that Métis people can benefit from for years to come.”

Winning the contracts and passing the self-sufficiency law were, however, only the first steps. If the MNO was going to realize revenues for future generations there was still a great deal of work to be done. The solar facilities needed to be built and required identifying potential locations where solar panels could be exposed to sunlight and buildings with the infrastructure to support both the weight of the panels and the necessary wiring.

*The MNO has become a significant player in the solar industry and a very desirable partner. Its work in solar power has opened up other potential areas of growth including wind power and infrastructure.”*

— David Oxtoby, CarbonFree Technology CEO

Once sites were located, the building owners had to be approached and lease agreements were made. The next step once these were in place was the solar panels had to be installed and connected to the provincial grid so the electricity they generate can be sold.

All of this required a significant investment by the MNO and CarbonFree. The MNO was able to raise its share of the funds from loans obtained through the Métis Voyageur Development Fund and the province’s Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program. These loans will have to be paid back before the MNO will be able to return the profits from the solar facilities back to its citizens according to the provisions of the economic self-sufficiency law.

Today, MNO-owned solar projects generate 17,700,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) a year. The kilowatt-hour is a unit of energy equivalent to one kilowatt (kW) of power sustained for one hour. Put in more user-friendly terms, the average household in Ontario uses 10,000 kWh a year and MNO projects generate sufficient electricity to power 1770 households a year.

While this is an impressive accomplishment, Mr. Lipinski sees even greater success in the MNO’s future: “This partnership and the philosophy to produce green energy is something that I think the Métis Nation of Ontario will continue to build on. I would like to see the day when the Métis Nation of Ontario pro-

duces enough green energy to meet the needs of every MNO citizen and beyond.”

CarbonFree’s CEO Oxtoby agreed: “The MNO has become a significant player in the solar industry and a very desirable partner. Its work in solar power has opened up other potential areas of growth including wind power and infrastructure.”

In keeping with that potential, the MNO’s significant solar assets have recently been moved over to the MNO’s new arms-length economic development arm: Métis Infinity Investments LP. Métis Infinity Investments LP was also part of the plan envisioned in the MNO Prosperity and Economic Self-Sufficiency Law and is a great foundation for building a diversified portfolio of assets that will eventually generate revenue to support MNO self-government.

While Mr. Lipinski was a key figure in bringing all aspects of these projects to fruition, his busy schedule had never afforded him the time to actually visit any of the MNO solar projects. So with his term near completion, he decided he should get a look at what is one of the greatest legacies he is leaving MNO citizens.

During the tour he said: “What I find totally fascinating about the partnerships and our projects is that you can see that there is very little environmental footprint. These projects are installed on buildings that are already established. The rooftops are vacant and can be used to gather energy from the sun. There is no destructive impact on the environment.”

All MNO citizens can feel a justifiable pride in its solar projects—a green legacy that is advancing Métis self-government. ∞



▲ Cinram International, Toronto



▲ VersaCold Inc., Brampton



▲ Oakville Mini-Storage, Oakville





▲ MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President Derrick Pont (left) and MNO Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette (far right) presents the MNO Veterans' Council book to Welland Museum curator and Acting Executive Director Penny Morningstar (middle).

# Welland Museum pays homage to Métis involvement in the Great Wars

Adapted from a story from [niagarathisweek.com](http://niagarathisweek.com) by Steve Henschel

On May 6, 2016, the Welland Museum launched the Niagara and the Great Wars exhibit, which looks back at the impact of both world wars on the community and pays homage to Métis and First Nations involvement in both of the 20th century's great wars.

Prior to the launch, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette and MNO Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC) President Derrick Pont were invited to participate in the creation of this exhibit, providing the museum with their expertise on Métis involvement in the Great Wars.

The exhibit also features a plethora of artifacts, uniforms and

medals from a local private collection, together with the MNO Veterans' Council, MNO NRMC, First Nations - Brantford, Royal Canadian Legion Br. 4, Welland and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613, Fonthill.

The Ontario Canadian World War One Commemoration Foundation-funded exhibit—with contributions from the Welland and Pelham Legions, the MNO NRMC, First Nations Brantford and the Ward Family Collection—was the brainchild of Cameron Ward, who is named as the exhibit's guest curator.

This exhibit represents the ways in which the Welland community came together during the war years, through personal items from veterans who served and the ways in which we remember those who lost their lives.

Welland Museum curator and Acting Executive Director Penny Morningstar notes the exhibit is

particularly special in that it will be presented not only in English and French but also in the Métis language of Michif and in Mohawk.

"For us at the museum it was really important," said Morningstar, explaining it is a unique chance to share those languages as they struggle against fading away. "People can come in and see the written word," she said.

Seen as an important pre-cursor to the Vimy Ridge Commemoration in Ottawa in 2017, the MNO Veterans' Council is very appreciative for this incredible opportunity, which was initiated by President Pont.

The MNO Veterans' Council encourages as many people as possible to attend the exhibit and support this fantastic initiative. The museum is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Thursdays from 1- a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information about this exhibit, please visit the Welland Museum. ∞



▲ Master Corporals T. Majovsky (right), MNO Veteran, and B. Brian at Vimy Ridge in 1985.

## Métis soldier remembers his post at Vimy Ridge

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

In 1985, Tim Majovsky, a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and MNO Veteran, proudly stood on guard at Vimy Ridge in France. In this picture, Majovsky was posted from the Canadian Airborne Regiment to the 4th Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (4CMBG). Majovsky was selected as Sentries in 1985 for the Remembrance Day ceremony at Vimy Ridge. Thinking back on this day, Majovsky says it was "an honour that I will never forget...huah!"

April 9, 2017 will mark the 100th year commemoration of the battle of Vimy Ridge. During the First World War, more than 15,000 Canadians fought at Vimy Ridge and claimed victory. However, this victory came at a high cost: 3,598 Canadians were killed and another 7,000 wounded (Statistics taken from the Canada War Museum.) This important battle was a defining moment for Canada. We Shall Remember Them.

The MNO Veterans' Council plan to commemorate the Battle of Vimy Ridge in Ottawa next year. For more information, please visit the MNO Veterans' Council Vimy Ridge Project page. ∞



▲ (L-R) Gordon Tait C.D., an OPP officer, MNO Veterans' Council Sgt-at-Arms Rob Baskey, OPP Sergeant and MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette at the Dedication of Memorial Order of Service.

## MNO veterans attend Dedication of Memorial Order of Service

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

(Sgt-at-Arms) Rob Baskey, OPP, Sergeant, arranged to have MNO veterans attend this memorial.

Under very cloudy skies, facing wind, rain and snow, Métis veterans, legion members, veterans, CF serving members and various Cadets Corps, proudly marched in remembrance. Also in attendance were many dignitaries including Lieutenant General Richard Rohmer OC., CMM, DFC, O.Ont., K.StJ, CD, QC, Knight of the Legion of Honour and Chief of Reserves. ∞

On May 15, 2016, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 34 in Orillia held a Dedication of Memorial Order of Service ceremony at Veterans' Memorial Park. This ceremony was held to honour soldiers from Orillia who lost their lives during the world wars. Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council Sergeant-at-Arms



▲ Sergeant John (Jack) Cadeau CD (centre) with his daughter, PCMNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride (fourth from left), their family, and the Advisor to the President of the Republic of Korea Park Geun Hye, National Unification Advisory Council Hoo Jung Jones Kennedy (far left).

## MNO Korean War veteran recognized for service

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

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veteran Sergeant John (Jack) Edward Cadeau C.D. grew up in Port Severn, Ontario. When the Korean War broke out, he felt the need to serve his country and in April 1951, at the age of 17, he joined the army. Sergeant Cadeau spent 25 years in the service and retired in June 1975. Sergeant Cadeau was recently awarded two prestigious awards in recognition of his military service.

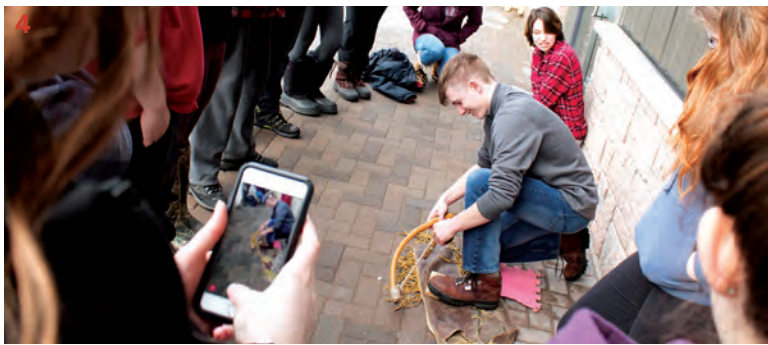
The first award was presented to on February 14, 2016, when Sergeant Cadeau received the Louis Riel medal and certificate, which formally recognizes him as an MNO veteran. Sergeant Cadeau is also one of two MNO-verified Korean war veterans.

The second award was presented on May 29, 2016, when MNO

Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette, MNO Chair Sharon McBride—who is Sergeant Cadeau's daughter—and her family, paid a surprise trip to Georgetown for the Ambassador for Peace Medal Presentation. Also present at the ceremony were the following PCMNO members: Chair France Picotte, Region 7 Councillor Pauline Richardson, Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle, Youth Representative Mitch Case and Post-Secondary Representative Katelyn Lacroix.

Sergeant Cadeau was awarded the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal, which was presented by HooJung Jones Kennedy, Advisor to the Republic of Korea President Park Geun Hye, National Unification Advisory Council, and Korea Veterans Association of Canada Unit 26 Project Coordinator. This commemorative medal is an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to Canadian service men and women who served in the Korean War. ∞





**1** - MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette (left) teaches MNO youth Venessa Boulard-Patterson the art of fire-starting. **2** - (L-R) MNO youth Venessa Boulard-Patterson, Jainna Haitse and Stephane Drouin snowshoe at the 2016 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp. **3** - MNO youth Stephane Drouin (left) and Jainna Haitse take a break from their activities. **4** - MNO youth Joel Camilleri completes a demonstration during the 2016 March Break Camp. **5** - (L-R) MNO youth Kaitlyn Gouliquer and Elijah Crawford proudly wear their Métis sashes. **6** - MNO youth Jainna Haitse (left) learns finger weaving from MNO Senator Cecile Coutu. **7** - MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp participants take part in a campfire. **8** - MNO Mattawa Métis Council President Nelson Montreuil teaches MNO youth about trapping.



# Getting in touch with their roots

## 2016 Métis Nation of Ontario Infinite Reach March Break Camp

by  
MNO Staff

At the Canadian Ecology Centre in Mattawa, there was no Wi-Fi or internet access for the Métis youth taking part in the 2016 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Infinite Reach March Break Camp and they wouldn't have had it any other way. Joel came to the camp from Milton, which has a population of approximately 150,000 people, and doesn't often get the chance to connect with his Métis heritage in such a crowded place. He's grateful to have had a chance to surround himself with nature and the open air of the Mattawa region.

"It's important for youth to have opportunities like this," he shared in an interview. "Youth in today's society don't typically connect with their heritage like this. So getting a chance to really immerse yourself in the culture is very, very important because you don't get to learn about

it any better than this." While taking part in outdoor activities such as snowshoeing, fire-building and nightly campfires, the youth were also able to speak and interact with MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators, Traditional Knowledge Holders and Métis elders. Senator Cecile Coutu of the MNO Sudbury Métis Council attended the March Break Camp to be there for the youth. Her presence as an elder helped them on their road to rediscover their heritage, helping with finger-weaving or Métis beadwork as well as being someone for the youth to talk to. "[Being here is] going to answer a lot of their questions, like 'Where do we come from?' and 'Who are we?' It gives them more clarity," she said. 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 presenter at the March Break Camp, led a lesson in the art

**“Youth in today's society don't typically connect with their heritage like this.”**

- Joel, Milton ON

of fire-starting. These lessons focused on teaching the youth about the Métis Way of Life. Paquette has noticed that the youth are eager to learn more about the wilderness and their culture. "It wasn't that long ago that the youth were afraid to stand and be

afraid of who they are. I think we've surpassed that...it's a good stage in the development," he said. Kevin travelled from Courtice to attend the March Break Camp. He recently learned of his Métis heritage, and his experience in Mattawa has helped him discover more about himself and to meet other Métis youth around his age. "The highlight was the collaboration with Métis people and everyone here. They were very nice, generous and overall a very great team. I got to sing songs, dance, and it's really adventurous. We got to go out in the wild; the elders would teach us survival skills and it was very, very amazing," Kevin said. And no matter where you're from or what language you speak, it's easy to make friends. "C'est très intéressant spécialement parce que c'est très comme dans le bois pi y'a pas d'internet, y'a pas rien, t'es juste comme connecté avec le dehors. Même si tu connais personne, tout l'monde sont comme très gentils pi tu peux faire des amis super vite," said

Roni, a Métis youth from Sudbury. The MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp explores Métis heritage but it also helps the youth connect for their future. Wanda Botsford, an MNO Education Officer, has witnessed this first-hand. "It helps them to think about what they want to do for career choices plus it also helps our youth become connected to the land, to the culture and even to people. When I talk to some of our youth who were participants two or three years ago, they mention that they still stay in touch with the people that were here and they look forward to seeing them again." The 2016 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp was held from March 13 to 17 and is an annual event hosted by the MNO. ∞  
A video of the 2016 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp can be viewed on our website at [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org).





▲ Louise and her son, BJ Goulding, during a Métis community harvest in October 2004.



▲ Louise at the launch of "From the Straits of Mackinac to Georgian Bay", a history of Métis people in the Georgian Bay region, in 2007.



▲ Louise Goulding holds the smudge feathers presented to her by MNO citizen Irene Peel.



▲ Louise at the the 2011 AGA in Parry Sound.



▲ Louise and Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle run the Moon River Metis Council booth at the 2006 AGA in Sault Ste Marie.

## Founding MNO citizen Louise Goulding announces retirement

# “It was a honour to have served this great Nation”

by  
MNO Staff

After dedicating over two decades of service to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Louise Goulding has announced her retirement as Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt. “It was an honour to have served the people of this great Nation for the last 22 years,” said Louise. “I have chosen to announce my retirement the week of May second as it marks the 22nd anniversary of my attendance at the MNO’s Founding Delegate’s Assembly, which took place May 4-7, 1994.”

“Louise Goulding is a truly exceptional individual who has been fighting for Métis people since the very beginning of the MNO,” stated outgoing MNO President Gary Lipinski. “The MNO would not be where we are today if it had not been for Louise’s dedication and perseverance to advocate for Métis people.”

Louise is one of the founding members of the MNO and her involvement stretches back all the way to 1993. “In October of 1993, I got a letter to participate in the Founding Delegates Assembly in Toronto for the Métis Nation of Ontario and that was pretty exciting,” said Louise.

The Founding Delegates Assembly took place in May of 1994 wherein Louise was appointed area representative for Mac Tier. “We were all presented with sashes and it was very informative,” explains Louise. “I knew I wanted to be a part of it even

from the Founding Delegates Assembly because I could feel it from the people, the leaders; I could feel that they were going to move mountains for the Métis people of Ontario.”

The following year in 1995, Louise was appointed the first MNO Captain of the Hunt for Region 7; she stayed in this role until 2013. In 2008, Louise was then appointed MNO Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt—a role she has maintained up to her retirement announcement.

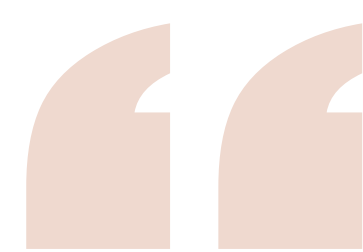
Louise’s diverse work within the MNO also includes her election as PCMNO Councillor for Region 7 in 1999. While on PCMNO, Louise was later a member of the Finance Committee.

Louise is also a founding member of the MNO Moon River Métis Council (MRMC) and was elected President in 2004. Louise has also held various other positions within the MNO MRMC such as Chair and Secretary.

Louise’s involvement with the MNO does not stop there. From 2004-2010, Louise held the position of Chair for the Rendezvous Committee for Region 7. Louise was also made the MNO Representative at the Métis National Council’s Métis Rights Panel from 2010-2013.

Louise has also been an instrumental force in helping to record Métis history through her work with the MNO Moon River Métis Council’s (MRMC) historical report: From the Straits of Mackinac to Georgian Bay: 300 years of Métis History and their oral history video: In Our Blood.

In 2009, Louise was awarded the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett (SRB) Vol-



*The MNO would not be where we are today if it had not been for Louise’s dedication and perseverance to advocate for Métis people.”*

- Outgoing MNO President Gary Lipinski

unteer of the Year Award. Every year since 2006, the SRB Volunteer of the Year award is presented to an MNO citizen who has made ongoing contributions to the Métis Nation and his or her own community.

“It is undeniable the impact that Louise has had on the Métis people and the Métis Nation of Ontario,” states Mr. Lipinski. “Her positive attitude, contagious smile and conviction for the Métis are all qualities that will be particularly missed.”

Louise’s humble spirit is evident as she jokes that “perhaps what I will

be most remembered for are my fish fries!”

On a personal level, Louise explains that while working with the MNO she has gained so many amazing friends and has countless memories she will forever cherish. “I have grown so much during these last 22 years and have learned so much, which has helped shape me into the person I am today,” said Louise.

Louise would like to thank the past and current leadership of the MNO. “It has been a great pleasure to serve alongside this Nation’s great

leaders,” she explains. “I truly enjoyed working with all of you and I will forever cherish our friendships. I wish the new leadership much success in continuing to move this great Nation forward.”

While in her role as MNO Region 7 Captain of the Hunt, Louise spent countless hours in court assisting MNO Harvesters with the help of the MNO’s legal counsel. “The MNO’s legal counsel has made it easier for me to walk into a courtroom knowing that I have their full support and much needed guidance,” explained Louise.

Last but not least, she acknowledged her husband Chris. “From the beginning he has supported me, my people, and my Nation, and has stood by my side over the last 22 years,” she explained. “Without him, I would never have been able to spend so many hours volunteering for a Nation I love so dearly.”

“This is an incredible accomplishment to have worked in so many roles and helped so many Métis people across Ontario,” stated Mr. Lipinski. “Louise has had a big presence in the MNO over the years and her work has been invaluable and will not be forgotten.”

Although one chapter has ended, Louise is excited for the next chapter in her life to begin as she continues working full time with her husband Chris at their construction company, Moon Island Construction Ltd. Louise also looks forward to spending more time with her four grandchildren. ∞





◀ Métis jiggers lead the dance during a cultural presentation.

# Provincial Urban Aboriginal Forum

## MNO looking forward to strong ties following the first Forum

by  
MNO Staff

It was all about coming together and working towards building strong ties: Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community leaders met, discussed and learned from each other during the Provincial Urban Aboriginal Forum (PUAF), the first to take place in Ontario.

Hosted and organized through a partnership between the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA), the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC), and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA), the PUAF acted as a springboard towards the development of Ontario's Urban Aboriginal Action Plan, a strategy designed to improve socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples living in urban communities in Ontario. Through this initiative, the MAA committed to coordinate an engagement strategy in consultation with communities, municipalities and the federal government to better align programming directed towards urban Aboriginal communities.

Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer offered opening comments to a gathering of community leaders and partner organizations in Toronto on March 22 to 23, 2016.

"Start the day in a good way, Provincial Urban Aboriginal Forum: building relationships, improving outcomes," Zimmer tweeted online, using the hashtag #puaf2016. Federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett sent a video greeting, welcoming the initiatives of the forum and its guests.

The MNO was well-represented, hosting an information booth offering knowledge about MNO programs and services available throughout the province. Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle participated in both the opening and closing prayers, standing strong with First Nations and Inuit Elders, and MNO Director of Education and Training Jennifer St. Germain spoke on behalf of outgoing Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson.

Throughout the forum, MNO speakers noticed high attendance during the many panels and work-

shops organized with PUAF partners. On the first day, MNO staff co-hosted four different workshops. Wanda Botsford participated in Addressing the Needs of Children and Families while Rae-Anna Gardner was one of three speakers during Creating Pathways to Employment Through Skills Development Partnership. The last two workshops of the day included Joanne Meyer as a speaker for the Community Development Through Private Sector Partnerships and Anne Trudel at Wise Practices in District School Board Relationships With Community.

*Start the day in a good way,  
Provincial Urban Aboriginal forum:  
building relationships, improving  
outcomes. #PUAF2016*

- @DavidZimmerMPP

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On the second and final day, Brian Tucker was one of four speakers

for the Making Reconciliation Happen in Mainstream Institutions.

Keynote speakers throughout the forum included Inuit activist and environmental, cultural and human rights advocate Sheila Watt-Cloutier, and Dr. Elaine Todres, Chief Executive Officer of Todres Leadership Counsel. During her closing keynotes, Dr. Todres wore the MNO's Métis timeline scarf, a gift she received from an MNO gift bag. The timeline scarf depicts the history of Métis culture within Ontario and is an item that can easily help with sharing knowledge on Métis history

at any given moment.

The PUAF was also a gathering to share culture and tradition. In addition to informative presentations by MNO staff, cultural performances were also included on the agenda. Métis fiddlers and dancers performed at the end of the first day, drawing participants to join them in both song and dance with Métis youth.

Closing comments of the forum were delivered by Deborah Richardson, Ontario's Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, ending the two-day forum as an overall success with the possibility for more PUAFs in the future, where Ontario communities can all work together. ∞



▲ Dr. Elaine Todres, Chief Executive Officer, Todres Leadership Council.



▲ MNO Community Support Service Coordinator Debbie Giammattola-Ferris.



▲ A pair of Inuit throat-singers entertain the crowd with a song.



▲ MNO Education Officer Wanda Botsford (center) speaks at the forum.



# Hearing the voices of our youth

## MNO Youth Council President's Update



submitted by  
**Mitch Case**  
MNO Youth Council President  
PCMNO Youth Representative

I am very excited to have been acclaimed to my second and final term as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council. In my years with the MNO Youth Council, I have served as a MNO Region 4 Representative as well as a term as President. During those years, I have learned so much. The work that I was able to do with youth from across Ontario has been extremely rewarding.

I am also very excited to meet and work with the newly elected and acclaimed team of youth over the next four years. We have a team of hard-working, dedicated and thoughtful youth who are committed to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the youth who live in our communities.

There are still some vacancies on the MNO Youth Council (MNO Regions 4, 5, 8, 9) and we will be working with the Chief Electoral Officer to

determine a process to fill those vacancies as soon as possible in order to ensure that youth are adequately represented across the province.

We have set an impressive record in our four short years. We have consistently brought more resolutions to the floor of the assembly than any other constituency in the MNO. When we bring resolutions, they are meaningful and grab the attention of the rest of the MNO. The MNO has come to realize that the youth are engaged, informed and are, in many ways, a force to be reckoned with. We have raised the level of respect, which is paid by all aspects of the MNO, to the youth. We have also made significant moves to raise the profile of Métis youth outside of the MNO in Ontario and nationally.

We have set the standard for youth involvement and meaningful inclusion of young people in governance. Through the partnership we have developed with the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO), our young women have become a part of the National Métis Women's Movement through Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak. The MNO has become a model for the inclusion of youth in the national conversation. The WSMNO have indicated their commitment to maintaining this partnership with us to ensure that young Métis women have a voice at the table.

With all of these accomplishments in mind, it is also important that we not lose sight of work that still needs to be done. We have yet to

“[The MNO Youth Council has] set the standard for youth involvement and meaningful inclusion of young people in governance.”

- MNO Youth Council President Mitch Case

see completed many of the systemic changes that we know are important to make the MNO and the Métis National Council (MNC) a better place for our youth. We have seen some progress, such as when MNO Region 7 added youth to their consultation protocol; however, there are still other MNO regions that are lagging behind. We have yet to see our charter and bylaws ratified by PCMNO or the AGA. We have yet to see the reestablishment of the National Métis Youth Council as part of the MNC. Recently we saw a potential threat to our posi-

tion from the MNO with the troubling sections of Bill 153, MNO Secretariat Act, 2015, which we were able to fix thanks to the strong and united voices of our MNO youth.

There are still many challenges ahead of us—not only for youth but for the Nation as a whole. These challenges can be seen as exciting to some people. With court cases starting to be granted in our favour—such as the Daniels' case—this could mean a long, protracted negotiation with the federal government and provinces to reach an agreement, which will en-

sure that they live up to the responsibilities outlined in these decisions.

Also ahead of us is the possibility of bringing forth a lands claim process for the Métis people. A focus on the Métis people this term will include a National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women as well as the implementation of the recommendations by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to ensure that our voices are not lost in the conversation.

The MNO Youth Council will face many challenges; however we must ensure that the voices of our youth remain a priority and that our other priorities do not get lost along the way. To face these upcoming challenges, the youth must continue to be vigilant and persistent in all that we do.

I look forward to these next four years and I encourage all youth to become a part of the conversation. Reach out to your regional representatives; reach out to your community council representatives and as always, feel free to reach out to me.

Let's work together and continue the success.

Miigwetch. ∞

**Mitch Case**  
MNO Youth Council President  
PCMNO Youth Representative  
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Twitter: **@MitchCaseSSM**

*This letter represents the opinions of the writer only and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Métis Nation of Ontario. The letter has been edited slightly for grammar and punctuation*

## "The Story Should be Written Down to Pass On"

### Elders, knowledge holders and storytellers needed for a community-led project

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council has given the green light to a project that will record and tell the story of the Sault Ste. Marie (the Sault) area Métis community. The name of the book is, The Story Should be Written Down to Pass On. Elders, knowledge holders, and storytellers are needed for this community-led project.

The book will focus on Métis oral history but will also include archival, primary source research and secondary source material. This collection of stories will recount the history of Métis people within the Sault and will explain how this Métis community thrived, survived and is thriving once again. Stories will include topics such as Métis history, resistance, resurgence, cultural revitalization, the sadness of loss and hope for the future. From funny anecdotes to stories of the land, this book will have something for everyone.

A few stories from elders and knowledge holders have already been collected; however the goal is to attain as many stories as possible from a variety of knowledge holders.

We are open to any story by individuals from the Sault Métis community. We are also interested in stories by individuals from other parts of the Métis Homeland that have a connection to the Sault (i.e. Sayers Trial at Red River 1849, Drummond Islanders with Sault connections, etc).

In keeping with our Métis view of regional territories, the Sault area can extend from the Sault, north to Marathon across to Dubreuilville, White River,

Chapleau, La Cloche, Killarney, Espanola—essentially Region 4. This area can also include northern Michigan, Drummond Island and Michilimackinac.

**EXAMPLES OF THE TYPES OF STORIES WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN INCLUDE:**

- Fur trade, voyageur
- War of 1812
- Mica Bay Incident, Robinson treaty negotiations
- Hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering plants, medicines, maple products
- Recipes and traditional foods
- Traditional economy (logging, trapping, commercial fishing, guiding)
- Music and stories of music, entertainment, etc.
- Stories from the land, places where our people lived, seasonal movement, etc.
- Stories of spirituality (ways in which you or your family connected with the Creator)
- Modern day stories of resurgence (involvement in the Powley trial, asserting rights, confrontations with game wardens, political organizing through Ontario Métis and Non-Status Indian Association [OMNSIA], Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association [OMAA], or the MNO or as individuals/families)
- Any and all stories relating to the Sault Métis community

We are also looking for Métis memorabilia that we can add to the book, such as: photographs, beadwork, woodwork, clothing, moccasins, hunting/fishing/trapping tools, maps, spiritual items, historic or contemporary documents, etc.

All contributors will be credited in print with a picture and brief biography and will receive a free copy of the published book.

In addition, knowledge holders will be given the option to be included in online outreach videos for Métis youth and community members. ∞

**If you are interested in participating, or want more information please contact Mitch Case at [mitch.case@hotmail.com](mailto:mitch.case@hotmail.com) or 705-297-0084**



# Canada and Manitoba Metis Federation sign historic Memorandum of Understanding

MNO President Froh offers congratulations on behalf of Ontario Métis

by  
MNO Staff

On behalf of Ontario Métis, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh offered congratulations to the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) on signing a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Canada on May 27, 2016. The MOU sets out a process for ultimately arriving at a negotiated settlement between Canada and the MMF to address the Manitoba Métis community's outstanding constitutional claim against federal Crown, which was recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada back in 2013.

In the *Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada*, the Supreme Court held that the federal Crown's 1870 promise to provide 5,565 square kilometres of land to the children of the Métis families living in the Red River Settlement was not met. As a result, the Supreme Court declared that "the federal Crown failed to implement the land grant provision set out in s.31 of the *Manitoba Act, 1870*, in accordance with the honour of the Crown." The Supreme Court also recognized that remedying this breach of the federal Crown's constitutional duty owing to the Manitoba Métis was "unfinished business" between Canada and the MMF.

Specifically, the MOU provides for time-limited exploratory discus-

sions process to permit and MMF and Canada to find the common ground to move in order to move into formal negotiations. At the signing, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett stated: "The court decided there needed to be a relationship, and so today we have agreed that we will sit down and develop a framework for what that actually will mean in breathing life into the rights of the Métis people that are in section 35 of the Constitution." MMF President David Chartrand added that he hopes to have a framework agreement in place by the fall and that any future settlement is "going to change the very lives of our nation forever."

MNO President Froh said, "This MOU is a very important step in advancing reconciliation between the Crown and the Manitoba Métis community. I applaud MMF President Chartrand and his Cabinet on their unwavering determination to advance see justice for their people. From our experience with the Powley case, the MNO knows very well just how much time and energy goes into advancing a case all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. We wish the MMF well in its negotiations and are optimistic their success provide a framework for other Métis communities to advance our own negotiations with governments based on other outstanding claims that exist throughout the Métis Nation." ∞



▲ MMF President David Chartrand and Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

For additional information about the MOU, including an interview with Métis lawyer and MNO citizen Jason Madden, please visit: [www.ctvnews.ca/canada/potential-billion-dollar-deal-for-metis-as-feds-address-historic-land-dispute-1.2921150](http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/potential-billion-dollar-deal-for-metis-as-feds-address-historic-land-dispute-1.2921150)

## PCMNO Vice-Chair attends National Roundtable for MMIWG

by  
MNO Staff

Sharon McBride, Vice-Chair of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), attended the Second National Roundtable for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) in Winnipeg as a delegate for the Ontario government.

Vice-Chair McBride, who is also the Women's Secretariat of the MNO (WSMNO) Spokesperson, was in Winnipeg for the event from February 24 to 26 with the first day being a closed-door session for the families of MMIWG. Over the next few days, the families met with provincial and territorial leaders to discuss recommendations for achieving justice and ending the violence directed towards Aboriginal women.

The federal government has committed to conducting a national inquiry on MMIWG.

Since January 2016, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Dr. Carolyn Bennett has conducted pre-inquiry consultations in order



▲ PCMNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride (back row, third from left) with delegates attending the Second National Roundtable in Winnipeg.

to form a plan on what the inquiry should look like and who should be involved. Minister Bennett was present for the Second National Roundtable.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne also attended the roundtable and encouraged provinces to act beyond the inquiry and take action on their own. On February 23, the Ontario government

announce their long-term strategy to end violence against Indigenous women.

Premier Wynne was one among several premiers who attended the roundtable along with many federal and provincial ministers. ∞



▲ (L-R) Eugene Contant, PCMNO Community Senator; France Picotte, PCMNO Chair; the Honourable Minister Jeff Leal; Marcel Lafrance, PCMNO Region 3 Councillor; Andy Lefebvre, Captain of the Hunt Region 3; Aurel Courville, MNO Northern Lights Métis Council Councillor; Linda Hull; and Doug Hull, MNO Northern Lights Métis Council Councillor.

## MNO leadership and staff meet with the Honourable Jeff Leal

submitted by  
Joanne Meyer  
MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations

At the beginning of May, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) leadership and staff met with the Honourable Jeff Leal, MPP Peterborough and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. The meeting took place in Kapuskasing and was an op-

portunity for Minister Leal to meet with Métis leaders in the area. Discussion revolved around opportunities to develop the agricultural sector in northern Ontario. One such opportunity is a potential livestock pilot in the Great Clay Belt. ∞





▲ Tera Beaulieu, MNO Citizen and one of the facilitators for the Mental Health Week Engagement Project, speaks at one of the Mental Health Engagement Sessions.

# Mental Health Week

MNO Healing and Wellness branch provides updates on mental health and addiction services

submitted by  
**Wendy Stewart**  
MNO Manager of Mental Health  
and Addictions

The 65th annual Mental Health Week, with a focused theme of taking a closer look at the concerns and needs of the country’s senior population, took place May 2-8, 2016. During this week, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)’s Healing and Wellness branch provided an update on its recent mental health and addiction activities.

The MNO’s Healing and Wellness branch has a long standing history of working to meet the health needs of Métis people and

takes pride in continually advocating on their behalf. In support of these activities, the MNO partnered with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC), Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) and Ontario Native Women’s Association (ONWA) to embark in several community engagement sessions with the goal of identifying community mental health and addictions priorities.

The MNO wants to ensure input and advice from Métis communities are incorporated into the MNO’s vision for Métis culture-based mental health and addictions services and programs while, at the same time, take an active role in informing Ontario’s Mental Health and Addictions Strategy in meeting

the unique needs of Métis people.

As a result the MNO successfully hosted four community engagement sessions in March 2016 at the following locations: Welland, Toronto, Thunder Bay and North Bay.

Over 130 participants attended the sessions – providing meaningful input and advice on each community’s mental health and addictions gaps and needs. In addition, the sessions also provided an opportunity for the MNO to showcase its services and to network with community stakeholders. As one participant put it: “I enjoyed the opportunity to meet other programs, have clients learn more about what the MNO offers and to share the highlights of what good is happening in our community to MHA (mental health and addic-

tions).”

The MNO would like to thank all those staff members and citizens involved in helping make the events such a success! Particular thanks goes to: Jean Appel, Sabrina Roy, Joan Panizza, Melissa Pigeau, TerryLynn Longpre, Tammy Wintle, Rebecca VanerSanden, Glen Lipinski, Shelley Gonneville and Ginny Gonneau and Tera Beaulieu—Métis citizens and facilitators in this project.

Moving forward, the MNO will be working with the MOHLTC, OFIFC and ONWA to inform Ontario’s Mental Health and Addictions Strategy and to assist in the planning and implementation of regional mental health and addiction service enhancements. In addition, the MNO will also be using

this information to inform its own endeavour of expanding its scope of mental health and addiction services and supports available to clients, including youth and seniors. We look forward to working with MNO staff and citizens alike in making this happen over the next year. ∞

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact: MNO Healing and Wellness Branch, Manager of Mental Health and Addictions, Wendy Stewart, [wendys@metisnation.org](mailto:wendys@metisnation.org) or 613-798-1488 ext. 125.

## Service with a personal touch

Community members in Region 4 have access to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Support Services (CSS) program at the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie office. The MNO CSS program provides support to those in this community who are elderly, chronically ill or facing other health challenges. In this northern community, access to larger health care centres, such as in Sudbury or Toronto, can prove difficult for those who are unable to find adequate or affordable transportation out of their community.

A typical day trip to Sudbury for cancer treatment can take up to 12 hours roundtrip. This can be extremely taxing on a patient that is frail and unable to travel any other way but by car. The MNO CSS program aims to find solutions that are client-centred and can adapt to varying situations.

Brittany McHale-Johnson, MNO CSS Coordinator, assists clients in planning and executing these out-of-town trips. Most program participants are pleasantly surprised to hear that they can actually have the MNO CSS coordinator travel with them if needed. Examples of types of support include: as-

sistance with gas cards for out-of-town travel, help filling out the Northern Health Travel Grant, coordination of volunteer drivers, and personal provision of transportation.

MNO CSS services are not only for individuals with an illness, but are also available for anyone who may be in a caregiving role for a client. Caregivers may opt to access MNO CSS services for referrals, community support as well as assistance with transportation. The MNO CSS in Sault Ste. Marie is a guiding light in the North! ∞

**For more information on how you can access the MNO CSS within your region, please contact the MNO head office at 613-798-1488 or toll-free at 1-800-263-4889.**



## COMMUNITY

## Métis youth stands up for inclusion

With excerpts from a story at [sootoday.com](http://sootoday.com) by David Helwig

After learning that Sault Ste. Marie (the Sault) Mayor Christian Provenzano had accidentally left out local Métis from a city resolution responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report on residential schools, PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case could not just sit idle.

Case wrote a letter to Mayor Provenzano explaining his disappointment that the Métis community was excluded from the reconciliation effort. Case provided Mayor Provenzano with a brief history of Métis people, the Métis homeland and the history of the Métis within the Sault area. Case ended his letter by asking the Mayor for three things: to add the Métis community to the list of communities invited to participate in the reconciliation process; to meet with him personally to discuss ways to build a relationship between the Métis community and the city; and, that he give Case the opportunity to meet with the Sault city council to make a presentation about the history of the Métis within the Sault and their modern-day

aspirations as a people.

Responding to Case, Mayor Provenzano issued a written apology stating: "As the person who drafted the motion in its entirety, I take responsibility. As the author of it, I apologize to you and the Métis community for any offence. Admittedly, when I drafted the motion I was focused on our First Nation neighbours and residents and I did not consider the Métis community specifically. The omission is mine and mine alone."

Mayor Provenzano said that "the city's reconciliation process is still in its earliest stages and nothing has been decided that would prevent Case or another representative of the Métis community from providing input. I confirm that your letter along with this response will form a part of City Council's public agenda on May 16, 2016." ∞



Mitch Case

**Below is the letter that Mitch Case sent to Mayor Provenzano after learning that local Métis were excluded from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report on residential schools:**

While I am encouraged by the intention of the resolution which is to have Sault Ste. Marie take a leading role in the reconciliation effort that is taking place across this country, I am also disappointed, though sadly not surprised, by the seeming exclusion of the Métis community from the effort.

Your resolution makes mention of the 'urban indigenous population' and makes multiple references and directives to reach out to the First Nation community, but fails to make specific reference to the Métis people.

The Métis nation is made up of constitutional rights-bearing indigenous people whose territory extends from parts of Ontario through to the Rocky Mountains, the northern United States and into the Northwest Territories.

The Métis homeland most certainly includes Sault Ste. Marie; a fact that has always been known by the Métis people and was confirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in the landmark Métis harvesting rights cases known as *R. v. Powley*.

In *R. v. Powley*, the Supreme Court confirmed that Steve and Rod Powley, as members of the historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis community in the Métis homeland, have constitutionally protected rights. The court also said that Métis rights were not surrendered to the Crown by virtue of the 1850 Robinson Huron/Superior treaties. Finally, the court declared that Métis rights were equal to, and coexistent with First Nations rights; that there is no hierarchy of rights.

[On April 14, 2016,] the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed for us once again that Métis rights and our place in Canada are undeniable. In *Daniels v. Canada*, the Supreme Court affirmed that we are 'Indians' as defined by the *Constitution Act of 1867*.

The history of our community is long

and eventful. Established in the latter half of the 1700s by French voyageurs and their Ojibway and Cree wives, over time our people married with other 'halfbreeds' from other communities and through a process known as ethno-genesis formed a new nation: the Métis Nation.

Our community here had and continues to have connections to Métis communities all around the Great Lakes, extended into Manitoba and beyond. We were the first line of attack and the ones who bore the brunt of American aggression when they burned our houses down during the War of 1812.

Our community assembled a force of men to go to Red River and assist the Métis there during the Battle of Seven Oaks. Through the actions of our leadership, namely Eustace Lesage and Pierre Boyer who stood shoulder-to-shoulder and side-by-side with the Ojibway leaders Shingwaukonse and Nebenaigoching, our community helped to stop the illegal mining activities at Mica Bay which led to the signing of the Robinson Huron/Superior treaties.

The entirety of the downtown core of Sault Ste. Marie is built on our historic village and was made possible by the expropriation of our land in a way that was illegal and inconsistent with the Royal Proclamation of 1763.

During the Robinson Huron and Robinson Superior treaty negotiations of 1850, Robinson, the negotiator, said he did not have the authority from the Crown to negotiate for Métis land rights but said he would return the following year to deal with our claims. Robinson promised to ensure that our river lots along the river would be protected, yet within 10 years 90 percent of our families had been forced out of Sault Ste. Marie.

**We live here,  
we work here,  
we pay taxes  
here; our  
stories live  
here and this  
is our home.  
Exclusion  
from any  
reconciliation  
process is  
completely  
unacceptable."**

- Mitch Case

One hundred and 66 years later our people are still waiting for Canada, Ontario or Sault Ste. Marie to make that right. Not only is the city located on top of our community, but the very building that you work from and make decisions in is located on the original river lots of the Labatte, Miron and Lefond Métis families.

Not only does Sault Ste. Marie have a long Métis history, but today there are over 3,000 Métis people who call Sault Ste. Marie home. We live here, we work here, we pay taxes here; our stories live here and this is our home. Exclusion from any reconciliation process is completely unacceptable.

Despite our long history and our contributions to Canada, discrimination against the Métis Nation continues across the homeland. Métis people are federally excluded and we see the discrimination and exclusion continuing here in Sault Ste. Marie. By not including the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community in the reconciliation effort, this discrimination and exclusion is coming directly from the mayor and council.

It may be that this exclusion is deliberate, or because of a lack of knowledge about the Métis community. I also request that City Council pass a second motion adding the Métis community to the list of communities to be invited to participate in the reconciliation process being established.

I also wish to request a meeting with the mayor to discuss ways to build a relationship between the Métis community and the city.

Finally, I am requesting an opportunity to come before City Council to make a presentation about the history of the Métis community here in Sault Ste. Marie and our modern-day aspirations as a people.

- Mitch Case

PCMNO Youth Representative



# MNO Council paddles the historic Don

submitted by  
**Todd Ross**  
MNO Toronto and York Region  
Métis Council Chair

On May 1, 2016, a small group of “voyageurs” from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) and community had the honour of leading a caravan of roughly 300 canoes down the historic Don River for the Manulife Paddle the Don event. Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne and soon-to-be-MNO President Margaret Froh braved the rapids to offer a helping hand on this great voyage. As part of a new partnership with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the MNO TYRMC was invited to the event and was supplied with five canoes to lead the paddle. MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu and MNO TYRMC Senator Constance Simmons were present in full Métis regalia. After the opening prayer by Senator Simmons, Premier Wynne spoke on behalf of the Province of Ontario and then assisted with the launch of the MNO TYRMC canoes. Paddling with the MNO TYRMC were: MNO TYRMC Chair Todd

Ross, Kirk MacKenzie, Jim and Rosalyn Morrison, Jonathan Charland, Shaun Cameron; Lawrence and Madlyn Doucette, President Froh and Rachel Osborne. Paddle the Don is a 10.5 km canoe trip that launches at Eglinton and Leslie and finishes at Lake Ontario. Every year the TRCA opens the G. Ross Lord Dam to raise the water levels, which allows hundreds of paddlers to make their way through the river valley, under the bridges and along the Don Valley Parkway through a series of rapids—ranging from class I to III (class I being the easiest and class VI being the hardest). The journey provides a unique view of the city and reminds us of the importance that rivers have played in southern Ontario and in Métis history. Over 600 people took part in this year’s paddle, including Toronto–Danforth MP Julie Dabrusin, Don Valley West MP Rob Oliphant, King–Vaughan MP Deb Schulte, and Beaches–East York MPP Arthur Potts. Planning has already begun for next year’s event. The MNO TYRMC are excited to announce that they have been invited to return and are looking forward to expanding their participation. ∞



▲ MNO citizen Kirk MacKenzie (left) and MNO TYRMC Chair Todd Ross (middle) kick off Manulife Paddle the Don with the assistance of Premier Wynne (right).



▲ (L-R) MNO President Margaret Froh, MNO TYRMC Senator Constance Simmonds, Don Valley West MP Rob Oliphant, Premier Kathleen Wynne, King–Vaughan MP Deb Schulte, Toronto–Danforth MP Julie Dabrusin, MNO TYRMC Chair Todd Ross, MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu, and Beaches–East York MPP Arthur Potts.



▲ MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council meet with MPP Lisa Gretzky. (Left to right: Matthew Bombadier, Donna Grayer, Sue Morency, Peter Rivers, Wilfred Rochon, Jon Rochon, Lisa Gretzky, MPP NDP, and Terry Dejardins.)

## MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council meet with MPP Lisa Gretzky

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

On April 15, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council (WEKMC) met with Lisa Gretzky, MPP NDP for Windsor West. Opening remarks were given by Jon Rochon, MNO WEKMC President and an introduction of the MNO was given by Joanne Meyer, Director of Intergovernmental Relations. The MNO

WEKMC provided MPP Gretzky with a council background as well as a summary of the council’s priorities, issues and concerns. There was also discussion on how MPP Gretzky’s office can assist the MNO WEKMC. The meeting ended with the presentation of a gift to MPP Gretzky and a closing prayer. ∞



▲ (L-R) MNO youth Elise St. Germain, MNO TYRMC Youth Representative Christine Skura, Sheila Laroque, MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu.

## MNO youth spread knowledge of Métis history and culture

submitted by  
**Lindsay DuPré**,  
MNO Citizen

On May 10 and 12, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council’s youth committee collaborated with the York Region District School Board (YRDSB) to offer daylong workshops on Métis history and culture. They visited German Mills Public School and Ashton Meadows Public School and worked with over 100 students and educators from First Nations, Métis, Inuit and non-Indigenous backgrounds. The workshops were organized as part of the youth committee’s yearlong Weaving the Sash project—an initiative aimed to strengthen connections to identity and culture for Métis youth in their region. Weaving the Sash has created op-

portunities for youth to learn from a variety of mentors and knowledge keepers and encourages them to continue learning and building relationships with one another through a series of seasonal cultural events. Inspired by these experiences, many of the youth have been motivated to share their knowledge about Métis history and culture; this collaboration with the YRDSB offered a wonderful opportunity to do so. The workshops included presentations on how Métis communities first formed, the role of the voyageurs, traditional medicines, music and dance, and historical and contemporary uses of the sash. Everyone was also welcomed to join in on several hands-on activities such as playing the spoons, jigging, dot art and finger weaving. It was a powerful day of sharing stories, laughter and culture—central pieces to any Métis event! ∞





▲ PCMNO Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund (far left) stands with members of the MNO Kenora Métis Council: (L-R) Councillor Jordan Benoit; Treasurer and Region 1 Captain of the Hunt Sandra Triskle; Councillor Martin Camire; Chair Liz Boucha; Secretary Nina Henley; Senator Karen Cederwall; and, President Joel Henley.

# MNO Kenora Métis Council hold their 2016 Annual General Meeting

submitted by  
**Nina Henley**, MNO Kenora Métis Council Secretary

On May 15, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Kenora Métis Council (KMC) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM started with an opening prayer by MNO Senator Karen Cederwall and a warm greeting from MNO KMC President Joel Henley. MNO KMC Chair Liz Boucha then called upon each of the council members and MNO staff to give an update on this year's milestones.

Senator Cederwall started by explaining her role as an MNO Senator—to provide an elder's presence at community events and meetings and to facilitate opportunities between youth and elders to share Métis traditions and way-of-life activities. Examples of activities include: medicinal plant walks, snowshoeing, ice fishing and sucker fishing, beading, medicine bag making, and sacred tobacco teachings. Senator Cederwall also sits on committees related to forestry, education and water quality.

MNO KMC Treasurer Sandra Triskle gave the financial report for the fiscal year-end April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016. She talked about the MNO Kenora Métis Council Bursary, which is available at two local high schools. She also encouraged MNO citizens to make sure they self-identify as Métis when registering their children at school.

Treasurer Triskle also read the

Captain of the Hunt Region 1 report. She urged all MNO harvesters to make sure that they send their Harvester Survey's to the MNO as soon as possible. She also mentioned the Education committee and the Local Citizens Committee (Forestry) that both she and Senator Karen Cederwall attend.

Janet Hipfner, MNO Community Support Services (CSS) Coordinator from the MNO Dryden office, spoke on behalf of MNO CSS Coordinator Ron Neufeld as he was away at a prior commitment. Hipfner spoke about the number of clients they see and what the CSS program can do to help. They are always looking for volunteers to help out with medical transports, and she urged MNO citizens to step forward if possible.

MNO staff, Dana O'Donnell from the MNO Fort Frances office and Mandy Montgomery from the MNO Dryden office, sent a report to the AGM regarding the MNO Education and Training (ET) branch that was read for citizens. ET programs and services help MNO citizens find a job, therefore an assessment of needs and eligibility is undertaken so as to find the best pathway to employment.

MNO KMC Councillor Martin Camire sits on several committees. He is the Vice-Chair of Waas-egizhig Nanaandawe'Iyewigamig (WNHAC). This organization represents 14 member communities—including the MNO KMC— and

delivers health-related care and education to Aboriginal people in the catchment area. Councillor Martin is also a member of Habitat for Humanity and is on the Aboriginal Justice Committee through the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre. Every year on Remembrance Day, Councillor Martin chooses someone to walk with him to lay the MNO KMC veteran's wreath, which is donated by the family of our deceased former MNO Senator Kay Lynch. This past November, two Métis youth—Hailey Fortier and MNO citizen Katelyne Stenlund—were honoured to walk with Councillor Martin.

MNO KMC Councillor Jordan Benoit is the council's Forestry and Natural Resources Advisor. He mentioned a few different items, including the MNO Forestry workshop that was held this past February, the Whiskey Jack Forest Management Planning phase, as well as Grassy Narrows and their claims in wanting an active role in the forest management planning and operations of the Whiskey Jack Forest. Councillor Benoit also relayed information on the spring bear hunt, moose hunting season, and the Kenora Fire 18 situation. He closed by congratulating MNO citizen Tony Griffiths with the premier issue of his magazine *Wild Guide*, which Griffiths was happy to autograph for AGM attendees (see story on page 37).

Nina Henley MNO KMC Secretary and the Core Consultation Point Person for the New Relationship Fund brought citizens up-to-date on the New Relation-

*Newly acclaimed PCMNO Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund summarized the PCMNO election results and talked about the record voter turn-out this year. She congratulated the newly elected MNO President Margaret Froh and the other candidates who will now sit at the PCMNO table.*

ship Fund. She explained how this funding relates to the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultation branch and how it benefits MNO community councils.

MNO KMC President Joel Henley was next to speak; he summarized a detailed report on New Gold's Rainy River Project—one of the regions newest mines. He also mentioned that the MNO and New Gold have jointly administered training for 12 students—three students from the surrounding First Nation communities and three Métis students. One of the Métis students—Maria Vandenbrand, who is also an MNO citizen—was hired as a driller for New Gold. Maria also attended the Prospector's and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) conference as a panelist for Women in Mining. Her representation made the MNO KMC very proud.

Last but not least, newly acclaimed PCMNO Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund summa-

rized the PCMNO election results and talked about the record voter turn-out this year. She congratulated the newly elected MNO President Margaret Froh and the other candidates who will now sit at the PCMNO table.

PCMNO Councillor Stenlund also updated citizens on topics such as: the MNO's debt repayment of \$4.2 million dollars; MNO solar energy projects; the Daniels' decision and what this means for the Métis Nation; the Region 1 Treaty #3 Modern Day Land Claim; and, the first MNO Region 1 signed Co-operation Agreement (Traditional Land Entitlement Claim) with the Mitaanjigamig First Nation.

The AGM ended with several draws, a question and answer period, and a closing prayer by Senator Cederwall. A reception followed the meeting, which allowed time for fellowship and a chance for citizens to speak with the MNO KMC members one-on-one. ∞



# MNO staff host a Strengthening your Inner Sash workshop

submitted by  
**Andrea Easton**  
MNO Community Wellness  
Coordinator

On May 11, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff in Ottawa provided a self-esteem workshop for Métis women at a women's drop-in centre in downtown Ottawa. The workshop was called, Strengthening Your Inner Sash. Using best practices, traditional knowledge and hands-on activities, the 10 participants gained tools to improve their self-esteem. All par-

ticipants made Honouring Métis Women bookmarks. On the back of these bookmarks, the women wrote positive affirmations about themselves for the purpose of always being able to remind themselves of their own value and worth. A light snack of zucchini brownies was provided and one of the participants won a prize, which included the recipe and ingredients to make zucchini brownies at home. All of the participants took home their workbooks to continue their education at their own leisure. ∞



▲ MNO staff and participants show off the bookmarks they made during the workshop.

# Generations Mother's Day Tea

submitted by  
**Tammy Hoover**  
MNO Aboriginal Healthy Babies  
Healthy Children Coordinator

In honour of our Métis mothers and all of the special women within our community, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff from the Bancroft office hosted a Generations Mother's Day Tea on May 6, 2016.

The afternoon consisted of table games, prizes, traditional music, conversation and hearty laughter. Guests enjoyed a delicious slice of homemade lemon loaf served with a hot cup of tea. This special celebration brought women from different generations together and allowed opportunities for knowledge and traditions to be shared. It was a special moment to value the role of our life givers—our mothers. ∞



▲ Mothers take part in the Generations Mother's Day Tea.



▲ (L-R) Will Skura, Virginia Barter, and Lindsay DuPré.

# Weaving the Sash: MNO youth hold a traditional medicine and cooking workshop

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

On Saturday, May 7, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) Youth Committee hosted a Métis medicine and cooking workshop at the Fort York Historical Site. This workshop was part of the MNO TYRMC Youth Committee's Weaving the Sash: Métis youth, culture and connection (Weaving the Sash) project, generously funded by the Laidlaw Foundation. MNO TYRMC Senator Constance Simmonds began the workshop with an opening prayer and performed a smudging ceremony on the roof of the Fort York Visi-

tor Centre. Senator Simmonds went into great depth on the teachings of the four sacred medicines: tobacco, sweetgrass, cedar, and sage. The youth learned about the significance of these medicines for the four stages of life, the four directions, and the role they can play in our own personal healing. Each youth then built their own bundle using fabric and the four types of medicine. In the afternoon, MNO Knowledge Keeper Virginia Barter taught the youth her bannock recipe and they cooked it over the fire in the historical kitchen. Once it was ready, everyone enjoyed a feast of bannock and the other dishes lovingly prepared by Barter and the MNO TYRMC Youth Committee, such as venison, smelt, and duck. Barter also shared traditional foods

prepared in contemporary ways, which proved that we can still enjoy healthy, traditional diets in our busy, urban lives. It was a fun and delicious way to build relationships with each other, our elders, and our Métis culture! Each of the MNO youth were gifted a copy of a Métis cookbook. ∞

For more information about Weaving the Sash and to find out how to get involved, please send an email to [tyrmc.youth@gmail.com](mailto:tyrmc.youth@gmail.com). For regular updates about the project, please visit the MNO TYRMC at [torontoyorkmetis.com](http://torontoyorkmetis.com) and check out their Facebook ([facebook.com/tyrmc/timeline](https://www.facebook.com/tyrmc/timeline)) and Twitter (@TOYorkMetis) accounts.



▲ MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent and Senator Bill Morrison present Lieut. Gov. Dowdeswell with a Métis Sash.

# MNO council meets with Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell

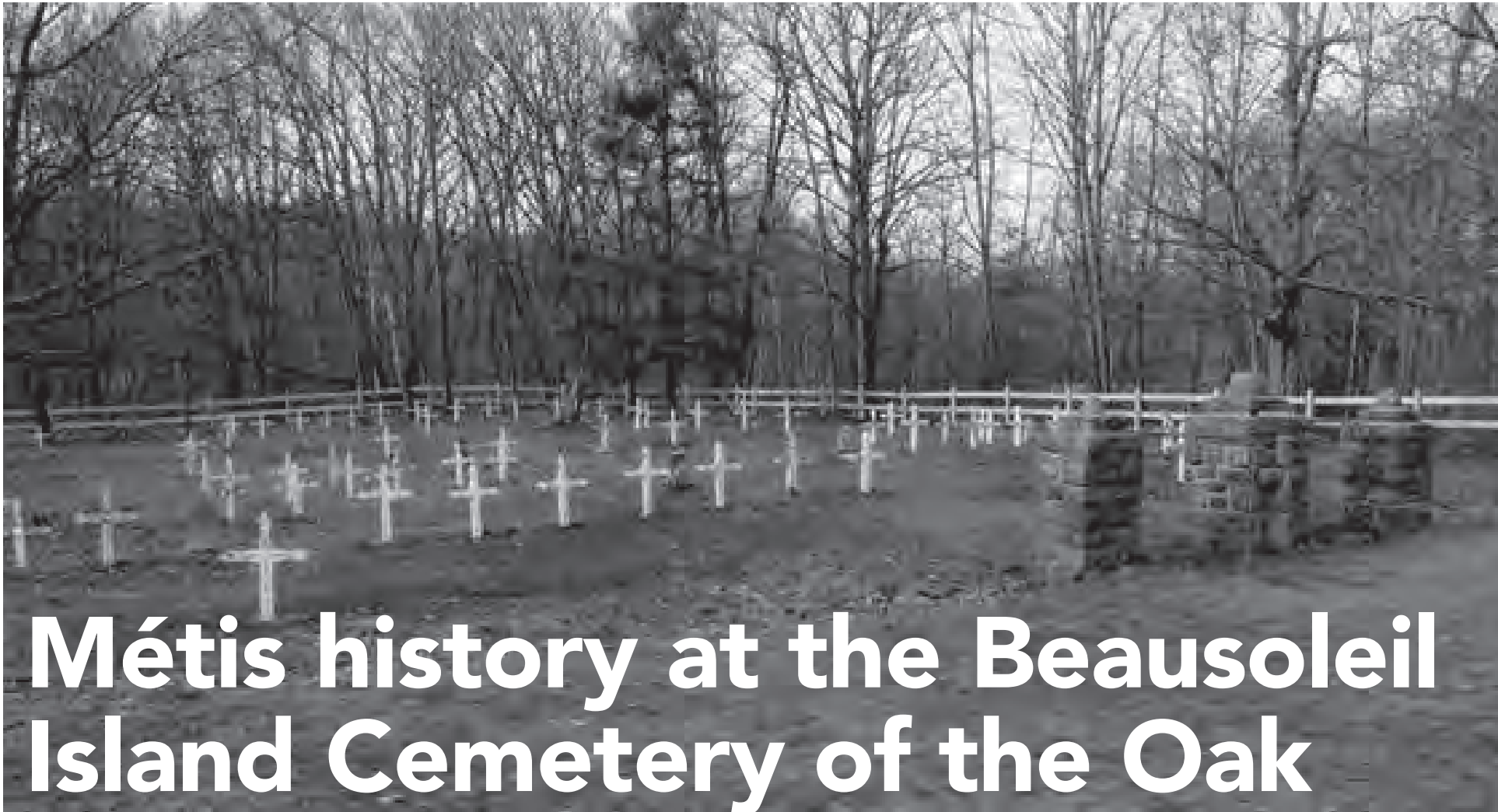
submitted by  
**Darlene Lent**, MNO Credit River  
Métis Council Treasurer

On May 10, 2016, the city of Brampton had a visit from the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. This event included distinguished guests such as Her Worship Mayor Linda Jeffrey, a number of Brampton City Councillors, the Métis

Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC), local and international business leaders, representatives from educational institutions, public service groups including fire, medicine and police, and the Peel Aboriginal Network. This was Her Honour's first visit to Brampton. The event included a roundtable discussion, which had a theme of sustainability. This topic is a priority for Her Honour as it focuses

on the perspectives of economics, environment and local planning. After the roundtable discussion, MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent and Senator Bill Morrison welcomed Her Honour to the area and presented her with a Métis sash. They thanked Her Honour for the visit as well as the informative discussion. A reception was later held for guests at the Alderlea House. ∞





# Métis history at the Beausoleil Island Cemetery of the Oak

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

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) have sat on the Cultural Advisory Circle for Georgian Bay Islands National Parks (GBINP) going back to the days of MNO Senator Helen Bradley. The Circle promotes the Aboriginal cultures of the area with respect to the GBINP. The work on the Cemetery of the Oak has been continued with representatives from Beausoleil Island, Georgina Island, the MNO GBMC, Wasauksing First Nation, Rama and First Nation Bands.

Dating back to the 1800's, the cemetery was one of the first places Métis were buried. Beausoleil Island was also one of the places that some of the Drummond Islanders settled. However, the soil was poor for farming and eventually people moved off of the island. First Nations history in this area is documented as far back as the Middle Archaic Period, 7,000 years ago.

In the early 1900's, the cemetery fell into disrepair. Fortunately, when the island became a national park—

Georgian Bay Islands National Park of Canada—Park Warden George Lynn began carefully reconstructing the cemetery and rebuilt many of the crosses. Along the way, he tried to find out as much information about the Métis people who had been laid to rest here.

The cemetery has had its boundaries shifted to include burials of ancestors who were laid to rest on the outside of the original fence line. Ground searching radar has been used to determine the actual size of the cemetery. Under the watchful eye of Parks Aboriginal Liaison Officer Brian Charles, great care has gone into the preservation of this sacred and historic site. One of Charles' many jobs involves preserving the rich Aboriginal culture on the island with the respect that it deserves.

Below is a first-hand account of MNO GBMC Chair Larry Ferris' trip to the Beausoleil Island Cemetery of the Oaks with MNO GBMC:

Métis youth Dalton Latondress, former MNO Senator Dora McInnis and MNO Community Senator Ray Bergie and myself were all able to make the trip to the cemetery. We were very happy to have Dora along for the visit, as she is a direct descendant of Louis Beausoleil, who

the Island is named after.

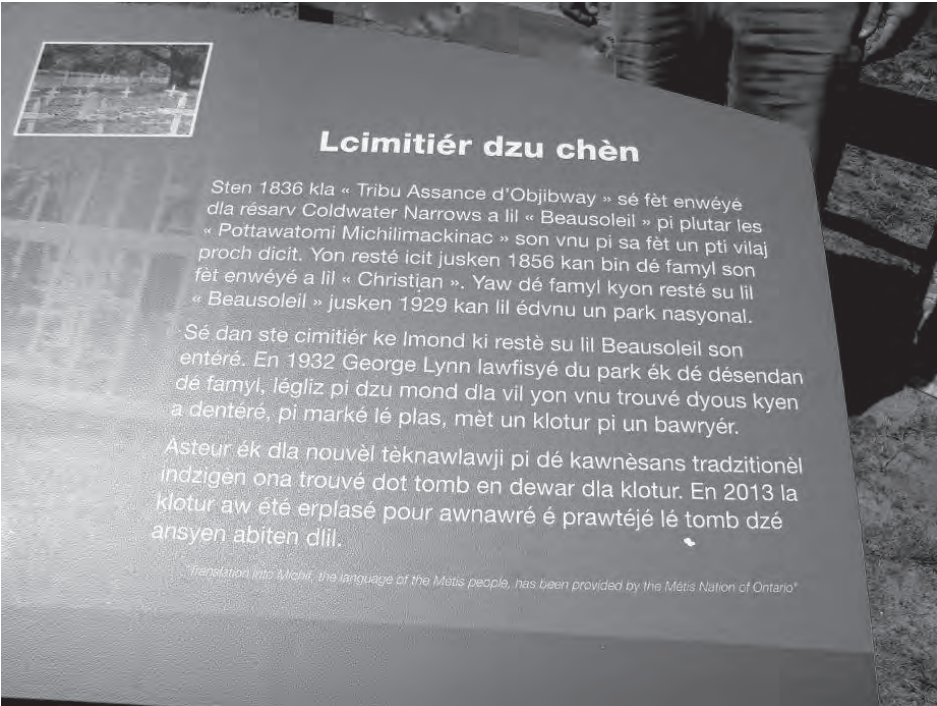
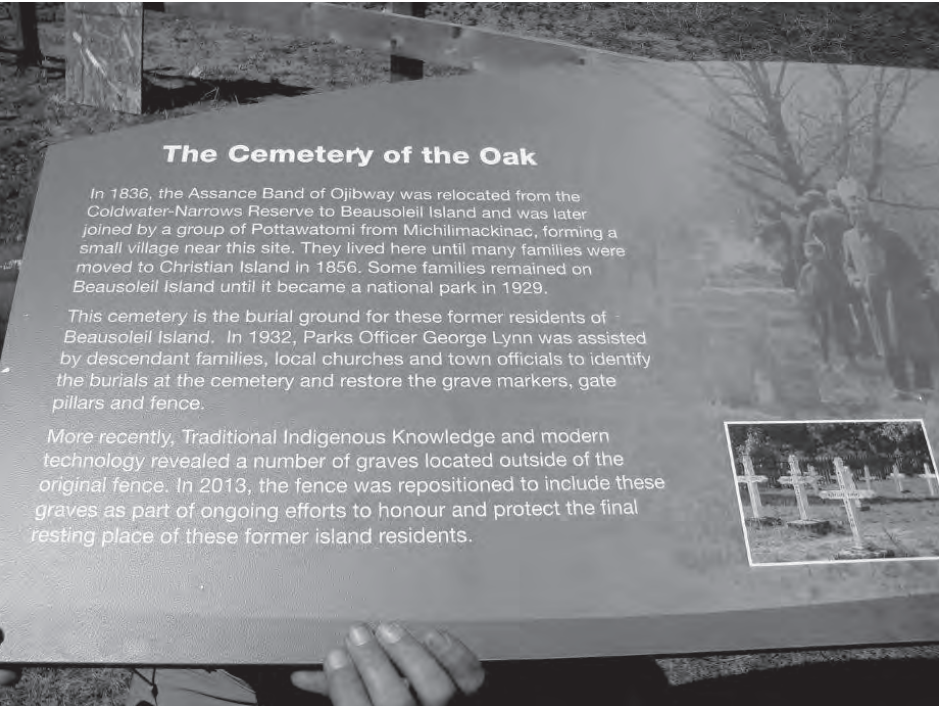
As we walked among the graves, it was a moment to listen to our elders as they pointed out specific Métis names and told us about their families. There were also First Nations elders present who similarly talked about many of the same ancestors and their relations. The elders were able to show us the connections that we have with each other, which was a great moment.

I was grateful that our MNO Senators were present and were able to share their knowledge. It was very encouraging to see a Métis youth like Dalton take the time to listen to his elders.

After we were doing exploring, the GBINP provided a barbeque lunch for guests, at which point [Parks Officer] Charles explained the history of the cemetery. Two information plaques were then placed at either side of the cemetery. The plaques were written in Anishinabe, French, English and Michif. The translation for these plaques was done by the [MNO Michif Committee]. It is a great feeling to know that these signs—which are in our language, and explain the Métis past and connection to this very land—will be there for thousands of visitors to see and read. ∞



▲ Members of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council at the Beausoleil Island Cemetery of the Oak



▲ The English and Michif information plaques that have been erected at the Beausoleil Cemetery of the Oak.





▲ Workshop participants showcase the cranberry-orange jam they made during the canning workshop.

# MNO Credit River Council host canning workshop

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

On April 26, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) hosted a canning workshop at the Fortinos Community Room Kitchen in Brampton.

Facilitated by Darlene Lent, MNO CRMC Treasurer, participants learned about the boiling method of canning and gained hands-on experience by making cranberry-orange jam. A healthy alternative to store bought variations, cranberries have been used in Métis culture for many years and offer vital health benefits.

Harvesting berries is a big part of Métis heritage and canning is just one of the important methods of preserving food.

“It gives us a chance to enjoy the fruits of our labour at a later date and also gives us the satisfaction of preserving our own food and knowing exactly what we are consuming,” explains Lent.

This workshop engaged all participants as they prepared and canned jam, which they took home with them. Not only did everyone have a lot of fun and form great friendships, but participants learned something new.

MNO citizen Karen Stewart also was of great assistance as was Simon Bain, MNO Community Wellness Coordinator, who supplied MNO aprons and cooler bags.

This canning workshop is one of the many public events intended to promote Métis culture and way of life and was hosted by the MNO CRMC, with the help of the Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant. ∞

# Georgian Bay Métis youth organize bowling activity

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

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Youth Committee (GBMYC) teamed up with MNO staff to organize an afternoon of glow-in-the-dark bowling for local Métis youth. The kids had a lot of fun and they got to see a wide range of bowling styles. The event was well attended bringing out some new Métis youth as well as some

regulars.

The MNO GBMYC would like to thank the Métis veterans who came to cheer on the youth as well as MNO staff member Tera Vivian for helping out with the healthy snacks. It is great when we can pool our resources together and work for the MNO citizens. Markie Tuckett did a great job organizing the event. ∞



▲ MNO Georgian Bay Métis Youth Committee and community members at the local bowling alley.

# MNO Council invited to speak at Indigenous Education conference

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

On April 22, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) President, Andy Dufrane, and Chair, Christa Lemelin, attended the opening ceremonies of the first international Indigenous Environmental Studies and Sciences (IESS) conference hosted by Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario.

The conference entitled, Re-ig-

niting the Sacred Power of Creation: Essential Knowledges for Transformative Action, aimed at gathering international indigenous teachings and traditional knowledge to address complex global environmental issues.

MNO PDWMC President Dufrane was invited to provide a few welcoming words to a packed room of international leaders, teachers, students and community members. The weekend long conference included the following keynote speakers: Dr. Vandana Shiva, Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer, Dr. Manulani Meyer and the Honourable Jeff Leal, MPP (Peterborough). ∞



▲ Participants take part in a workshop put on by the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council and Fleming College.



▲ MNO PDWMC President Andy Dufrane (right) and the Honourable Jeff Leal, MPP for Peterborough.

# MNO Council partners with Fleming College to deliver capacity building workshops

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

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) recently partnered with

Fleming College in Peterborough to deliver a series of workshops to help enhance capacity building within the council and the community.

The workshops were geared to improving engagement and communication skills, with a focus on developing partnerships with government and industry. The workshops also delivered important

skills and strategies for conflict management and resolution.

The MNO PDWMC hopes to continue to deliver these workshops in the future. Anyone interested in taking part in one of these workshops, are welcome to contact the MNO PDWMC for more information. ∞



# Red Dress

New Amanda Rheume single raises funds for murdered and missing Indigenous women

by MNO Staff

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and award-winning artist Amanda Rheume announced that proceeds for Red Dress, the first song released from her upcoming album *Holding Patterns*, will be donated to the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) in honour of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG).

Rheume announced the song's release on Canada AM on Tuesday, March 29.

On her Facebook page, Rheume posted: "I am SO honoured and excited to release the first song off the new album, Red Dress. This song is meant to honour the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada #MMIWG. My dear friend and incredible artist Chantal Kreviazuk lent her voice to the song and the cause and I couldn't be more excited."

The NWAC works on advancing the well-being of Aboriginal women and girls, their families and communities through activism, policy analysis and advocacy. The association represents and speaks on behalf of Aboriginal women in Canada at the national level. It addresses many concerns, including violence with a special focus on missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

*Holding Patterns*, Rheume's new album, is scheduled to be released on May 6, 2016. In a previous interview, Rheume shared that the album would hold 10 or 11 new songs. ∞



Photo from  
reddresscampaign.ca

## Amanda Rheume gets personal on new album

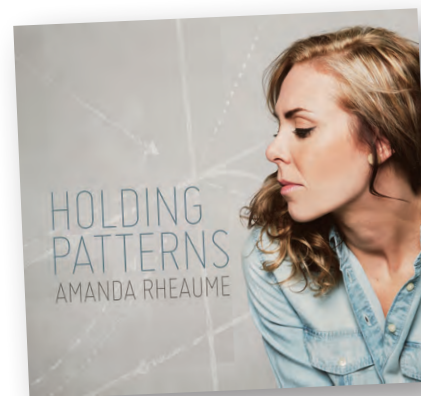
Adapted from a story from  
[metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca) by Trevor Greenway

On May 5, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Amanda Rheume revealed a more personal side while playing at the National Arts Centre Fourth Stage sold-out show in Ottawa to launch her new album *Holding Patterns*.

The Ottawa-born, Métis songstress and Aboriginal Juno nominee is letting the whole world in on her life—her many struggles of growing up, her toxic relationships and her anger surrounding the staggering numbers of missing and murdered indigenous woman in our country. In a sense, you could say that *Holding Patterns* is her *raison d'être*.

"It's definitely a new feeling to be so open and vulnerable about what I've been going through, but I think it's really important, because we are all human," says Rheume. "Circumstances are different, but feelings are the same. We can relate to each other even just by different circumstances."

The concert was very interactive as concert-goers



were able to pose questions to the Métis songstress. The concert felt very intimate as Rheume showed a more personal side while explaining the meaning behind every song and her thoughts when writing them.

The entire album is a personal embrace for Rheume, coming to terms with her family history, grief, loss love. *Patterns* is somewhat of a storybook—tales of struggle from her grandfather, the late Métis member of Parliament Eugene Rheume, and their plight to find acceptance in Northern Manitoba; stories of grief dealing with the death of close friend and collaborator Fraser Holmes; and, the end of a troubled relationship—doomed from its beginning.

The album gets really heavy on *Red Dress*, in which she teamed up with Chantal Kreviazuk to make a statement about victim-blaming among missing and murdered indigenous women. The powerful song hits home, especially with Rheume's smoky voice singing, "I am a woman with no worth."

"After these women are either murdered or taken or sexually assaulted, there is still a large number of opinions that say, 'they shouldn't have been where they were or they could have made a decision to not be in that situation,'" states Rheume. "When you hear a woman's voice saying, 'I'm so sorry, I'm not worthy,' for me, I felt that was the most effective way to get my feeling out about it."

The song is a fundraiser for the Native Women's Association of Canada's Safety and Violence Prevention Program and takes on heavy issues like intergenerational trauma and addiction. To buy the song *Red Dress* and support this great cause, please visit iTunes.

For Rheume, the song is about starting a conversation and empowering listeners to make a difference, one by one. "There is not one thing that people can do to help. It's about doing one thing at a time and helping who we can," she says. "I think people feel like they can't make a difference because they are just one person, but the truth is we can all make a difference, we just need to try. You can't really get to healing until things start getting talked about."

Rheume's breathtaking performance left the audience wanting more as everyone rose to their feet in a standing ovation. If you missed Rheume's performance in Ottawa, be sure to check out one of the several concerts she has scheduled in the coming months including a performance at RBC Ottawa Bluesfest in July. ∞

Amanda Rheume





# Building Métis community through school outreach

submitted by  
The MNO Grand River Métis Council

What do the schools in Guelph, Kitchener and Waterloo have in common? These schools have a Métis community that knows how to work together. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) have been education-focused for many years. MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson leads by example in taking her community into schools.

Throughout Ontario, many school boards and their educators are requesting Métis education in their classroom. President Parkinson remembers proudly her Métis community educational outreach in Region 9. The MNO GRMC volunteers willingly share their knowledge with others in a variety of settings. One of their favorite venues is in elementary and high schools. In 2015, 32 lucky schools benefited from their dedication; 2016 statistics have yet to be tallied.

President Parkinson says that within a 45 minute session, her team of volunteers can deliver a sash presentation with a demonstration and that each participant leaves with a finger woven bracelet. The largest

group they've presented a finger weaving and sash presentation to, was for 75 students. President Parkinson says she now has this presentation down to a science.

Like the diverse colours on the Métis sash, President Parkinson has a team of Métis volunteers with varying abilities and interests. Each brings a talent and when woven together, makes a strong group of active MNO citizens. Similar to the teachings on the Métis sash, one strand can easily break, however when many are woven together, it is strengthened and creates a team that supports and distributes the work load. Some Grand River Métis who are directly involved in these school presentations include Jennifer Parkinson, Barb Lair, Bridget Brown, Carol Lévis, Carol Ricard, Dave Skene, Leslie Muma, and Paul Smith.

By going into schools, Métis content is presented from a Métis perspective. School presentations have many advantages for our Métis children, such as: they get to see themselves in the stories; they learn about Métis achievements and contributions; and, they learn accurate Métis history and culture. Another benefit is that this information is then passed on from the students to their families.

The MNO GRMC have also held



▲ MNO Grand River Métis Council President Jennifer Parkinson (left) and MNO citizen Barb Lair (right) hold a workshop to educate students and teachers on Métis culture and heritage.

two presentations during teacher professional development days. Teaching educators ensures that teachers are more comfortable with our unique Métis history so that they can share accurate information with their students. These presentations also introduce teachers to Métis community knowledge holders who they can approach for further information, presentations and assistance.

Another educational influence is the Aboriginal Education Committees within school boards. Métis rep-

resentative attend meetings and have input on school activities. In the demographical region of Grand River, five active committees are attended, which includes post-secondary institutions. Representation on these committees keeps the local council and Métis Nation informed on school board needs while ensuring the Métis have a strong voice.

Once a year, the MNO organizes the Aspiring to Our Highest Potential conference for MNO citizens who represent the MNO on District

School Board and Post-Secondary Aboriginal Advisory Committees. At the conference, participants are provided with information and training and are able to share activities and workshops they have organized. President Parkinson and MNO GRMC volunteers always attend this conference and are an inspiration to other participants. If you are interested in getting involved, notification of upcoming conferences are sent to community presidents for representation. ∞

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# MNO Bancroft office holds a Volunteer Appreciation Day

submitted by  
**Rose-Anne Boyle**  
MNO Community Support Services  
Coordinator

There is no “I” in team, but we are happy that there is a “U” in our volunteers!  
The MNO Bancroft Volunteer Appreciation Day was held on May 11,

2016 at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Bancroft office. This year, all of the volunteers were given the MNO Community Support Services Program Volunteer Handbook. Together, the MNO Bancroft office staff put in a lot of hard work to make sure that the launch of the handbook was successful and that the day was enjoyable for all of the volunteers.  
The handbook was provided to all

the volunteers as a reference to help them succeed in their role as a volunteer. The MNO Community Support Services Coordinators—Judy Simpson and Rose-Anne Boyle—took the time to go over the handbook with the volunteers, answer any questions and helped them complete and update any required forms.  
But the day wasn’t all about work, there was time set aside for fun as

well! The volunteers enjoyed a light lunch and were provided with an emergency car kit and a volunteer survival kit. The volunteer survival kit consisted of activities volunteers could do to help them pass the time while waiting for clients when providing transportation services.  
To finish off the day, MNO staff asked the volunteers to write down on a piece of paper why they volun-

teer. Here are a few of their answers:  
“I provide volunteer driving services to meet people and to help those who can’t get out and do things for themselves. I enjoy doing it very much.”  
“Volunteer driving gives me a reason to be on the road. I love driving and I love people.” ∞

## Tips for discussing long-term care with loved ones

A Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen shared a story with an MNO staff member on the topic of long-term care. The MNO staff member thought that this story would be worth sharing:  
According to our client, her sister—who was her mother’s caregiver—moved her mother into a nursing home for people living with Alzheimer’s without consulting with her other siblings or her mother. This decision was defended by the sister as their mother was no longer capable of making this decision for herself. Needless to say, this decision caused great conflict within the family.  
It is not surprising that many people would rather avoid the topic of long-term care, as it involves sensitive subjects like finances, aging and health concerns. However, this story demonstrates the importance of engaging in conversations with parents and relatives about long-term care and developing a plan to guard against the threat of needing it.  
There is a saying that says: “We teach best what we need to learn the most.” It reminds me, to do just that: discuss my long-term care with my loved ones!  
Here are some tips for discussing long-term care with loved ones:

- Ask questions. Hear the other person’s concerns before discussing your own.
- Use a different situation as a transition to your conversation. “Mom, do you remember when Aunt Mary was diagnosed with dementia and her daughter had to quit her job because they couldn’t afford a home nurse? That’s the kind of situation we want to avoid by proactively planning ahead.”
- Ask them about the long-term care they would like to receive if they need it. Where would they live? Who would care for them? How would they pay for it?
- Listen carefully and stay focused on their concerns. Let the parent or loved one talk about their fears and hopes for the future. Communicate in a way that encourages future discussions.
- Create a strategy and put it in writing. After the conversation, write down any decisions that were made and what needs to be done. Make a check list and go through it to ensure that all plans are carried out. It is important to write down any specific wants or needs so that everyone knows what to expect later.

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# ACHIEVEMENTS



## Reclaiming her voice

Métis Fine Arts grad demonstrates excellence

◀ Kelly Duquette displays her Métis-inspired paintings.

by MNO Staff

Kelly Duquette, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and MNO Youth Representative for Region 1, just completed her four-year Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree from the University of Ottawa (uOttawa).

Every year, uOttawa BFA graduating students come together to put on a collaborative exhibition to showcase all of their best work to the public. Duquette was one of 43 emerging artists whose artwork was included in this year's exhibition. The exhibition, entitled *Ode*, took place on April 22, 2016 at the uOttawa Visual Arts Department.

Duquette's exceptional talent and promise was recognized as she won first place and was awarded the Edmund and Isobel Ryan Visual Arts Scholarship. This \$500 scholarship is awarded to a BFA graduate who demonstrates an excellence in painting.

Duquette's painting series is entitled, *I Forgot Who I Was, But Now I Remember*. All of the paintings in the series are 3 feet x 2 1/2 feet. Duquette explains her series:

"Following over one-hundred years of silence, assimilation and oppression within Canadian society, the Métis peoples have begun to re-emerge and reclaim their culture. This unique time in our history has become an inspiration behind my artwork. Painting has allowed me to reflect on the issues related to my hidden identity and my experience as a Métis youth. The reductive quality of my work represents the loss of our language and traditions, while the intervention of abstract beadwork and acrylic paint reinforces our strength and resilience as a distinct rights-bearing people.

"As pigments mix, liquid frisket is stripped away, and opaque acrylic paint hides the colours beneath, my process becomes metaphorical. Each artistic decision reflects on the ethnogenesis and historical treatment of Métis peoples within

North America. My video piece titled, *Identity in Process*, is designed to translate this process into a 2D art form which achieves an overall effect that is comparable to my finished paintings. The spoken phrase at the end of the film is in Michif-French—a single dialect of the traditional Métis language taught to me by a number of knowledge keepers in our community. Chren ma keultseur, erprend ma voyoi, erprend kikchu, translates to, 'we are reclaiming our culture, reclaiming our voice, reclaiming our identity.' ∞

For more information about Duquette and her artwork, please visit her [Facebook page](#).

One of the paintings in Kelly Duquette art series, *I Forgot Who I Was, But Now I Remember*. The painting is created using dispersion pigment, beadwork, pouring medium and acrylic on linen. ▶



## MNO youth artists needed for the 2016 MNO AGA trade show

Many of our Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) youth are reclaiming their Métis culture, heritage and traditions. There is a beautiful old prophecy about this idea, which talks about young people walking along the trail of history and picking up the things that had been left along the way. Our great Métis leader Louis Riel spoke of a prophecy, which compliments this idea: "My people will sleep for one hundred years, but when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their spirit back"; today these prophecies are coming true.

Many MNO youth artists are involved in activities such as beading, painting, carving, sewing, leatherwork and music. Our people have stories that need to be told, and through their art our youth are finding creative ways to tell these stories.

Last year at the 2015 Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Midland, the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNO

Youth Council) hosted a collaborative youth vendor table at the trade show. At this table, we were able to promote the work of eight young and talented artists and sold over one thousand dollars' worth of beadwork, paintings, photographs and more.

As part of our commitment in continuing to promote the talent of our young MNO artists, the MNO Youth Council will be hosting this initiative again at the 2016 AGA in North Bay.

All MNO youth are encouraged to participate by contributing their own pieces of artwork to the table. We are looking for anything from beadwork and sewing to photography and music and everything in between! Our hope is to showcase and promote the beautiful and creative artistry of our MNO youth. This year's table will be managed by Sault Ste. Marie youth artist, Sammi Case.

We would not be able to support our MNO youth artists

at the AGA if it were not for the generosity of our sponsors. We are fortunate to already have secured a sponsor for this year. Our sponsors last year were the owners of Gidley's Galley restaurant: MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Treasurer Heather Garratt and MNO Veterans' Council Secretary and MNO Region 7 Captain of the Hunt Greg Garratt. Their generous sponsorship helped to cover the registration cost for the table. ∞

Interested youth are encouraged to contact Sammi Case by emailing [samantha-case@outlook.com](mailto:samantha-case@outlook.com) or by joining our Facebook conversation by searching 'Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Vendor Table 2016'.

Interested sponsors can contact Mitch Case at [mitch.case@hotmail.com](mailto:mitch.case@hotmail.com).



# MNO citizen launches outdoor lifestyle magazine: Wild Guide



▲ MNO citizen Anthony Griffiths ice-fishing.

submitted by  
**Nancy Hatch**  
MNO Citizen

Life-long Kenora resident and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Anthony Griffiths recently co-launched Wild Guide, a quarterly outdoor magazine, with his friend Brad McMann.

The magazine premiered its first issue on March 7, 2016. Griffiths and McMann, friends since high school, are both outdoorsmen who want more people to enjoy the outdoors and all the activities it offers.

Griffiths has worked as a guide on Lake of the Woods for 17 years. His co-publisher, McMann, worked in the magazine business for five years as an art director.

In an interview with the Kenora Miner News, Griffiths stated that, “[Being outdoors] has been more of a year-round fix for me where I can enjoy the outdoors and keep pursuing living that ultimate dream really. We live in the right place to have something like this going.” ∞

Wild Guide's summer issue is expected to be released in June. The current issue is now available on most magazine shelves.



▲ The first issue of Wild Guide.

# MNO citizen receives Director of Education Commendation award

submitted by  
**Sara Kelly**, MNO Citizen

On May 3, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Carol David was awarded the Director of Education Commendation Award at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica in Ottawa. Presented annually during Education Week, this award represents the exceptional contributions made by employees to the Ottawa Catholic School Board.

A reflective, humble and faith-filled leader, David instinctively puts students and colleagues before all else so that they can be successful and feel supported. These traits are the foundation on which she builds the High Needs unit at

St. Patrick's High School in Ottawa. You simply have to look at the various groups she created to see the extent of her leadership in building a caring community.

A decade in her present role (17 years with the Ottawa Catholic School Board), David is, without question, in a very demanding position. It is testament to her skill, dedication and deep faith that she has made tremendous strides with high needs students in every aspect of their educational journey. She is the perfect marriage of compassion and grit—fair and firm.

Several of her peers speak of her as the “miracle worker,” “keeps going and keeps calm,” and, “is both patient and creative.” Never one to give up, she is always persistent and hopeful, forming an ever

present confidence, which in turn, triggers confidence in others. She is more than willing to share her knowledge. One colleague comments that she provides “a big umbrella for people to gather under.”

David knows she is not only a voice for her students in need, but she must help them find their own voice. Her interaction with both students and their families is a close one, making inclusivity a highly valued and integral part of St. Patrick's High School. She appreciates all aspects of the person, making those needed connections that help to break down barriers.

She works very hard to benefit a small group of students, but her efforts make all of the difference. David's world is one of possibilities, not limitations. ∞



▲ MNO citizen Devon Lachance.

# Métis youth carries the Infinity Flag during annual Powwow

submitted by  
**Jessica Brunnet**, MNO  
Employment Counsellor

**Cecile Coutu**, Cambrian College  
Métis Elder

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Devon Lachance proudly wore his Métis sash as he represented Métis youth and the Sudbury Métis community during the 2016 Cambrian College Powwow on March 11, 2016.

Lachance, a Métis youth liv-

ing in the Sudbury region, had the honour of carrying the Métis Infinity Flag during the opening and closing ceremonies at the Powwow. An avid guitar player, he has a passion for music and is currently enrolled in the music program through Cambrian College. He enjoys immersing himself in his Métis culture and felt very grateful to represent Métis youth at the Powwow.

Lachance was also one of this year's recipients of the 2016 MNO Bursary. ∞



▲ MNO citizen Carol David (fourth from left) receives the Director of Education Commendation Award.



# Dedicated Métis leader Alvina Cimon passes

by MNO Staff

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of the passing, on May 17, 2016, of Métis community leader Alvina Cimon. Alvina was well known across the Métis Nation as a dedicated leader of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Northwest Métis Council and was a long time council member and past council president. Alvina served approximately 20 years as president, which is longer than any other person has served as a community council president. MNO President Margaret Froh and PCMNO Secretary-Treasurer, Tim Pile, recently spent some time with Alvina and her family on a recent trip to Dryden. “Alvina’s sense of humour was strong that day and I was looking forward to my next visit with her. I am deeply saddened to hear the news of her passing,” stated President Froh.

In 2012, at the Annual General Assembly that year, Alvina was recognized for her leadership when she was presented by the Queen’s Jubilee Medal by then MNO President Gary Lipinski.

As many of us know, Alvina was frequently held up by Mr. Lipinski as an example for her dedication to the MNO and the Métis cause. He often related the story of a meeting of community council presidents where concerns were raised about the lack of funding to support their activities. Alvina stepped up to the microphone and said: “I just do what needs to be done to make sure we can keep the office going. I was out on the weekend collecting bottles on the side of the road to help ensure council had enough to keep going.” The story shows how dedicated Alvina was—she would do anything to help others, and to keep the council and the office going.

“Alvina’s commitment to community, and her strong work as a community leader was an inspiration to us all. Her loss will be deeply felt across the nation. On behalf of all MNO citizens and our Métis public service, I extend condolences to Alvina’s family and the entire regional community. I will be keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers,” concluded President Froh. ∞



▲ Alvina Cimon (center) with MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile (L) and President Margaret Froh (R).



▲ Alvina Cimon with the Queen’s Jubilee Medal at the 2012 MNO Annual General Assembly.

## Obituary Alvina Florence Cimon



In loving memory of Alvina Florence Cimon (Roussin), who passed away on Tuesday May 17, 2016 at the age of 78 in the Dryden Regional Health Centre, surrounded by her loved ones.

Alvina loved her family with great care and had an open door to animals in need. She was a strong, dedicated advocate in the Métis community.

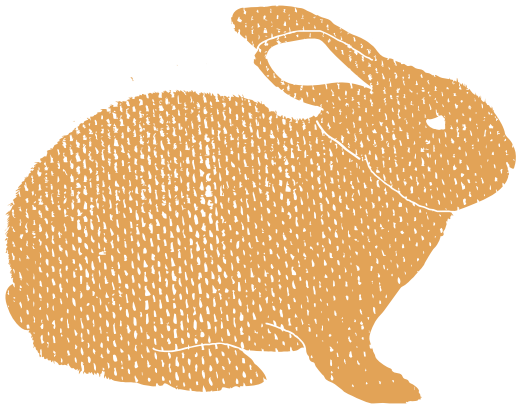
Alvina will be lovingly remembered by her mother, Albertine Roussin, her sons, Armand Sr. (Clara), Adelard Jr. and Brian Cimon. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Benjamin (Janet), Armand Jr. (Tiffany)

and Armanda Cimon (Shawn), four great grandchildren, as well as eleven brothers and sisters. She was preceded in death by her spouse, Adelard Joseph Cimon, 2011.

A Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday, May 24 at 1:00 p.m. at the Dryden Community Funeral Home Chapel with Father Al Campeau officiating. Interment of ashes will follow in the Dryden Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made to the Second Chance Pet Network through the Dryden Community Funeral Home, 2449 Grand Trunk Ave, Dryden P8N 2X3.

Expressions of Sympathy may be sent to [dcfh@drytel.net](mailto:dcfh@drytel.net) Subject heading: Cimon.



## My marathon dad

submitted by  
Richard Aubin, MNO Citizen

Last edition, I wrote about the running challenges I gave my mom. To be fair, the following article is a memory I have of my dad’s great race with a wild rabbit thanks to his mischievous son.

At 62 years old, I can still recall the day that I made my dad run after a rabbit when I was about six years old. To this day, no one in my family knows the truth behind that great race.

The story begins like this. The Métis hunter in me came to surface one summer day as I picked up an unconscious rabbit. I struggled to carry this animal, which was now lying over my two outstretched arms, to show my mom and dad.

“Look what I have Dad,” I announced. I was excited and proud to be bringing home wild meat! Dad shouted at me to drop it quickly. Startled I did, wondering what I did wrong. Dad then asked me how I got this rabbit. After giving him the answer filled with half-truths, he called the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to report a possible rabid rabbit. They told him to catch the rabbit alive.

The chase was on! Dad grabbed a box and tried to capture the rabbit. The rabbit’s pace was slow at first, however he quickly seemed to wake up out of its daze and set those paws into a 4x4 full throttle run!

My poor dad tried for a full 10 minutes to catch the rabbit but lost the foot race in our yard. He couldn’t understand how his son had caught it so easily! It looked like there was not going to be any rabbit stew as I had first planned.

Would now have been a good time to confess that the rabbit was not rabid but instead a victim to a young boy’s lucky aim with a rock? I guess the truth would have ended in a recipe book being taken out instead of a cardboard box! However, I must admit I did enjoy watching this great race! Missing and loving you always Dad. ∞  
– Rick

**Parent tip:** Don’t ask open ended questions to your kids. Yes or no answers might have you running in circles.

## ...Birth Announcement...



### weston LEGGE

Our Métis family has grown by one more! Dale Legge, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Human Resources Coordinator and MNO citizen, is proud to announce the arrival of his son, Weston Legge, born on April 14, 2016, weighing 8 pounds 6 ounces. Mother, baby, big brother and daddy are all doing well! ∞





# ACROSS THE HOMELAND



“We call those lands the Métis Homelands. The Homelands stretch from the lakes and rivers of Ontario; across 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



▲ BC Minister for Children & Family Development Stephanie Cadieux (left) and MNBC Minister for Métis Children & Families Daniel Pitman (right).



▲ Three meals a day, including a Saturday night Jiggs dinner, are prepared by Kikino volunteers.



▲ A replica Red River Cart sits on display at Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park on Monday, April 4.



▲ Kayleen McKay arrives with students from West Kildonan at the Alexander Docks in Winnipeg on Tuesday, May 10, 2016.

## ■ British Columbia

On May 26, 2016, the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Minister for Métis Children & Families Daniel Pitman and MNBC staff welcomed BC Minister for Children & Family Development Stephanie Cadieux, BC Ministry staff members Debbie MacLean and Denise Devenney, and Métis Commission for Children and Family Services (MCCFS) in BC, Executive Director Eva Cole for a meeting and brief tour.

The meetings focus was to see how MNBC, MCCFS and the province can strengthen the working relationships between MNBC and Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to improve outcomes for Métis children and youth in care.

“It was a very positive and productive meeting” said Minister Pitman. “We are working very hard to make a difference in the lives of Métis children and youth in care and we feel very good about the dialogue and are confident it has improved our relationship moving forward in working in the best interest of these children and youth.”

MNBC looks forward to a follow-up meeting with the province and the renewal of the MOU between MCFD, MCCFS and MNBC.

— Source: Métis Nation British Columbia

## ■ Alberta

The Métis community in northern Alberta is hosting several families from Newfoundland and Labrador displaced by wildfires near Fort McMurray, deepening a bond that already existed between the two groups.

“Kikino means ‘our home’ so we welcome people to our home,” said Dave Thompson, manager at Kikino Silver Birch Resort and Campground.

Thompson said the lakeside resort, about a three hours’ drive south of Fort McMurray, was already popular with Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who like to be near the water. “They live similar to us. They hunt, they fish, they trap,” he said.

Many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who live in Fort McMurray have trailers at the resort, said Thompson, so when the evacuation order was issued he prepared for an onslaught of evacuees.

Thompson said so far, the Kikino community has hosted a dance for the evacuees, and cooked up a Jiggs dinner on Saturday.

Marvin and Holly Meintz are emotional talking about the support from Kikino residents.

“It’s overwhelming actually, the kindness of strangers.”

— Source: CBC News Newfoundland and Labrador

## ■ Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park is in Stewart Valley, about 50 kilometres north of Swift Current in southwest Saskatchewan. The serene surroundings of the park belie the fact that Saskatchewan Landing was once a bustling Métis river crossing.

But the story is there, from the Red River carts used to cross the river in the 1800s, to the ruts left by those carts, to the teepee rings, trails and Goodwin House.

Goodwin House, which was built in 1897 by Frank Goodwin—a former North West Mounted Police officer—is a large stone building that sits near the edge of the lake. Silversides says when the house was built, Saskatchewan Landing became more of a stopping area and the house a bit of a hotel. Twenty-five years ago, it was restored and turned into a visitor and interpretive centre.

Silversides says the area has been a very popular spot for hundreds of years and it’s easy to see why. “The history here is very interesting...the scenery, the countryside, you just don’t see that in too many places,” he said.

— Source: Owensoundsuntimes.com

## ■ Manitoba

On Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 17-year old Métis youth Kayleen McKay completed her goal of running 420 kilometers to raise money for Drag the Red. She began her journey in Duck Bay, Manitoba on April 30, 2016. Kayleen has ran an average of over 40 kilometers a day.

“We are very proud to see a young Métis Citizen making a difference in her community,” said Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand. “She is an inspiration to our Métis youth.”

In December of last year, Kayleen and her family lost a close family member to suicide. When the police could not recover the body, Drag the Red stepped in and searched the Red River until they found him.

She launched her fundraiser—Kayleen’s Run for Drag the Red—to honor her cousin and to give back to the volunteer group who helped her family. The money she is raising will go towards purchasing a new boat to be used whenever families need to search the Red River for clues on missing loved ones

— Source: Manitoba Métis Federation

## 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 MNO citizens living within the geographic territory of that council.

### UPCOMING ELECTIONS

MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council – June 25, 2016

MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council – June 26, 2016

MNO Great Lakes Métis Council – June 26, 2016

MNO Greenstone Métis Council – June 26, 2016

MNO North Channel Métis Council – June 26, 2016

MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council – June 26, 2016

MNO Chapleau Métis Council – July 10, 2016

MNO Ottawa Métis Council – July 10, 2016

MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council – July 11, 2016

## Building the MNO Team

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

### MADISON RAHAL

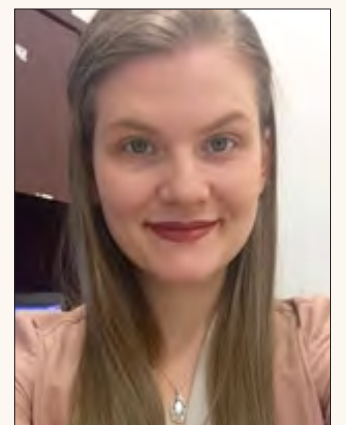
Policy Analyst  
Hamilton

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Madison Rahal to the position of Policy Analyst with the MNO Education and Training branch. She will be working out of the Hamilton office.

Madison is a recent graduate from the Public Administration program at Humber College. Prior to her graduate studies, she completed a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Criminal Justice and Public Policy at the University of Guelph. Her passion for Métis policy issues as well as being an active advocate for Métis rights will be an asset.

We are delighted that Madison is choosing to work with the MNO and are pleased to welcome her to the team!

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



Welcome to the team,  
Madison!



CELEBRATE WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# AGA 2016



THE 23<sup>RD</sup> MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY • AUGUST 27-29 • NORTH BAY, ONTARIO

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

The 2016 MNO AGA will be held in **North Bay** jointly hosted by the Region 5 MNO chartered community councils, which include the MNO North Bay, Mattawa and Sudbury Métis Councils.

The President and PCMNO's welcome to the AGA will be held the evening of Friday, August 26 with the arrival of the voyageur canoes at the Champlain Park. The formal AGA will begin on Saturday, August 27, continue all day Sunday before wrapping up around noon on Monday, August 29.

A short three and a half hour drive from Toronto or Ottawa, North Bay is a friendly and inviting city that is a popular year round destination. Offering plenty of activities, amenities and services to meet your needs, North Bay's vibrancy is only exceeded by its hospitality! The venues for the AGA include the Best Western North Bay Hotel and Conference Centre and the Travelodge North Bay Lakeshore. One of the highlights of this year's event will be a four and a half hour French River Boat Cruise by the Chief Commanda II Cruise, which will include a BBQ on board. ∞



Registration information as well as more details about the program will be available in the coming weeks. These will be available at:

**[metisnation.org/news-media/the-2016-mno-annual-general-assembly](http://metisnation.org/news-media/the-2016-mno-annual-general-assembly)**

## PCMNO Senator Elections

In accordance to the provisions on the MNO Electoral Code Part A, nominations are now being accepted from MNO Senators wishing to stand for election as one of the four Senators who sit on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO).

Current community council Senators as well as Senators currently serving on the PCMNO and any Senators who have previously held PCMNO Senator Positions and who are in attendance at the 2016 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) shall choose from among themselves the four Senators to sit on the PCMNO.

From among these four, one will be selected to become the Executive Senator who also sits on the PCMNO Executive Committee. Senators will be elected for a term of four years and only those Senators registered for the MNO 2016 AGA being held in North Bay may vote for those candidates nominated as a PCMNO Senator.

These ballot box elections will be held on **August 26, 2016** between **1:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M.** during the Senators Annual Meeting.

Nomination forms are available on the MNO website

([www.metsnation.org](http://www.metsnation.org)) in the AGA section and in the Senators section.

**Nominations close August 12, 2016 at 5:00 P.M. EST.**

## Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario Elections

In accordance to the provisions of the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) Terms of Reference nominations from MNO women citizens interested in standing for election as WSMNO representatives are now being accepted. Nominees must be women who have been verified as MNO citizens and have been residents of Ontario for a minimum of one year.

The committee of four women representatives will be elected for a term of four years by the women citizens of the MNO who are registered for the MNO 2016 Annual General Assembly being held in North Bay. These ballot box elections will be held on **August 26, 2016**, between

**3:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M.** during the WSMNO Annual Meeting.

Nomination forms are available on the MNO website

([www.metsnation.org](http://www.metsnation.org)) in the AGA section and in the WSMNO section.

**Nominations close August 12, 2016 at 5:00 P.M. EST.**

**Please send nominations to:**

Glen Lipinski  
500 Old St. Patrick Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 9G4

Fax: 613-722-4225  
[glenl@metisnation.org](mailto:glenl@metisnation.org)