

SPECIAL SECTION

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MÉTIS VOYAGEUR



MNO President Froh keeps
key election commitment

MNO launches
Commission on
Métis Rights &
Self-Government

See more on **page A3**



▲ Members of the recently announced Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government (left to right) Victor Brunelle, Karen Drake, Pearl Gabona, Senator Marlene Greenwood, Nelson Montreuil, Kim Powley, Paul Robitaille and MNO President Margaret Froh (above).

PRESIDENT
FROH & MÉTIS
YOUTH PADDLE
WITH JUSTIN
TRUDEAU



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10th ANNUAL
MÉTIS
HERITAGE
CELEBRATION



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From President Froh

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THE

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

OCTOBER 2016

Produced by the
Métis Nation of Ontario
Communications Branch:

Julie Cruikshank
Mike Fedyk
Sara Kelly
Marc St. Germain

Contributors:

Richard Aubin
Katie Baltzer
Rob Baskey
Tera Beaulieu
Alicia Blore
Wanda Botsford
Paula Bouchard
Jessica Boulard-Poirier
Jade Bourbonnière
Bridget Bowman
Rachelle Brunelle-McColl
Breton Burke
Clint Calder
Mitch Case
Shelly Claus
Urgel Courville
Terri-Lynn Dion
Craig Goyetche
Larry J. Ferris
Margaret Froh
Greg Garratt
Ron Gignac
Steve Gjos
Erin Hadaway
Leona Hass
Beth Honsberger
Anne Huguenin
Andrea Jibb
Alis Kennedy
Katelyn LaCroix
Christa Lemelin
Candace Lloyd
Micheline Marchand
Sarah Marusyk
Annik McBride
Rebecca Menard
Dr. Darrell Menard
Joanne Meyer
Benny Michaud
Mandy Montgomery
Linda Montsion
Bill Morrison
Joan Panizza
Joseph Paquette
Tim Pile
Jill Plaunt
Jordyn Playne
Joseph Poitras
Derrick Pont
Verna Porter-Brunelle
Jaylin Renaud
Pauline Richardson
Paul Robitaille
Amanda Pont-Shanks
Todd Ross
Storm Russell
Richard Sarrazin
Robin Simpson
Riley Smith
Anne Trudel
Brian Tucker
Jim Turner
Courtney Vaughan
Marie-Claire Vignola
Cecile Wagar

Submissions:

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

Publication #: PM40025265

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Sentor Reta Gordon retires from role as PCMNO Executive Senator

After 23 years of service working for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Senator Reta Gordon has retired from her role as PCMNO Executive Senator—a role she has served in since 2002.

Senator Gordon has been actively sharing her Métis culture since 1993. “She is one of the founding members of the MNO,” said MNO President Margaret Froh. “She was one of the couple of people that were working up in Tony Belcourt’s attic for several years setting the foundation for what it is that we have today.”

At the 2016 Annual General Assembly in North Bay, President Froh said a few words in tribute to Senator Gordon thanking her for her service:

Every year Senator Gordon “participates and represents the Métis Nation of Ontario in literally hundreds of events. I know that she is very very proud of her Métis heritage and

her culture. I know that she has been quite selfless in sharing that with people and all of the work that she has done,” said President Froh.

During her time with the MNO, Senator Gordon has represented the MNO at hundreds of gatherings from small intimate workshops to large conferences and events. She is always open to sharing her knowledge with audiences young and old. She takes seriously the need to educate and inform people about Métis culture and governance, and to explain what makes the Métis distinct among the three Indigenous peoples of Canada recognized in the Canadian Constitution.

“On behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario, I would like to personally thank Senator Gordon for her tremendous and selfless work that has helped propel the MNO into the great Nation that it is today.”

MNO President
Margaret Froh

One of the most memorable events of her career as Senator was joining then Governor General Michaëlle Jean and the Commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at Rideau Hall in 2009 for “Witnessing the Future,”—a poignant and emotional event that launched the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. During the event, Senator Gordon presented Governor General Jean with a Métis sash.

“On behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario, I would like to personally thank Senator Gordon for her tremendous and selfless work that has helped propel the MNO into the great Nation that it is today,” said President Froh.

Correction notices

In the June 2016 Métis Voyageur Issue No. 91, we made the following errors, which we take full responsibility for and would like to amend:

MNO council meets with MPP Lisa Gretzky



▲ MNO Windsor Essex Kent Council meet with MPP Lisa Gretzky. (Left to right: Matthew Bombardier, Donna Grayer, Katie Baltzer, Peter Rivers, Wilfred Rochon, Jon Rochon, Lisa Gretzky, MPP NDP, and Terry Dejadins.)
In this article, we included an incorrect photo caption; third from left is Katie Baltzer and not Sue Morency.

MNO council meets with Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell



▲ MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent (middle) and Senator Bill Morrison (left) present Lt. Gov. Dowdeswell (right) with a Métis sash. This article should have been credited to MNO Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) Senator Bill Morrison. We also posted a poorly cropped photo of MNO CRMC Senator Bill Morrison with MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent and Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell.

We apologize for the inconvenience and take full responsibility for these mistakes.

Submission Policy: The 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.

MÉTIS NATION of ONTARIO COMMISSION on Métis Rights & Self-Government

On August 27, 2016, during her State of the Nation address at the 2016 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) in North Bay, MNO President Margaret Froh announced the formation of the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government (the Commission). Establishing the Commission was one of President Froh's major commitments during the recent MNO general election.

President Froh announced the names of seven MNO citizens from across Ontario who will serve on the Commission. "Our Commissioners—four women and three men—come from across the province," explained President Froh, "and represent a good cross section of our citizens including our youth, elders, harvesters, as well as French and Michif language speakers. Their job is to help lead a forward-looking dialogue with our citizens on some key issues—Métis rights and self-government—to listen to citizens' voices and report back."

The Commissioners will consult and engage with MNO citizens in all 29 MNO communities across Ontario. They will encourage citizens to share their thoughts on the MNO's governance structures, including how these can better reflect Métis community, identity and culture, and how the MNO can move for-

ward on harvesting mobility and self-government.

"This is the ideal time for our Commission to undertake its work," stated President Froh, "the stars are indeed aligning for the Métis Nation – especially with the

April 2016 Supreme Court decision in *Daniels v. Canada* and the recent report from Tom Isaac, The Ministerial Special Representative on Métis Section 35 Rights. This is an important time for the Métis Nation. Working together, we will build on these opportunities to create an even stronger, healthier future for our people."

The Commission will begin its engagement session early in 2017, and complete the process by May 2017.

The Commissioners will issue a report of their findings and, working with the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario, present its findings and recommendations to the 2017 AGA. ∞

**"This is the
ideal time for
our Commission to
undertake
its work."**

MNO President **Margaret Froh**



▲ MNO President Margaret Froh announces the Commission at the 2016 AGA in North Bay.

COMMISSIONER'S Biographies

VICTOR BRUNELLE

Born and raised in Lafontaine, Ontario, a small community west of Midland, Victor Brunelle is a proud Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and descendant of the historic Drummond Island Métis community. Vic now lives in Huntsville—MNO Georgian Bay Region 7. Multilingual, Vic speaks French, English and some Michif. Married with three adult children and now many wonderful grandchildren, Vic worked for over 20 years in the construction business, eventually owning and operating his own business. Vic presently serves as Vice President of Rendezvous Lafontaine Complex—an adult retirement complex for people 55 years and over. Vic also has experience working with organizations such as Credit Union and the local government Parks and Recreation. Vic is an active volunteer and community member, having served for 15 years as a volunteer fireman. He greatly enjoys the outdoors and the traditional Métis way of life. A keen and active MNO Harvester, Vic takes great pride in his Métis heritage.



KAREN DRAKE

Karen Drake is an Assistant Professor at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law at Lakehead University and the Chair of the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council. Her teaching and research interests include Canadian law as it affects Aboriginal peoples, Métis law, and Anishinaabe law. She is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Lakehead Law Journal and was formerly Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Indigenous Law Journal. She previously clerked with the Ontario Court of Appeal and with the Federal Court and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Indigenous Bar Association.



PEARL GABONA

Pearl Gabona is a proud Métis woman whose family originated in Moon River. She prides herself on her involvement with her family as a wife, mother, grandmother and elder. Pearl has a passion for working with those with special needs. She has a grandson with autism and also volunteers as a respite worker for a child with fetal alcohol syndrome. As a retired police detective, Pearl has great empathy for, and experience working with, victims of sexual and physical abuse. She is a pioneer of women in law enforcement. Pearl has served two terms on the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO). In her role as a member, she has participated in various conferences and seminars regarding violence against aboriginal women and women's issues. Pearl is a strong advocate for women's rights and Métis issues.



SENATOR MARLENE GREENWOOD

Senator Marlene Greenwood was born, raised and has lived in North Bay her entire life. She did not discover her Métis heritage until 1971, but quickly joined the Métis movement that same year. Prior to the formation of the MNO, she held several different positions with local Métis associations including President. She is also one of the MNO's earliest citizens—becoming a MNO citizen in 1994. Her late husband Norman Green was also an MNO citizen before his passing in 1995. She is currently a Senator for the MNO North Bay Métis Council—a position she has held since 1997. In 2012, she received the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award. Senator Greenwood has two grown sons, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



NELSON MONTREUIL

Nelson Montreuil became an MNO citizen in 1996 and was instrumental in re-starting the MNO Mattawa Métis Council (MMC) in 2008. He has been President of the MNO MMC ever since. Nelson's family was identified in the Mattawa Report as one of the root Métis families in the region. His great-grandfather was identified as a Métis guide in 1903 and his grandfather was a cedar strip canoe builder and a trapper. Nelson continues the family tradition and has maintained a 100 square mile registered trap line since he was a child. Nelson is also a canoe builder, guide and owner/operator of Algonquin North Wilderness Outfitters. He was a canoe instructor for 15 years and is a trapper and gun and hunting instructor. As an MNO Harvester, he has a deep interest in Harvesting issues. Nelson is also a strong supporter of Métis youth and regularly gives trapping workshops to MNO Captains of the Hunt and at events such as the annual Infinite Reach March Break Camp. Nelson retired last year after 35 years with Dupont as a Manager. He is married with two children and has three grandchildren.



KIM POWLEY

Kim Powley is a very well-known and proud MNO citizen. She is also the daughter of Steve and Brenda Powley. Kim is a very active member of the MNO, both as a volunteer and an elected representative. She currently serves as the President of the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council. Kim has a passion for the outdoors and fishing, although she says she usually catches more sun rays than fish! Kim spent her summer visiting remote and isolated communities in the North as part of her work with Census Canada.



PAUL ROBITAILLE

Paul Robitaille holds a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science from McMaster University and a Forest Technician Diploma and Certificate in Aboriginal-Canadian Relations from Confederation College. Paul is now completing a Master's Degree in Forestry at Lakehead University, exploring methods of building collaboration both within and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities within Ontario's natural resource sector.



Paul is actively involved within the MNO, serving as an Infinite Reach Facilitator, Youth Representative on the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council and now, as the Region 2 Representative on the MNO's Youth Council. Paul also represents the Region 2 Consultation Committee in forestry-related consultation matters—working with both industry proponents and provincial administrators, developing opportunities for MNO citizens to meaningfully engage in lands and resources issues. He also ensures that Métis Rights are respected and upheld as development occurs and that the benefits and opportunities associated with resource development are shared equitably with and among Métis peoples.

Paul is excited to bring a youth perspective to the Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government and to working with each of the MNO's communities and constituencies to develop collaborative processes that will benefit our entire Nation, now and into the future.



Message from MNO President Froh

Powley Day

The following Powley Day message was issued by MNO President Margaret Froh on September 16, 2016:

Every year on September 19th, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Métis communities across the province mark Powley Day to remember the decade long fight led by the MNO with Steve and Roddy Powley for recognition of Métis harvesting rights in the *R. v. Powley* case.

In its landmark, unanimous decision issued on September 19, 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada declared that Steve and Roddy Powley, as members of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community, had the Métis right to harvest and that this right is protected under section 35 of *The Constitution Act, 1982*. This was the first decision from Canada's highest court that recognized the Métis have "full status as distinctive rights-bearing peoples," a characteristic they share with First Nations and Inuit peoples of Canada.

Powley Day recognizes this groundbreaking decision that ushered in a whole new era of Métis rights in Ontario and across the Métis Homeland. This year's celebration of Powley Day is special in that it comes on the heels of the recent Supreme Court decision in the Daniels case, which has finally dealt with the issue of federal jurisdiction with regard to the Métis; the commitments made by the Trudeau government to engage with the Métis Nation on a nation-to-nation basis; and the recent report issued by Special Ministerial Representative Tom Isaac, *A Matter of National and Constitutional Import*, which sets out a road map for establishing a reconciliation framework for s.35 Métis rights.

Especially important at this time of the year are Métis harvesting rights, which are accommodated by the Province of Ontario through our *Harvesting Agreement*.

This fall, as our citizens participate in the harvest or in MNO community council events celebrating the harvest season, I encourage you to take a mo-

ment to reflect on how the Powley decision has raised the profile of the Métis and contributed to the recognition of our rights as a distinct Aboriginal peoples within Canada. The affirmation of the Métis right to harvest is a component critical to the rich fabric that defines Métis culture. Our commitment to conservation and our responsibilities as stewards of the lands and waters is another key component of our Métis culture and exercise of those rights.

Powley Day also provides MNO citizens with the opportunity to reflect with pride on the many momentous and historic achievements we have made -- working together -- through the MNO. The Powley decision was a crucial victory for Métis rights, and since then we have seen many other successes such as those noted previously including the *Harvesting Agreement*, the Daniels decision, the *MNO Secretariat Act*, the renewed *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*, numerous other agreements with government and industry, and the Isaac Report which acknowledged these achievements in its recognition of the MNO as a Métis government.

The pursuit for full recognition of Métis rights continues, and there is still much work to be done. The recently announced MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government will play a vital role in ensuring that all of our citizens have a voice on these critical issues as we chart a way forward for the future of our nation.

We will continue to report progress and movement as it occurs; however, each of us must continue to work together to advance reconciliation and the MNO's Métis rights agenda. The work ahead of us is great and the journey will be long and hard fought, but on September 19, please take a moment to celebrate your Métis culture and heritage, and remember Steve, Roddy and the Powley family for their personal sacrifice and commitment to the ongoing fight for Métis rights. ∞



M. Margaret Froh
President
Métis Nation of Ontario



NATION

Ministerial Special Representative's Report on Métis
Section 35 Rights sets stage for Nation-to-Nation
discussions with Canada

Ontario Métis applaud Isaac Report

On July 21, 2016, on behalf of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens and Métis communities from across Ontario, MNO President Margaret Froh offered her thanks and appreciation to Tom Isaac—Canada's Ministerial Special Representative (MSR) on Métis Section 35 Rights—for his helpful and thorough report on how to advance reconciliation with the Métis Nation.

by
MNO Staff

Mr. Isaac's report, entitled, "A Matter of National and Constitutional Import" was publicly released today and comes after he was appointed in June 2015 to meet with the MNO, other Métis Nation governments, provinces, territories and other interested parties in order to assess the current state of affairs and provide independent advice and recommendations on a "way forward" on Métis Section 35 Rights. A copy of the report and a summary document prepared by the MNO is available at www.metisnation.org.

"The MNO commends Mr. Isaac for his important work. As the home of the first and only Supreme Court of Canada decision—*R. v. Powley*—that has recognized Section 35 Métis Rights, this report is extremely important to the MNO who advanced this landmark Métis harvesting rights litigation on behalf of the Métis community in the Sault Ste. Marie region from 1993 to 2003. It is also gratifying that Mr. Isaac's report recognizes the MNO as a 'Métis government' and a leader on advancing Métis rights across the Métis Nation," said MNO President Froh.

Specifically, Mr. Isaac finds that "[a]n example of a Métis government being duly authorized by its members can be found in how the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was established and functions." Mr. Isaac goes on to note the MNO's centralized Registry as a means to identify Section 35 Rights-Holders, the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*, the MNO's "comprehensive Métis hunting policy," the passage of the *MNO Secretariat Act* by the Ontario legislature, and the *MNO-Canada Consultation Agreement*, as positive examples of what can be achieved when Métis and other levels of government work together. (MSR Report, pp. 14, 21, 22)

Mr. Isaac's report makes 17 recommendations and includes key findings that should guide future federal action on Métis Section 35 Rights issues, including, the need for:

- the development of a Section 35 Métis Rights Framework that will be implemented with Métis communities who meet the legal framework set out in the *Powley*

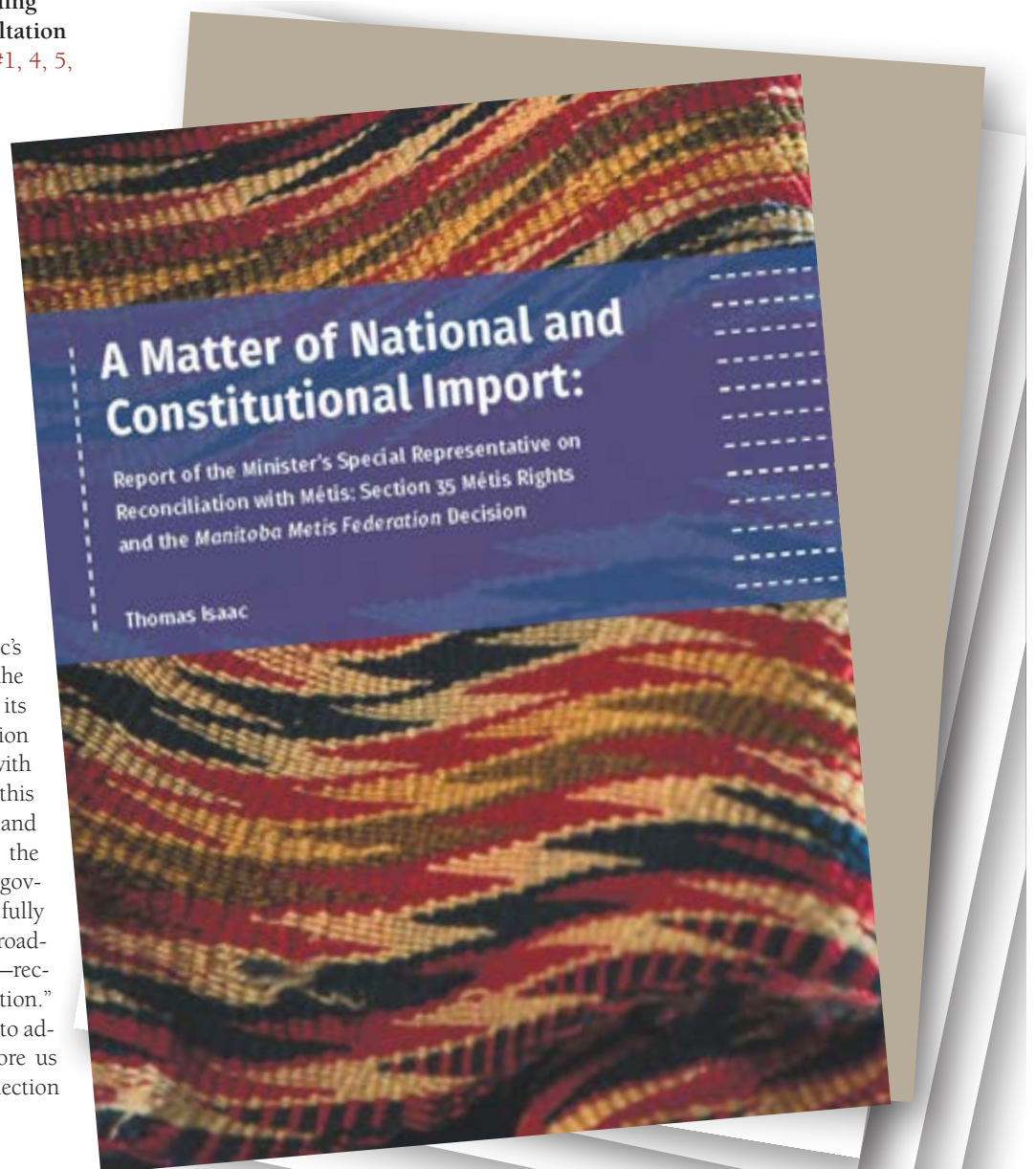
- case. (Recommendation #16)
- Métis inclusion within existing federal claims processes available to other Aboriginal peoples or the development of a new Métis-specific claims process to address unresolved Métis claims like the "Treaty 3 [Halbreed] Adhesion" and other breached Crown promises to the Métis. (Recommendation #9)
- a 'whole-of-government' approach for improved information and knowledge about the Métis and Métis Section 35 Rights amongst federal officials and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada regional offices, including improving Crown-Métis consultation processes. (Recommendations #1, 4, 5, 10, 11)
- timely, stable and long-term federal funding to support Métis governments like the MNO, including permanent support for the MNO centralized Registry. (Recommendations #2, 6)
- a comprehensive review of existing federal programs and services available to Indigenous peoples as well as all future federal initiatives to ensure they deal with the Métis distinctly and equitably. (Recommendation #3)

President Froh added, "Mr. Isaac's report and recommendations set the stage for Canada to move forward on its commitment to advance reconciliation and a nation-to-nation relationship with the Métis Nation. Within Ontario, this will be achieved through discussions and negotiations between Canada and the MNO as the regional Métis Nation government in this province. The MNO fully endorses Mr. Isaac's rights-based "road-map," which focuses on the three R's—recognition, relationships and reconciliation."

"In the next few months, in order to address the exciting opportunities before us and follow through on my recent election

campaign commitment, the MNO will be initiating province-wide consultations under a Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government to engage our citizens and communities at the grassroots level on Mr. Isaac's report, the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the Daniels case, emerging issues on Métis harvesting rights and how the MNO further advances Métis self-government in Ontario," concluded President Froh. ∞

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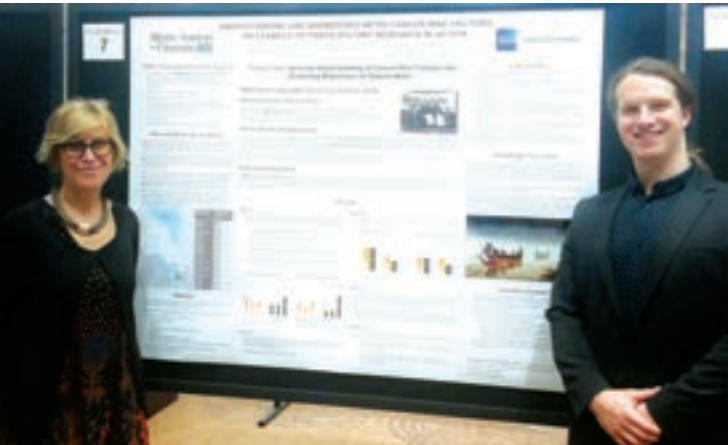


MNO presents at Canadian Public Health Association Conference

submitted by
Storm Russell, MNO Senior Policy Analyst

This year saw the fifth consecutive year in which Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) researchers presented findings from MNO’s substantial program of collaborative research at the annual Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) Conference. The 2016 conference, entitled Public Health 2016, was held at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto from June 13 to 16. The conference attracted researchers, policy-makers, administrators, managers, front-line health workers, and students from across Canada and internationally, as well as media with an interest in public health.

MNO presentations this year focused on a study conducted in 2015 in collaboration with lead investigator Dr. Loraine Marrett from Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), which examined cancer risk factors, and a second intervention study carried out by Dr. Martin Cooke (University of Waterloo) and Dr. Piotr Wilke (University of Western Ontario) in partnership with the MNO and other colleagues. This study examined the capacity of local health systems to respond effectively to the needs of Métis and other Indigenous children who are at risk of, or experiencing, childhood overweight and obesity. ∞



▲ MNO Senior Policy Analyst Dr. Storm Russell (left) and MNO Policy Analyst Cody Carmody (right) in front of the MNO poster showcasing MNO’s participatory approach to research and knowledge translation, along with findings from the 2015 MNO-CCO cancer risk factors study *Cancer in the Métis People of Ontario: Risk Factors and Screening Behaviours*.

MNO signs new partnership agreement with ICES

The Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) welcomed members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) for a meeting at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto to sign a new data governance and partnership agreement on July 13.

In attendance were Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Senator Joseph Poitras, who opened the proceedings with a prayer and MNO President Margaret Froh, who signed the agreement. Also speaking were Dr. Storm Russell, MNO Senior Policy and Research Analyst and Dr. Jennifer Walker, an ICES core scientist who together with Dr. David Henry and Saba Khan have been instrumental in guiding this research.

“I am delighted to be here today to sign this Agreement, which represents yet another important milestone in our very successful partnership with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences,” said President Froh. “This collaboration has spanned almost a decade, and produced a landmark series of studies on chronic disease among the Métis people of Ontario, which has greatly informed not only our work at the MNO but that of our provincial partners and beyond.”

Also according to President Froh: “Métis-specific data is still significantly lacking, not only in health, but in the areas of justice, child welfare, education, employment – the broader social determinants of health and well-being. In many cases the data is simply not there. Such data is crucial for evidence-based policy development and decision making and for targeting resources and interventions to where they will be most effective.”



▲ MNO President Margaret Froh (right) and ICES President and CEO Michael Schull (left) signed a new data governance and partnership agreement.

“This collaboration has spanned almost a decade, and produced a landmark series of studies on chronic disease among the Métis people of Ontario.”

MNO President
Margaret Froh

“The ongoing research we are doing with ICES is doing much to address these gaps and to inform our collective programming and evaluation efforts. The data governance and partnership agreement we are signing provides the essen-

tial foundation for this important work moving forward,” concluded President Froh.

“All of us at ICES are honoured to have helped the Métis Nation of Ontario begin to tell the story of Métis population health in Ontario,” said Michael Schull, President and CEO of ICES. “Together, ICES and the Métis Nation of Ontario have a strong collaboration, which, since 2009, has produced Métis-specific information about a wide range of chronic diseases, always in close partnership. The agreement signed today will further advance our collaboration and confirm our shared commitment to capacity building so that we can continue to move forward with the Métis Nation of Ontario in the use of administrative health data to support the health and well-being of MNO citizens.” ∞

Action-oriented path to prevention for chronic diseases among Indigenous peoples

by
MNO Staff

On June 15, 2016, in Toronto, Cancer Care Ontario’s Aboriginal Cancer Control Unit launched *Path to Prevention—Recommendations for Reducing Chronic Disease in First Nations, Inuit and Métis*, a report developed in collaboration with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. Recommendations in the report address the four key chronic disease risk factors: healthy eating, physical activity, smoking and alcohol, within themes of equity and collaboration with Indigenous peoples.

The report cites established data that indicates that Indigenous populations suffer from occurrences of chronic diseases at much higher rates than non-Indigenous populations and focuses its recommendations on how to improve this situation through preventative measures. The report recommends strategies, policies and initiatives

that address the many health challenges and high burden of chronic diseases faced by Indigenous communities. The recommendations are focused on creating environments in which First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples can make healthy choices. Given the many challenges of First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth, recommendations will also help address their needs to increase or improve access to recreation and sporting opportunities. Governments can support the efforts of individuals, families and communities and address gaps in the health system.

Speaking at the launch, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh stated: “The notion of having a path to prevention for chronic disease is critical,” and added that “with an action-orientated approach, we can start to turn this ship around.”

Also present at the launch was Dr. Michael Sherar, President and CEO of Cancer Care Ontario (CCO). Dr. Sherar signed a Memo-



▲ MNO President Margaret Froh (centre) with Dr. Michael Sherar (left), President and CEO of Cancer Care Ontario and Dr. Linda Rabeneck (right), Vice-President of Prevention and Cancer Control with Cancer Care Ontario at the launch of the *Path to Prevention* report.

randum of Understanding between the MNO and CCO in February 2015.

Over the last several years, the MNO working with other partners including Cancer Care Ontario, the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Institute for Clinical Evalu-

ative Sciences have produced a number of ground-breaking reports on chronic diseases within the Métis population in Ontario. Much of this research demonstrated the potential value of prevention as a way of reducing the negative impact of chronic diseases on Métis people.

“The MNO is pleased with the positive direction recommended by the *Path to Prevention* report,” stated President Froh, “and look forward to continue working with Cancer Care Ontario and our other partners to make these recommendations a reality.” ∞



▲ MNO President Froh, Chair Picotte and MNO officials met with Premier Wynne, Minister Zimmer and Ontario officials on September 23, 2016.

President Froh holds first official meeting with Premier Wynne

by
MNO Staff

On September 23 at Queen's Park in Toronto, a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) delegation led by MNO President Margaret Froh and including MNO Chair France Picotte, MNO Acting Chief Operating Officer Wenda Watteyne, MNO Intergovernmental Relations Director Joanne Meyer and MNO Special Advisor on Tripartite Todd Ross met with Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Minister David Zimmer and Deputy Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Minister Deborah Richardson.

The annual meeting provides MNO with the opportunity to discuss its relationship with Ontario on key issues including advancing Métis rights, and to review past successes, ongoing cooperation and upcoming areas of common interest. "The positive tone of this meeting, like those of the past, underscores the great benefits of working together in the spirit of reconciliation" commented President Froh.

Key discussion points included a review of the objectives of the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement* that had been renewed in 2014 for another five years. "The *Framework Agreement*," stated President Froh, "continues to be the foundation of our strong relationship with Ontario and outlines clearly where our two governments will collaborate for the benefit of Métis people and communities, and Ontario as a

whole."

As the first official meeting with the Premier, this meeting provided the opportunity for President Froh to set a future agenda with Ontario as we advance the reconciliation process in light of the recent Supreme Court decision in *Daniels v Canada*, the Report of the Special Ministerial Representative on Métis Section 35 Rights as well as Ontario's commitments to reconciliation outlined in its response to the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report. "With all these exciting recent developments the stars are truly aligning for the Métis Nation. We are pleased that the Ontario government continues to be a strong partner as we face the many complex elements surrounding reconciliation," said President Froh.

"As these meetings take place at



▲ (left to right) Premier Kathleen Wynne, MNO President Margaret Froh, Minister David Zimmer and MNO Chair France Picotte.

the highest level," concluded President Froh, "they provide the direction necessary to ensure continued progress on a whole range of issues important to Métis in this province. We look forward to continuing our work with Premier Wynne and her government to advance reconciliation in Ontario for the betterment of Métis children, families and communities, and for all Ontarians." ∞

“
The positive tone of this meeting, like those of the past, underscores the great benefits of working together in the spirit of reconciliation.”

MNO President **Margaret Froh**

Métis National Council General Assembly ∞ Winnipeg, Manitoba

Voice of Ontario Métis heard on national level

PCMNO joins other Métis Nation leaders from across the Homeland

by MNO Staff

The weekend of June 17-18 was a big one for the Métis Nation as the leaders of all five of the Métis National Council's (MNC) governing members visited Winnipeg, Manitoba for the MNC General Assembly. Here the members of the recently elected Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) joined their colleagues from the Métis Nation British Columbia; the Métis Nation of Alberta; Métis Nation – Saskatchewan; and the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) in discussions about issues crucial to the entire Métis Nation.

"The PCMNO went to Winnipeg to ensure that the voice of Ontario Métis was heard on a national level," explained Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh, "the recent Daniels decision will most assuredly make relations between Canada and the Métis Nation increasingly critical and the MNO puts Ontario issues on the national agenda," she added.

Besides President Froh, PCMNO members who attended as voting delegates included Chair France Picotte, Vice-Chair Sharon McBride, Secretary Treasurer Tim Pile and Executive Senator Reta Gordon.

Also in attendance as observers were PCMNO Regional Councillors Theresa Stenlund (Region 1), Marcel Lafrance (3), Ernie Gatien (4), Tom Thompson (6), Pauline Richardson (7), Anita Tucker (8) as well as Post-secondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix, Youth Representative Mitch Case and PCMNO Senators Joseph Poitras and Verna Porter-Brunelle.

PCMNO members participate in a whirlwind of activities during the MNC General Assembly. In addition to General Assembly business on June 17-18, PCMNO members also participated in a Métis Nation Constitution Convention on June 16 where they contributed to discussions around the latest version of a proposed Métis National Council (MNC) constitution. During the morning of June 16, delegates heard from Tom Isaac, the Ministerial Special Representative to Lead Engagement with Métis. Isaac was appointed in June 2015 and since then has met with Métis, provincial and territorial governments in order to recommend a way forward for Canada-Métis Nation engagement. Isaac's report was released on July 21 (see page A5 for the full story). "In light of not only Daniels, but also the recent agreement between Canada and the MMF and the campaign commitments made to the Métis Nation by the current govern-

ment, Tom Isaac's recommendations will likely have significant impact on future Canada-Métis Nation relations," commented President Froh.

MNC delegates also heard from the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs. Minister Bennett reviewed the government's commitment to the Métis Nation made in the last election and the progress so far in fulfilling these commitments.

Following the conclusion of the General Assembly on June 18, PCMNO members participated in a Métis Nation Symposium where different panels of speakers lead a discussion about the "Emergence of the Métis Nation." Panelists included Jean Teillet, well-known Métis lawyer who was lead counsel on the historic Powley Case and Dr. Brenda McDougall, Chair of Métis Research at the University of Ottawa.

Propitiously, the MNC General Assembly fell on the same weekend as the commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Seven Oaks. The Battle of Seven Oaks played a crucial role in the development of the Métis Nation. During the Pemman Wars between the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) and the Northwest Company, Métis under the leadership of Cuthbert Grant defeated HBC forces at Seven Oaks, which is an early example of the Métis coming together to protect their national interest. PCMNO members attended ceremonies at the Cuthbert Grant gravesite, Grant's Old Mill Museum and Battle of Seven Oaks National Historic Site.

The MNC General Assembly was a valuable opportunity for the PCMNO to represent the interests of Ontario Métis within the Métis Nation as well as network with their fellow Métis leaders. In this way, not only do MNO citizens benefit but all the citizens of the Métis Nation. ∞

The PCMNO went to Winnipeg to ensure that the voice of Ontario Métis was heard on a national level. The recent Daniels decision will most assuredly make relations between Canada and the Métis Nation increasingly critical."

MNO President
Margaret Froh



▲ PCMNO members at the MNC General Assembly (back: left to right) Marcel Lafrance, Tom Thompson, Executive Senator Reta Gordon, Theresa Stenlund, Pauline Richardson, Chair France Picotte, Anita Tucker, President Margaret Froh, Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle, Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau, Senator Joe Poitras, Ernie Gatien and Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile. Front: Mitch Case and Katelyn LaCroix (Picture courtesy of MNC).



▲ The MNO's voting delegates at the MNC General Assembly: (Left to right) Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau, President Margaret Froh, Chair France Picotte and Executive Senator Reta Gordon (picture courtesy of MNC).



▲ MNO President Margaret Froh (L) with Métis Nation BC President Bruce Dumont (centre) and Métis National Council President Clément Chartier (right).



PHOTO: THE CANADIAN PRESS/ SEAN KILPATRICK

▲ This year on National Aboriginal Day, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau paddles a traditional voyageur canoe with members of past MNO Canoe Expeditions.

President Froh and Métis youth paddle with Prime Minister Trudeau

by
MNO Staff

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was front and centre at National Aboriginal Day ceremonies in Ottawa this year. MNO President Margaret Froh joined other Indigenous leaders with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett in Voyageur canoes that were launched on the Ottawa River. Paddling with the Prime Minister were eight former members of MNO Voyageur Canoe Expeditions: Kyle Grenier, Kyle Burton, Geneviève Routhier, Josh Szajewski, Gerald Lavallee, Amilia DiChiara, Emily Ingram and Heather Bunn. These Métis youth were joined by four other Indigenous youth: Alexandre Dumais (First Nations); Danielle Ward (First Nations); Jesse Oolateea (Inuit); and Robert Adamie Akpik (Inuit).

President Froh joined other Indigenous leaders and Minister Bennett, Minister of Justice Jody Wilson-Raybould, Senator Lillian Dyck, House of Commons Speaker Geoff Regan and Parliamentary Secretary Yvonne Jones in a second canoe. The other Indigenous leaders with President Froh were Métis National

Council President Clément Chartier, Native Women’s Association of Canada President Dawn Lavell-Harvard and Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, Morley Googoo.

The Voyageur canoe event was the Métis element in National Aboriginal Day events in Ottawa. “It is unprecedented for the Prime Minister to take such an active part in National Aboriginal Day programs and it is very gratifying that there is a distinct Métis element in the commemorations,” commented MNO President Froh.

The canoe event was preceded by a Sunrise Ceremony at the Canadian Museum of History with a breakfast served afterwards. MNO Executive Senator Reta Gordon provided the opening prayer at the breakfast and entertainment included Métis jigger Jaime Koebel.

In addition to these exciting events, three MNO youth, PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case, PCMNO Postsecondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix and MNO Youth Council Region 1 Representative Kelly Duquette are among 12 Indigenous youth from across Canada who made presentations to the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples later that day. All the Métis youth who presented to the Senate Committee are MNO citizens.(see page A11 for full story).



▲ President Froh and Prime Minister Trudeau pose for a photo with members of the past MNO Canoe Expeditions.



▲ President Froh greets Prime Minister Trudeau.



▲ (L-R) PCMNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, Dean of Lakehead's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law Angelique EagleWoman and Senator Murray Sinclair who was the Chair of the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

PCMNO member congratulates Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law graduates

submitted by
Tim Pile
PCMNO Secretary-Treasurer

On May 27, 2016, PCMNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile brought greetings from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) at Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law 2016 Aboriginal Law Student Convocation. A full copy of Secretary-Treasurer Pile's remarks follow below:

Good Morning and welcome to the first Aboriginal Law Student Convocation at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law. My name is Tim Pile and I am the Secretary-Treasurer for the Métis Nation of Ontario. I bring greetings on behalf of our new President Margaret Froh, the [MNO] Thunder Bay Métis Council and Regional Councilor [for Region 2] Cameron

Burgess. I would like to acknowledge the Elder Isabell Mercier—thank you for your prayer, Chief Collins from Fort William First Nation, Dean EagleWoman, special guest speakers and of course, you, the graduating Law students of Lakehead University. The MNO has been a major supporter of the development of the Lakehead Law School—how we supported the initial applications to establish it and have continued to build a relationship with them through our support of their Indigenous Advisory Committee. The Métis Nation of Ontario supported the existence of a new law school in northern Ontario; a law school that would provide legal services in remote and rural settings. It is essential that we graduate professionals who have the knowledge, skills, competencies, and humility to provide legal services

adapted to the needs of the northern communities. How happy we are to see this first class graduating. Realizing the dream of a northern law school. Realizing that you invested your time and money into a new law school forging a path for others to follow. Congratulations to all of the grads and I wish you well as you continue on your journey. I encourage you to stay in the north as there is a need and place for you in our northern communities. MNO President Froh passes on her regrets and her very best to all the graduates. Congratulations to Dean Eagle Woman and the entire faculty. In closing, I would like to thank the students. Have a great Convocation and enjoy the day; you all deserve it! Marsee, Meegwetch, Thank you. ∞



▲ The Right Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell with MNO President Margaret Froh at their meeting on June 20, 2016.

President Froh meets with Lt. Governor Dowdeswell

by
MNO Staff

On June 20, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh met for the first time as MNO President with the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Right Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell. The meeting was very cordial with President Froh taking the opportunity to update her Honour on the recent successes of the MNO and the Métis rights agenda. In the last year the MNO and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor have developed a strong and positive relationship. Her Honour spoke at the 2015 provincial Louis Riel Day ceremonies, which was the first time that an Ontario Lieutenant Governor participated in Louis Riel Day events. ∞



▲ (L-R) Back row: Steve Black, Mayor of Timmins; Alan Spacek, President of The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities; Al McDonald, Mayor of North Bay; the Honourable Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy; Wendy Landry, Mayor of Shuniah; and Brian Bigger, Mayor of Sudbury. Front row: France Picotte, MNO Chair; and the Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

MNO Chair attends Northern Leaders Dialogue

submitted by
Joanne Meyer
MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations

On June 28, 2016, MNO Chair France Picotte attended the Northern Leader's Dialogue meeting in Sudbury. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. The Ontario government recognizes the necessity of working with partners across the North in developing effective strategies for economic growth across this region. As such, the engagement of northern municipal, Indigenous and community leaders is vital in the continued implementation of the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario. This meeting allowed partners to work collaboratively for the greater benefit of the

people of northern Ontario. Chair Picotte's participation in the meeting provided the MNO with a valuable opportunity to network and educate other northern leaders about Métis issues. This year's meeting included constructive dialogue on many key topics with strong linkages to the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario. Other key topics included: Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan; inter-community bus modernization; Ontario's Mineral Development Strategy; the province's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report; and the regional economic development and investment efforts of Ontario's North Economic Development Corporation. The meeting was very successful and provided an opportunity to share perspectives and identify opportunities for collaboration. ∞



▲ Members of the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples and Indigenous youth from across Canada who addressed the Committee on June 21, 2016: Front row: Maatalii Okalik, Pangnirtung, Nunavut; Senator Lillian Dyck, Saskatchewan; Shelby Angalik, Arviat, Nunavut; Kelly Duquette, Atikokan. Middle row: Senator Murray Sinclair, Manitoba; Justin “Jah’kota” Holness, Winnipeg, Manitoba; Senator Lynn Beyak, Ontario; Katelyn LaCroix, Penetanguishene; Senator Nancy Greene Raine, BC; Jenna Burke, Charlottetown, PEI. Back row: Mitch Case, Sault Ste.Marie; Senator Victor Oh, Ontario; Alehtea Arnaquq-Baril, Iqaluit, Nunavut; Tenille McDougall, Fort Macleod, Alberta; Willie Sellars, Williams Lake, BC; Senator Dennis Patterson, Nunavut; Senator Scott Tannas, Alberta

National Aboriginal Day • June 19

Voices of Métis youth heard in Parliament

by
MNO Staff

On National Aboriginal Day on June 21 this year, three Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) youth participated in day-long activities on Parliament Hill prior to making presentations to the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples. MNO President Margaret Froh, after a busy morning launching National Aboriginal Day with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, accompanied the youth to the Senate and had the opportunity to watch them each make their presentations to the Committee.

The three MNO youth were Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Youth Representative Mitch Case, PCMNO Postsecondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix and MNO Youth Council Region 1 Representative Kelly Duquette. They were part of a group of 14 Indigenous youth representing Métis, First Nations and Inuit youth from across Canada. The three MNO youth were the full Métis contingent at the meeting.

“The fact that three of our Ontario Métis youth participated in this important day and made pre-

sentations to the Senate Committee is a testament to the leadership our Ontario Métis youth consistently demonstrate,” commented President Froh.

Activities for the young people started the evening of June 20 with a meet and greet hosted by Senator Murray Sinclair, who had previously chaired the historic Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The next day started bright and early at 8:30 am with the youth being whisked through a series of meetings with the Senate Speaker and the government and opposition leaders in the Senate, as well as tours of the Parliament. They also attended the National Aboriginal Day reception hosted by several Indigenous Members of Parliament. The highlight of the visit however were the presentations made by the youth to the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee is a group of Senators who examine bills and carry out studies in areas that impact Indigenous Peoples. It is chaired by Senator Lillian Dyck, a member of the Gordon First Nation in Saskatchewan, and deputy chaired by Senator Dennis Patterson from Nunavut. In their presentations the youth had been asked to speak about their own background



The fact that three of our Ontario Métis youth participated in this important day and made presentations to the Senate Committee is a testament to the leadership our Ontario Métis youth consistently demonstrate.”

MNO President
Margaret Froh

and explain how their culture influenced their path in life. They were also asked to speak about the support they receive from their communities and their future plans.

Representative Duquette, who recently completed her Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Ottawa told the Senators that she had not been aware of her Métis heritage until she was 12 years old. She said that after learning about her Métis heritage: “I wondered why my ancestors had kept their identity a secret for so long and why it was so crucial for our identity and our people. These questions became motivating forces for behind my involvement in the Métis community and they also influenced my field of studies.”

Representative Duquette explained further to the Senators that as she learned more about her Métis heritage: “I began to understand how my story fitted into the larger [Métis] narrative ... I have used art as my platform and as a way of teaching others about my culture and experiences as a new generation Métis.”

Representative LaCroix related a similar experience to Representative Duquette in that she did not become cognisant of her Métis background until she was 16 years

old. “I thank the Creator every day that I did find it,” she stated, “it has become a big part of who I am.”

Representative LaCroix explained that her involvement in a number of MNO youth programs have helped her connect with her Métis culture. At various times Representative LaCroix has been a MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program Facilitator; part of the MNO Infinite Reach Student Solidarity Network, and a Youth Representative on both her local community council and the MNO Youth Council.

Now as the PCMNO Postsecondary Representative she indicated her priorities included: “. . . increasing and diversifying the funding opportunities for Métis youth and obtaining more mental health support and wellness programs for students; especially during the transition phase.” She went on to explain: “Many of our [Métis] students have to move away from their home communities [to go obtain postsecondary education] and it is a bit of a culture shock. So, it is important to have supports there for transitions to university.

Representative Case provided the Senators with a history of the

Continued on page A12

MNO offers full support to National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women



by
MNO Staff

On August 3, 2016, on behalf of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens and Métis communities from across Ontario, MNO President Margaret Froh commends the Government of Canada for launching an independent national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The inquiry is set to begin September 1, 2016 and will run until December 31, 2018.

It is very clear that momentum has been building in our communities and across Canada in the last few years to address violence that has affected Métis, First Nations and Inuit peoples,” said President Froh. “The MNO has participated in the pre-inquiry process towards a national inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Now that the inquiry has officially begun, our support and commitment to this important cause will remain constant and unwavering. We will continue to work with all parties to ensure that Métis families and voices are present in all stages of the inquiry.”

“Today’s announcement marks more than a decade of hard work and public education by families and the organizations that support them, and we want to acknowledge all those that have contributed to getting us this far,” said Sharon Cadeau, Chair of the Women’s Secretariat of the MNO.

This announcement is a clear commitment by the Federal Government as well as all Provinces and Territories that ending violence

against Indigenous women and girls is a national priority and a Canadian issue. The Inquiry’s Terms of Reference are also historic as this is the first time all provinces and territories have signed onto an inquiry making it a truly national one. We look forward to the coming months when the Inquiry will be visiting communities and gathering evidence, ensuring that the MNO will be there.

The national inquiry will be led by British Columbia’s first female First Nations judge, Marion Buller, as Chief Commissioner. Buller will work alongside a five-member panel, which includes Marilyn Poitras—a Métis constitutional and Aboriginal law expert from the University of Saskatchewan. “We are very pleased with the appointment of Judge Buller, Marilyn Poitras, Brian Eyolfson and the other Commissioners on their appointments,” stated President Froh. “The commission will be undertaking a challenging and critical role on behalf of



We will continue to work with all parties to ensure that Métis families and voices are present in all stages of the inquiry.”

MNO President
Margaret Froh

all Canadians. We wish them, and all the families and communities that will be participating in the inquiry process, the best as this work of the inquiry moves forward.”

The commission will be responsible for examining the systemic causes of violence and will make recommendations on how to increase the safety of Indigenous women and girls in Canada. They will also make recommendations on how to commemorate missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. They will provide their recommendations to the Government of Canada in an interim report in fall 2017 and a final report in December 2018.

“It is imperative that Métis communities and Ontario ministries and agencies work together to support and rally behind the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The MNO has been a very active member of Ontario’s Joint Working Group on Indigenous Women, and is fully

committed to implementing *Walking Together: Ontario’s Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women*,” said President Froh. “The MNO offers many different programs and services aimed at preventing, addressing and ending violence against Métis women and children. I encourage any individuals or families that have felt the mental, physical, emotional and/or spiritual impacts of victimization to seek out our services.”

The MNO has long called for an end to gender-based violence that affects our communities through concrete actions, including with the unanimous 2014 AGA Resolution Calling for a National Inquiry on Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women, and the adoption of the *MNO Declaration to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women* (VAAW). As part of the MNO’s Honouring Métis Women education campaign, Métis communities host vigils, feasts and celebrations to honour Métis women, girls and Two-Spirit people who have experienced violence. ∞

Métis perspective an important part of Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples

Continued from page A11

Métis from Sault Ste. Marie’s involvement in the fur trade, the War of 1812 and the Battle of Seven Oaks. He also reminded the Senators of unfulfilled promises made to the Métis following the Robinson-Huron and Robinson-Superior Treaties in 1850: “Promises were made to protect our river lots; promises were made a year later to come and sign another treaty with us – that’s 167 some years later – we’re still waiting and we’re ready whenever you are,” he offered.

Speaking about the historic Powley case that started in Sault Ste. Marie, Representative Case explained: “In my lifetime my community was called upon to fight once again for our rights and our place in the world. Throughout my childhood two men from our community [Steve and Roddy Powley] were on trial; our community was on trial; in fact our entire nation was on trial.”

Representative Case explained: “The beautiful thing about this story is not only

did we win but that the truth prevailed. Not only did we prevail but the truth of history prevailed ... [the Supreme Court and other Courts] agreed with us that we are an Indigenous nation in North America with rights that had to be respected.”

“I share these stories with you not as a history lesson of the Métis in Sault Ste. Marie but as a lesson of what makes me who I am and what gives me the strength, courage and determination to do the work that I do,” he said.

Representative Case indicated that going forward: “One of the biggest issues is land claims and recognition of our right to land; our culture is land based and without access to land, we can’t embrace that.”

He also praised the other Indigenous youth that spoke to the Senators: “Every single person talked passionately about their community and they weren’t afraid to put what they were facing on the line. We have answers, and we want people to know that.”

After watching the Métis youth pres-



▲ President Froh with the MNO youth who spoke to the Senate Committee on Aboriginal peoples (left to right): President Froh, Kelly Duquette, Katelyn LaCroix and Mitch Case.

ent President Froh stated: “It was with great pride that I listened as our Métis youth represented the entire Métis Nation with passion and eloquence. They filled me with hope for our future.” ∞



▲ (L-R) Katelyn LaCroix, Kelly Duquette, and Mitch Case speak to the Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples.

Sault Ste. Marie Métis youth meet Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell

submitted by
Courtney Vaughan
MNO SYCP Facilitator
Mitch Case
MNO Youth Council President
& PCMNO Youth Representative

Métis youth from Sault Ste. Marie (the Sault) had the opportunity to meet with Her Honour, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario on July 27, 2016. The meeting was arranged as part of the tour of northern communities that Her Honour has been undertaking. The welcoming ceremony took place on the steps of City Hall, where Her Honour was greeted by Christian Provenzano, Mayor of the Sault, members of the 49th Field Regiment, the Sea Cadets, Métis youth, and a few members from the Sault City Council.

After a private meeting with Mayor Provenzano, Her Honour hosted a roundtable discussion about possibilities and economic development in the Sault. Included in the roundtable, was Mayor Provenzano, other civic officials and Mitch Case, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Youth Council President and the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Youth Representative. Case spoke about the economic possibilities that could arise from a cultural shift towards valuing the histories of Indigenous people, especially the untapped potential of embracing the history of the Sault Métis community. Case also spoke about how economic development activities in the area must respect the *Constitution Act, 1982* Section 35 rights of the community.

After the roundtable and a fantastic lunch, Her Honour held a private meeting with Métis youth and Mayor Provenzano. In attendance was: Taylor McNally, MNO North Channel Métis Council Youth Representative; Dustin Hoogsteen, Métis Youth Council Representative; Brendan Case; and Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) staff—Warren McFadden, Facilitator; Courtney Vaughan, Facilitator; Riley Smith, Lead; Julia Simon, Facilitator; and, Abby Denning, Facilitator. The youth spoke about issues affecting the Métis youth community, including: lack of jobs; educational barriers; barriers and challenges faced by Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual, and Queer (LGTBQ) Métis youth; access to land; decolonization; and, arts and culture.

Her Honour expressed a keen interest in the struggles youth and the Métis peoples are facing in the Sault. More particularly, she sought to learn what aspects of the region contribute to the retention of the younger generation.

At the end of the meeting, the youth presented Her Honour with a gift on behalf of the Métis community. The gift consisted of a large framed copy of two reproductions of important petitions; the first being a petition from the Métis community to the Governor General asking for respect of their land rights following the *Robinson Huron*



▲ (L-R) Back row: Warren McFadden, Dustin Hoogsteen, Brendan Case, Riley Smith, Julia Simon Front row: Taylor McNally, Abby Denning, Lieutenant Governor, Courtney Vaughan, Mitch Case.


Treaty of 1850. The second petition was a reproduction of the local First Nation Chiefs asking the Crown to respect Métis people as equal to First Nations. Also included was a reproduction of a map of the historic Sault Métis community, as well as several photographs, drawings and paintings of the Sault Métis community.

Her Honour was very pleased with the intention and energy devoted to this gift. The youth hope this gift will act as a constant reminder of the promises made in 1850 by the Crown Representative.

The youth reminded Her Honour that the Crown has an obligation to live up to its promises and that Métis rights and interests cannot be ignored. The youth also stressed that the Crown has outstanding promises and that we as a Métis Nation have never forgotten.

In her mandate as the Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour has committed to being the province's "storyteller in chief". It is the hope of the Sault youth that the story of our people will be one of those told by the Lieutenant Governor in her term. ∞

“In her mandate as the Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour has committed to being the province’s ‘storyteller in chief’. It is the hope of the Sault youth that the story of our people will be one of those told by the Lieutenant Governor in her term.”



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PCMNO Youth Rep speaks at Rural Ontario Summit

by
MNO Staff

This past June, the Ontario Ministry of Rural Affairs and Agriculture hosted the second annual Rural Ontario Summit (the Summit). The Summit is an opportunity for rural leaders and businesses to come together to discuss challenges and opportunities facing rural Ontario.

This year, there was a special focus on bringing youth leaders to the Summit. Attending on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) were President Margaret Froh and Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Youth Representative and MNO Youth Council President Mitch Case.

In addition to participating in the activities and workshops throughout the day, Case was asked to speak on a Civic Leadership Panel (the Panel). The Panel was asked about best practices for engaging young people in civic leadership. Other panel members included: the Honourable Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry; Johanne Baril, Mayor

of Val Rita-Harty; and, Phil Winters, Founder of Winterbrook Hops.

The Panel was an excellent opportunity for sharing ideas and encouraging young people to take action in their communities. Case spoke about the strategies that he had used in the past as a student activist and those that the MNO Youth Council have used over the years to affect change in the MNO.

“What we have done is that we informed ourselves: we studied; we asked questions; we learned the system; we learned the people; we learned all we could,” said Case. “We made it so that we were so informed that we simply could not be ignored.”

Case concluded his remarks on the Panel with a statement he has been making since he became President of the MNO Youth Council: “All issues are youth issues. Every issue has the ability to impact young people either positively or negatively, so all issues are youth issues. This means youth have to be at the table and it means that we as young people have to step up. We have to step up and do our part. We have to be informed, not entitled, but by being informed, you are entitled to have an opinion and for it to be heard.” ∞



▲ Mitch Case (far left) was invited to speak on a Civic Leadership Panel at the second annual Rural Ontario Summit. (L-R) Mitch Case, PCMNO Youth Representative and MNO Youth Council President; Johanne Baril, Mayor of Val Rita-Harty; Phil Winters, Founder of Winterbrook Hops; and, Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.

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MNO Veterans' Council



▲ Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs General (retired) Walter Natynczyk CMM, MSC, CD (left) and MNO Veteran Don Kennedy CD (right).

MNO veteran receives the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation

submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans' Council President
with files from
veterans.gc.ca

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette had the honour of accompanying MNO Veteran Don Kennedy to a ceremony where he was awarded the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

Kennedy is a Major (retired) Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Reserves soldier with over 43 years of service. A dedicated community volunteer and a contributor to many local and national organizations including the MNO Veterans' Council and the MNO Clear Waters Métis Council, he

is a strong advocate for Indigenous people and veterans.

It would be impossible to list them all, so the MNO Veterans' Council have highlighted a few of Kennedy's most notable achievements.

Kennedy was an instrumental figure in organizing the military component for the opening of the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum.

Kennedy has served as a committee member for numerous Veterans Affairs Canada events, including The Year of the Korean War Veteran and The Year of Korea in 2013.

He was inducted as an Honorary Korean War Veteran by the Korean Veterans Association (KVA) for his advocacy. Kennedy was also one of the KVA Unit 26 Republic of South Korea (ROK) Memorial Project Committee members, which raised funds

to erect the RCN Ships in Korea Monument in Burlington, Ontario.

In 2012, Kennedy served as Chair of the Registration Committee for the Hamilton Light Infantry 150th Anniversary—a 3-day event which included the "Trooping of the Colour" for His Royal Highness, Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex. He was also awarded this year the Queen's Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Kennedy also received the 31 Canadian Brigade Group Commander's Commendation in 2006, the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Commanding Officer's Commendation in 2007, and the Commanding Officer's Commendation for 2008.

The MNO Veterans' Council would like to congratulate Don on all of his achievements. ∞



▲ (L-R) MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette, MNO veteran Alexander Boucher and MNO Veterans' Council Secretary Greg Garratt.

103-year-old MNO veteran receives his first vest

submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans' Council President

On May 26, 2016, at the Canadian Forces Base Borden, the day was full of surprises for 103-year-old Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) certified veteran Alexander (Alex) Boucher. Accompanied by his daughter Carol Boucher and son Eugene Boucher, Alex attended the Aboriginal Veterans' Day event.

The surprise of the day came when Alex was presented with his first leather vest. This presentation was arranged by MNO Veterans'

Council Secretary Greg Garrett. Alex was so thrilled and wore the leather vest with great pride.

Leather is an important commodity for Métis culture. Early Métis clothing was frequently made from leather and decorated with beads or quills (*Métis Legacy II*, 2006). Hunting and the traditional art of hide tanning continue to be important skills for the Métis.

Although it rained, it did not put a damper on the day's activities. The MNO Veterans' Council was well represented along with the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program youth who jigged and danced for guests. ∞



▲ Greg Garratt (left), MNO Veterans' Council Secretary and Region 7 Captain of the Hunt, and Michael Duquette (right), MNO GBMC Veterans' Committee Chair, present MNO veteran Bill Ellis (centre) with a certificate marking his 90th birthday and a copy of the MNO veterans' book.

MNO veteran Bill Ellis celebrates his 90th birthday

submitted by
Greg Garratt
MNO Veterans' Council Secretary and Region 7 Captain of the Hunt

In keeping with its mandate to acknowledge, respect and recognize our Métis veterans, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council has in conjunction with the MNO Communications branch, created certificates recognizing our veterans' personal milestones.

A gathering was organized to honour MNO citizen and veteran William (Bill) Ellis of Penetanguishene on his 90th Birthday. Ellis was presented with a certificate marking his 90th birthday as well as a copy

of the MNO veterans' book entitled: Fighting for Canada before there was a Canada: Ontario Métis Veterans pass the torch. These items were presented on behalf of the MNO Veterans' Council by Greg Garratt, MNO Veterans' Council Secretary and Region 7 Captain of the Hunt, and Michael Duquette, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) Veterans' Committee Chair.

Secretary Garratt would like to thank Ellis for his service. He would also like to thank the MNO GBMC, especially President David Dusome, for their ongoing support. The MNO GBMC has been a great supporter of the MNO Veterans' Council and have created their own Veterans' Committee. ∞



MNO Veterans' Council



▲ Joe Paquette (left), MNO Veterans' Council President, and Shelly Claus (right), MNO Veterans' Council Women's Representative, hold the Defence of Canada 1812-1815 banner at the Warriors' Day Parade.

MNO Veterans' Council participates in the Warriors' Day Parade

submitted by
Dr. Alis Kennedy, O.Ont., C.D., O.M.C.
MNO Veterans' Council Senator

On August 20, 2016, for the first time in 95 years, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council had a recognized contingent in the Warriors' Day Parade (WDP) at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto.

The MNO Veterans' Council were very excited to participate in the parade, as the MNO Annual General Assembly usually takes place on the same weekend. However they ran into a slight problem, as in order to march in the parade as a contingent, a minimum of five members must be present and the MNO Veterans' Council unfortunately only had three MNO veterans available that weekend.

Thankfully, the President of the WDP Council, Mark Stephens, C.D., waived the minimum member requirement and allowed MNO Veterans' Council citizens—Joe

Paquette, President; Shelly Claus, Women's Representative; and, Dr. Alis Kennedy, O.Ont., C.D., O.M.C., Senator and a member of the WDP Council, to march in the parade. The WDP marked the first time the MNO Veterans' Council were ever publicly acknowledged as a bona fide contingent.

The MNO Veterans' Council proudly marched in the Honour section of the parade while carrying the MNO 1812 banner, an Eagle staff and the National Métis flag. The Council stood out by their buckskin vest, ribbon dress and ribbon shirt. The WDP was also the first time that the MNO 1812 banner and the National Métis flag were flown in a public event involving the MNO Veterans' Council.

The parade was very well attended and included the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, O.C., O.Ont., Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and Honorary Patron of The WDP Council as well as Vice-Admiral Mark Norman, M.A.G., C.M.M., C.D., Vice Chief of the Defence Staff as the 2016 Warrior's Day Parade Reviewing Officer. ∞



▲ Participants at the United Nations National Peacekeepers' Day flag raising. (L-R) Parade Marshall Fern Taillefer ; Shelly Claus, MNO Veterans' Council Women's Representative; Base Commander Col. Leam McGarey; UN veteran Joe Claus; Brigadier General Hayter; and, BCWO Charette.

MNO Veterans' Council Representative attends United Nations National Peacekeepers Day

submitted by
Shelly Claus
MNO Veterans' Council Women's Representative

This summer, Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Veterans' Council Women's Representative Shelly Claus attended celebrations for United Nations (UN) National Peacekeepers Day at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Borden.

National Peacekeeper's Day is an official remembrance day for Canadian veterans of military peacekeeping activities. It is officially marked on August 9 every year and alternately may be observed on the closest Sunday to August 9. The date was chosen to commemorate August 9, 1974, when nine Canadian Peacekeepers serving on the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) II were killed when their aircraft was shot down over Syria. This tragedy marked the highest number of Canadian Peacekeepers ever killed in a single incident.

The Métis UN veterans were recognized by Parade Organizer Fern Taillefer. Claus was honoured to carry her eagle staff and to march with her husband and fellow Peacekeepers. ∞



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MNO Veterans' Council



▲ (L-R) Greg Garratt, MNO Veterans' Council Secretary and Region 7 Captain of the Hunt; Ralph Wolfthistle, former Ontario Provincial Police Officer; Margaret Froh, MNO President; and Joseph Paquette, MNO Veterans' Council President.

MNO Veterans' Council attends the 7th Annual Fish Fry in Owen Sound

submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans' Council President

On July 23, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council attended the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council's (GLMC) 7th Annual Fish Fry in Owen Sound. The event was held

on a beautiful day at the Hibou Conservation Area Park and included great food, people and entertainment. This annual event provided the opportunity for Greg Garratt, MNO Veterans' Council Secretary and Region 7 Captain of the Hunt, and Joseph Paquette, MNO Veterans' Council President, to meet the new MNO President Margaret Froh for

the first time. The MNO Veterans' Council would like to thank the MNO GLMC and all the volunteers that helped make this event such a success. "We are grateful for this opportunity to attend this great event and meet so many wonderful people," said President Paquette. ∞



▲ Deputy Chief of Police in Belleville and MNO veteran Ron Gignac (left) helps a child measure a fish along with Special Constable Mark Chapelle (right).

MNO veteran takes part in Belleville Police Association Kids Fishing Derby 2016

submitted by
Ron Gignac
MNO Veteran

On June 11, 2016, Deputy Chief of Police in Belleville and MNO veteran Ron Gignac took part in the Belleville Police Association Kids Fishing Derby 2016. The event took place in Victoria Park and included a free lunch and several prizes. The first 400 kids to register also received a free shirt. This year's derby was very suc-

cessful and included a great turn-out of kids, parents, grandparents and guardians. Many of the service volunteers at the derby included auxiliary, CP volunteers, Special Constables, family members of our officers and staff and many more. The MNR had a great display set up as did the Belleville fire service. The highlight of day for Belleville police officers and kids was definitely fishing! For many of the children, this was their first time ever catching a fish. The fish that are caught during the derby are released back into

the wild. Deputy Chief Gignac said that "the excitement on the young people's faces during this event was truly inspiring." The derby would not have been such a success had it not been for the Belleville community business sector and private donors who funded the event and contributed prizes, food, fishing gear and so much more! Deputy Chief Gignac says that "we are certainly blessed in Belleville to have such fine citizens, business owners, and community volunteers." ∞



▲ CFB Borden Base Commander Colonel Doyon J.B.C., C.D. and Lt. Col. M. Richardson from the Lincoln and Welland Regiment Commanding Officer for 3CRPG.

MNO veterans' book presented at CFB Borden

submitted by
The MNO Veterans' Council

On May 26, 2016, CFB Borden hosted a Aboriginal Veterans' Day event. As part of the day's activities, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council presented the MNO veterans' book entitled, Fighting for Canada Before there was a Canada: Ontario Métis Veterans pass the torch. The book was presented to the Base Commander Colonel Doyon J.B.C., C.D., and to Lieutenant Colonel M. Richardson from the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, Commanding Officer for 3CRPG. The MNO Veterans' Council would like to thank the organizers for hosting this great event and honouring our Aboriginal veterans. ∞



▲ (L-R) Deputy Director, Inspector Brian Therrien, MNO Veterans' Council Sgt-at-Arms Rob Baskey and OPP Aboriginal Policing Bureau Commander, Superintendent Mark Pritchard.

MNO veterans' tribute book gifted on National Aboriginal Day

submitted by
Rob Baskey
MNO Veterans' Council Sgt-at-Arms

On National Aboriginal Day, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council Sgt-at-Arms Rob Baskey presented Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Aboriginal Policing Bureau Commander, Superintendent Mark Pritchard and Deputy Director, Inspector Brian Therrien with a copy of the MNO veterans' book entitled, Fighting for Canada Before there was a Canada: Ontario Métis Veterans pass the torch. ∞

SUMMER YOUTH CULTURAL PROGRAM



▲ SYCP youth at the Old Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay. Back row: (L-R) Breton Burke, Shanese Steele, Ishmael Van Der Rassel, Warren McFadden, Simone Blais, Julia Simon. Middle Row: (L-R) Riley Smith, Melissa St. Amant, Abby Denning, Katie Plante, Sarah Bibeau, Dana Carson, Jordyn Playne, Breanne Martin. Front row: (L-R) Katelyn LaCroix, Jacob Crawford, Joanna Burt, Mattingly Turgeon, Karly Chapman, Cassidy Eames, Tessa Hope, Janique Belcourt, Valerie Labelle-Savard, Courtney Vaughan, Gerald Lavallee

Métis students gain a deeper understanding of cultural identity

by MNO Staff

It was an experience to be remembered for 25 students from across the province of Ontario who spent a week—from May 29 to June 3, 2016—immersed in Métis history and culture at Old Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay for the sixth annual Métis Nation of Ontario’s (MNO) Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) training.

Métis youth from six communities—Toronto, Ottawa, Midland, North Bay, Timmins and Sault Ste. Marie—bunked at Old Fort William Historical Park to gain further understanding of the Métis way-of-life as it was 200 years ago. The students will carry these teachings to their local communities through interpretation at events throughout the summer.

“The program gives the youth numerous opportunities to experience what it is to be Métis in a way they’ve never experienced before and to explore their identities in a new way,” said Scott Carpenter, MNO Manager of Education, Way of Life and Special Projects.

At Fort William, students were

provided with authentic hands-on learning experience in a vibrant and lively re-enactment site set in the time period of 1815. Workshops included everything from canoe building, fish cleaning, blacksmithing, and Michif language to artisan crafts like mukuk making, tinsmithing a tin cup, constructing a Jacobs’s ladder and beading.

“The experience takes them back to their roots and they are able to explore their history, which is often forgotten in the school system,” said Jade Bourbonnière, MNO Interim Supervisor of Summer Youth Projects.

Bourbonnière emphasized the importance of carrying the knowledge back to local communities because it provides a “deeper understanding of Métis culture and helps to engage the public in our historical and modern day presence.”

The summer youth gained a heightened consciousness of not only traditional cultural practices, but gained an understanding of Métis people as an integral part of the cultural fabric and identity of Canada today.

“When it comes to Métis people, there’s a lack of awareness about who they are, where they are, and their history in Ontario,” said Brian

I think this work is really important because it helps us rediscover our language, culture and heritage in a new, authentic way. It gives us a good idea of where we come from and where we are going in the future.”

Gerald Lavallee
MNO SYCP Youth

Tucker, MNO Associate Director of Education and Way of Life.

Tucker hosted a workshop that provided an introduction to the Métis way-of-life through land use, harvesting, fishing, hunting, trapping, and medicine.

“It is important that Métis youth have opportunities to connect to their culture and that they learn about the variety and depth of the Métis way-of-life in all of its complexities,” said Tucker, who provided students with a hands-on fish cleaning demonstration.

Shanese Steele, a MNO SYCP youth participant from Toronto, said her favourite part of the program was the fish cleaning. “It reminded me of my childhood. I did a lot of fishing with my grandfather and it was nice to re-experience that.”

Steele, who is enrolled in an Indigenous Studies Program, pointed out the lack of knowledge about Métis people and culture in the education system. Through the teachings of the MNO SYCP, she was surprised to learn not only about the amount of work that went into being a Métis Voyageur, but also how hard the women worked to support the men. Steele is excited to share this knowledge with her community.

“Learning about the life of Métis

women in places like Fort William and their experiences on the voyageur path and as women, is the most important thing I’ve learned,” added Steele.

The MNO SYCP is a way for the youth to share their rich culture with their local communities. The students will spend the rest of the year carrying their newfound knowledge to youth and elders alike at their local day camps, museums, festivals, and anywhere that cultural programming could be beneficial.

“I think this work is important because Métis culture isn’t really taught in schools much, so there’s a lot of people in our country who don’t even know Métis people exist,” said Steele. “Or they only think that that Métis people were Voyageurs, or that it happened for a short period and that was the end of their history.”

The Métis way-of-life is multifaceted and has many dimensions to it. In Thunder Bay, students were able to get a sense of all of those aspects from music, dance, language and food, to family community, connection, and land and water use.

“I’m a huge history buff and I love learning new things,” said Ri-

continued on page A21

SUMMER YOUTH CULTURAL PROGRAM

Keeping up with the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) staff had a very busy summer this year! After completing a week-long training in Thunder Bay at the end of May, these Métis youth took their knowledge of Métis history, culture and way-of-life back to their local communities. Some of the activities the SYCP staff demonstrated at these community functions included: Métis jigging and fiddling; dot art; Métis Voyageur games, and more! Below is a sampling of some of the events and activities they undertook this summer. See more on page A20.



▲ On August 19, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) staff from Timmins attended the Kettle Lakes Provincial Park Natural Heritage Education Summer Program. At the event, SYCP staff educated visitors on Métis history and culture and led many different activities and games. In this picture, Valerie Labelle-Savard, SYCP Facilitator (left) and Breton Burke, SYCP Lead (right) perform a Métis jig for guests



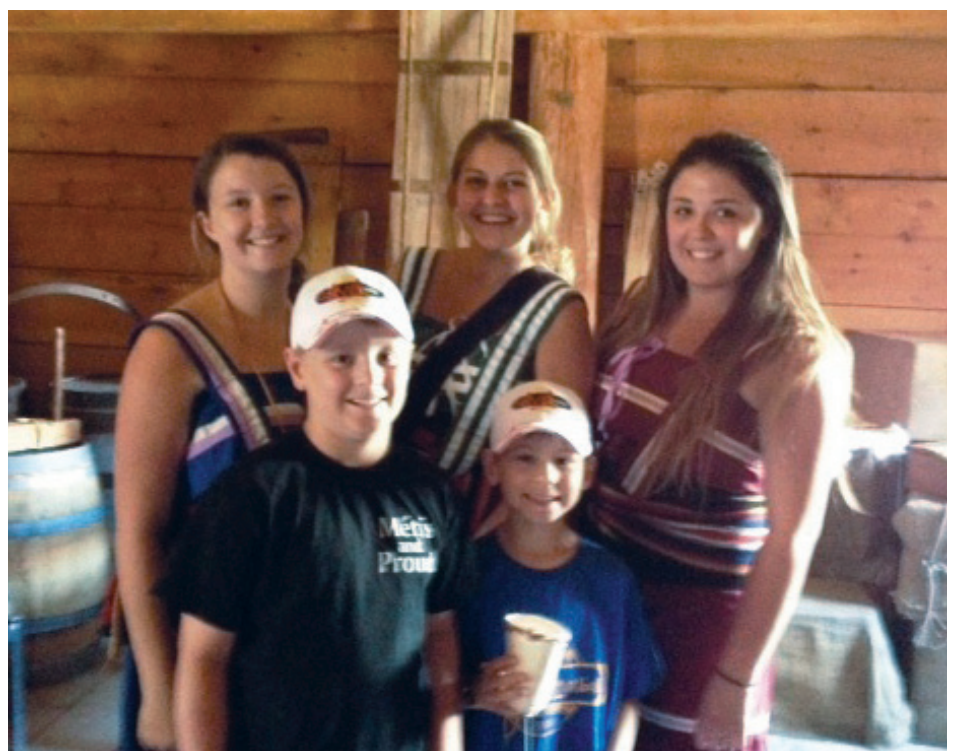
▲ On August 11, 2016, the MNO SYCP Ottawa staff performed a Métis jig for residents of the Riverstone Retirement Community in Carlingwood.



▲ SYCP Facilitators Valerie Labelle-Savard (left) and Breton Burke (right) attended a local Canada Day event in Timmins, Ontario on July 1, 2016. The community showed a great interest in Métis culture and had some fun while learning about a historic Métis items.



▲ Midland's MNO SYCP staff recently had the pleasure of visiting the Wendat Seniors' Residence where they taught residents about Métis beadwork and led a dot art activity inspired by the work of Christi Belcourt. They also performed their favourite Métis dances and taught Wendat staff members a few moves!



▲ (L-R) MNO SYCP Facilitators Cassidy Eames and Karly Chapman and Lead Melissa St. Amant stand with Camden McColl (left) and Nathan McColl (right) at the Sainte Marie Among the Hurons Aboriginal Day celebration on June 21, 2016.

SUMMER YOUTH CULTURAL PROGRAM



▲ MNO SYCP staff visiting a local elementary school in Midland.



▲ (L-R) Benny Michaud, MNO Ottawa Métis Council President, stands with MNO SYCP staff, Lead Jordyn Playne and Facilitators Janique Belcourt, Breanne Martin, and Tessa Hope during a Summer Solstice Festival at Vincent Massey Park in Ottawa on June 18-19, 2016.



▲ (L-R) SYCP facilitator Cassidy Eames, SYCP Lead Melissa St. Amant, MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette, Region 7 Captain of the Hunt and MNO Veterans' Council Secretary Greg Garratt, SYCP Lead and PCMNO Postsecondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix and SYCP Facilitator Karly Chapman.

SYCP participate at Base Borden Aboriginal Awareness Day event

by MNO Staff

On May 26, 2016, at the Borden Military Base, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) facilitators participated the Base's Aboriginal Awareness Day event. SYCP facilitators performed Métis jigging and taught some of their favourite dances to the attendees. They also

provided children's art programming such as dot art and finger-weaving. Despite the rain, everyone had a great time and were very grateful for the opportunity to meet with MNO veterans including MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette and Secretary Greg Garratt. ∞



▲ (L-R) MNO SYCP Facilitators Janique Belcourt, Breanne Martin, and Tessa Hope lead a workshop at an elementary school in Ottawa.

SUMMER YOUTH CULTURAL PROGRAM

MNO Sault Ste. Marie SYCP team participates in annual Teddy Bear Picnic

submitted by
Courtney Vaughan
 MNO SYCP Facilitator

For the second year in a row, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) team in Sault Ste. Marie (SSM) attended the Teddy Bear Picnic hosted by the Timber Village Museum in Blind River.

The picnic, which began as an annual community event in 1987, took place on July 7, 2016 and featured a variety of games, crafts, contests, and activities for young children. The MNO SSM SYCP team—which includes Facilitators Abby Denning, Warren McFadden, Julia Simon, and Courtney Vaughan, and Leads Riley Smith and Sarah Bibeau—joined other community organizations to provide entertainment and cultural education to children in the Blind River area.

“The Teddy Bear Picnic has been a very fun event these past two summers for me,” said Facilitator Abby Denning. “There’s always a great turn out which brings in a lot of traffic for us. The young kids are always so fascinated with our games and their parents are often intrigued by our historical artifacts.”

The MNO SSM SYCP team loved sharing Métis culture and heritage with the children through historic games and activities such as ball and

hoop, ball in cup, bone and sinew and finger weaving. However, the crowd favourite was by far the Métis traditional songs, as “music transcends language, age, and ability,” said Facilitator Courtney Vaughan.

Many parents, both Francophone and Anglophone, were thrilled by the strong Métis presence at children’s events such as the Teddy Bear Picnic, as it provides them with an opportunity to teach their children about their culture and heritage. They also see it as a chance to teach their children the history of the area they call home.

“The majority of the attendees [at the Teddy Bear Picnic] are French speakers which make it a little difficult to get our message across,” said Denning “but singing songs really helped us out as most of our songs are primarily French or a mix of both French and English.”

The MNO SSM SYCP team is always thrilled to partake in events in other locations with historically prominent Métis communities. “There are so many fascinating communities throughout Region 4, so it is always a pleasure to extend the MNO SYCP programming outside of Sault Ste. Marie into more rural areas,” said Vaughan.

Looking back on the Teddy Bear Picnic in particular, Riley Smith noted that “it was great to be in a diverse community that proudly exhibits its strong French history. ∞



▲ The MNO Sault Ste. Marie SYCP staff at the Teddy Bear Picnic in Sault Ste. Marie. (L-R) Courtney Vaughan, Facilitator; Warren McFadden, Facilitator; Riley Smith, Lead; Abby Denning, Facilitator; Sarah Bibeau, Lead; and, Julia Simon, Facilitator.

Métis students gain a deeper understanding of cultural identity

continued from page A18

ley Smith, a MNO SYCP youth participant from Sault Ste. Marie. “It is a great experience for me to learn about a culture that I didn’t really grow up knowing. It means a lot to me.”

Many of the students were very interested in the historical aspects of the program—how people lived, what kind of food they ate, and how they traded.

“I like connecting with my culture when I’m here,” said Gerald Lavallee, a MNO SYCP youth participant from North Bay. “I feel like I’m connecting with my roots and my ancestors.”

Fort William is a unique backdrop for this kind of experiential learning experience because of its historical significance, its resources, and staff specialized skill set. It provides a place for students to be organically immersed in history.

“I think this work is really important because it helps us rediscover our language, culture and heritage in a new, authentic way,” said Lavallee. “It gives us a good idea of where we come from and where we are going in the future.”

Lavallee’s ancestry and identity are high priority and he highlights

the importance of the MNO SYCP program for the new generation of Métis youth leaders. “It connects us across the Nation. It builds our communities and teaches us the skills that we can then pass on not only to our families but to our communities in general so that they can

“Being Métis is kind of like a bridge that connects two cultures together and is a way to connect people.”

- Katelyn LaCroix
 MNO SYCP Youth

have better idea of who the Métis people are, what our culture is, and what we do.”

Lavallee, who took part in the 2014 Métis Canoe Expedition, emphasizes the importance of leadership and knowledge sharing. “When we come together like this, we are able to build those connections that will last for decades. Our youth will turn into the adults of the Nation and so it is so important that

we learn and connect to our culture now, especially for some of us that might have been disconnected in the past.”

Many of the students at this years’ camp carry a strong sense of their Métis cultural identity and understanding of their past, present, and future.

“Being Métis is kind of like a bridge that connects two cultures together and is a way to connect people,” said Katelyn LaCroix, a MNO SYCP youth participant from Midland who has a Métis interpreter in her ancestry.

To others, a sense of Métis identity comes from a spiritual connection to the land or having a sense of community, resilience and strength. “Being Métis is really embracing differences into a unique synthesis of a culture. Everyone is so different and they take different things and make something new out of it,” said Dana Carson a MNO SYCP participant from Toronto.

MNO SYCP youth participant Melissa St. Amant from Midland shares a similar sentiment. “Being Métis means honoring my culture, being part of a large community that is almost like my second family and participating in my heritage.” ∞



▲ SYCP Facilitator Cassidy Eames beading at Old Fort William Historical Park.



▲ SYCP Leads Katelyn LaCroix (middle) and Breton Burke (left) learn traditional woodcutting techniques.

2017 North American Indigenous Games in Toronto

submitted by
Joanne Meyer, MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations

On Friday, July 15, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff were invited to the official one year countdown celebration to the 2017 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) to perform a Métis cultural dance. Guests were entertained by MNO Education Officer Alicia Blore’s fiddle music while Summer Youth Cultural Program Lead Joanna Burt and Facilitator Simone Blais danced a Métis jig. At the event, MNO staff had the

opportunity to meet with the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and the Mayor of Toronto John Tory. The 2017 NAIG will take place in Toronto from July 16 to 23. The first NAIG games took place in 1990 with the vision of improving the quality of life for Indigenous Peoples by encouraging equal participation in sports and cultural activities. ∞



▲ (LOR) Alicia Blore, MNO Education Officer; the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; Joanne Burt, SYCP Lead; and Simone Blais, SYCP Facilitator.

MNO Captain of the Hunt visits abandoned mine site

submitted by
Richard Sarrazin, MNO Region 5 Captain of the Hunt and President of the MNO Sudbury Métis Council

Across Ontario, there are thousands of abandoned mine sites that can pose a danger to people, wildlife and the environment. On May 13, 2016, Richard Sarrazin, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 5 Captain of the Hunt for the Mattawa/Lake Nipissing Traditional Harvesting Territory, and Dave Bell, Mineral Exploration and Development Consultant with the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM), visited Nickel Offset Mine—an old abandoned mine site located in Levack, Ontario. The mine is adjacent to Foy

Ross Lake—the largest in a chain of lakes that drains into the Sand Cherry creek and hosts a natural brook trout fishery, and is located 35 kilometres northeast of Sudbury. This abandoned mine in particular is located on Sarrazin’s trap line and has allowed him to witness first-hand the leaching of old tailings into the surrounding lakes and creeks. Having been abandoned for many years, this mine site has not been properly rehabilitated to today’s provincial standards. The MNDM was surprised to learn of the size of the site and noted that there are many potential hazards.

Bell has asked the MNDM compliance department to conduct a general review of the hazards at the site, conduct tests of the tailings and take water samples to see if the site has contaminated the area. Once this assessment is completed, the MNO and MNDM will then look at a plan to rehabilitate the site. Sarrazin is a lifelong trapper, hunter and fisherman who has extensive Métis traditional knowledge that has been passed down by his Métis ancestors over his many years of harvesting. Since 1999, Sarrazin has been involved with the MNO as the Region 5 Captain of the Hunt and as the President of the MNO Sudbury Métis Council (SMC). Today, Richard and the MNO SMC continue to pass on the Métis way-of-life to Métis people. ∞



▲ Richard Sarrazin, MNO Region 5 Captain of the Hunt and President of the MNO Sudbury Métis Council

Métis monument unveiled

Monument unveiled at closing of commemoration of 400 years of French presence in Ontario

by **MNO Staff**
adapted from an article that appeared at [newswire.ca](#)

On June 10, 2016, the Office of Francophone Affairs, the Ontario Heritage Trust and the Town of Penetanguishene hosted a special event at Rotary Champlain Wendat Park in Penetanguishene to mark the official closing of the commemoration of 400 years of French presence in Ontario. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was well represented at the event. The Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Chair France Picotte brought greetings on behalf of the MNO. MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) facilitators were also present at the event and set up a booth where attendees could learn more about Métis history and culture. MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council President David Dusome and MNO Region 7 Captain of the Hunt Greg Garratt were also in attendance. An important moment at the event was when Chair Picotte and

SYCP Leads Katelyn LaCroix and Melissa St. Amant helped unveil a Métis monument that depicts an Indigenous woman and a European man. The monument was sculpted by Timothy P. Schmalz. There is a plaque beneath the statue entitled “Métis: The Métis Nation”, which reads as follows: “Prior to Canada becoming a nation, a new Aboriginal people emerged out of the relations of Native women and European men. The initial offspring of these unions were individuals of mixed ancestry who resulted in the beginning of a new Aboriginal people with a distinct identity and culture in west central North America — the Métis Nation. These Métis people were connected through the fur trade network, extensive kinship and a collective identity. In Ontario, historic Métis settlements emerged along the rivers and watersheds of the province, surrounding the Great Lakes and throughout to the north-



▲ (L-R) Former Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs Madeleine Meilleur, MNO Chair France Picotte, MNO Region 7 Captain of the Hunt Greg Garratt, MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program Lead Katelyn LaCroix, MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program Lead Melissa St. Amant, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council President David Dusome, and Mayor of Penetanguishene Gerry Marshall.

west of the province. One of these settlements was a vibrant community in Huronia. In fact, Métis were among the region’s earliest settlers to Penetanguishene with the Drummond Island Migration of 1828 to 1829.” On August 1, 1615, French

explorer Samuel de Champlain arrived on the shores of Georgian Bay in the region of what is now Penetanguishene. Rotary Champlain Wendat Park commemorates Champlain’s visit to the region. The park’s Legacy Walkway features six statues portraying individuals

and peoples significant to the history of Ontario and Canada. Three provincial plaques located at the park share the story of Champlain’s sojourn in Ontario in 1615, told in English, French, Anishinabe, Montagnais-Innu, Mohawk and Wendat. A companion provincial plaque was unveiled at Champlain’s point of departure from France, in Honfleur, last October. “The 400th Commemoration was a unique opportunity to recognize the significant contributions of our founding peoples to making Ontario the diverse and dynamic province of today,” said Madeleine Meilleur, former Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs. “Ontario is pleased to offer these plaques to the Town and residents of Penetanguishene in the revitalized Rotary Champlain Wendat Park. This is an important legacy of the 400th and a tribute to the key role played by First Nations, Métis and Francophones in our province’s development.” ∞



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Photo by Kyle Burton

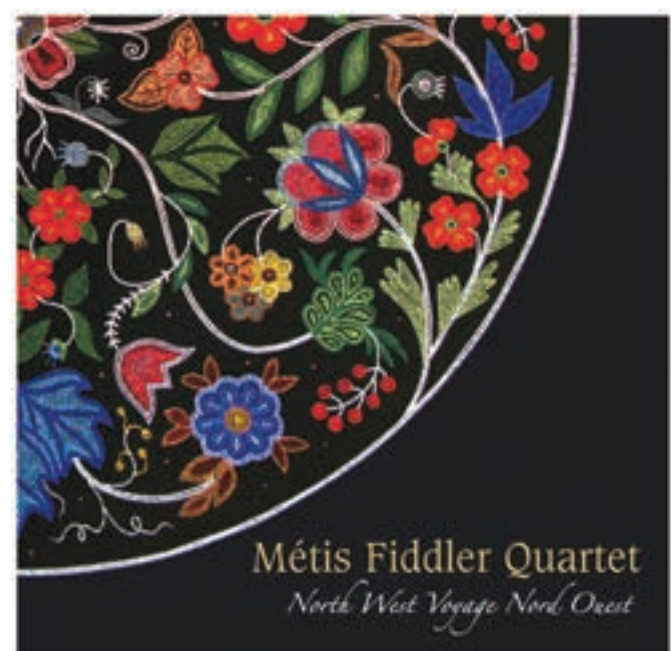
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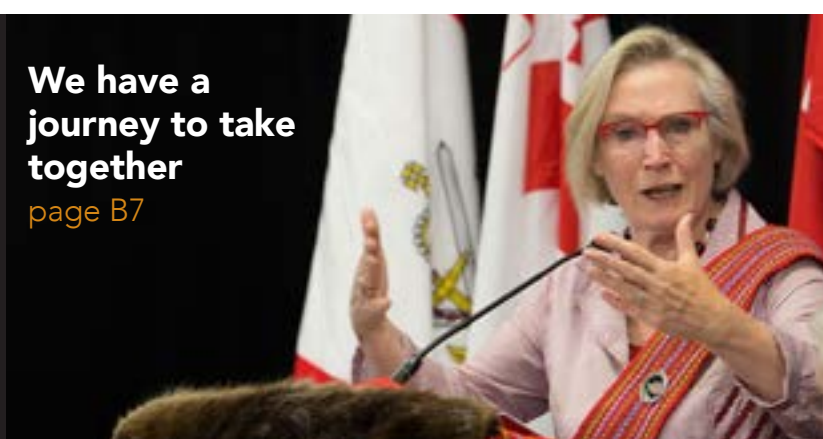


Stars are aligning for the great Métis Nation of Ontario

Expectations of
reconciliation dominate
largest ever MNO Annual
General Assembly
Pages B2, B3, B8 and B9



**We have a
journey to take
together**
page B7



**"There is a whole
new Métis spirit
bubbling up..."**
page B7



AGA Highlights
pages B10-15



**Joe Paquette
named
Volunteer
of the Year**
page B6



AGA 2016 Overview



There was lots of enthusiasm in the lead canoe during the Welcome to the AGA on the Friday night prior to the AGA. (Left to right – back to front) PCMNO Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund, MNO Chair France Picotte, Minister David Zimmer, MNO President Margaret Froh and Minister Dr. Carolyn Bennett.

Stars are aligning for the great Métis Nation of Ontario

In the early evening of Friday, August 26, an excited crowd gathered along the banks of the Lavase River and cheered as Métis Nation of Ontario President Margaret Froh and other Métis leaders paddled traditional Voyageur canoes towards Lake Nipissing at Champlain Park in North Bay. President Froh was joined by a number of dignitaries and supporters including Federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Dr. Carolyn Bennett and Ontario's Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation David Zimmer who were there to kick off the 23rd Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the great Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO).

"I think the high energy we can feel here tonight has a lot to do with Métis people feeling that the stars are indeed aligning for the Métis Nation," stated President Froh. She cited the positive decision by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Daniels v Canada* in April, as well as the highly favourable recommendations in the recent *Isaac Report*; *A Matter of National and Constitutional Import* as reasons for feelings of great hope and optimism among Métis in Ontario and across the Métis Nation Homeland.

"Both the Ontario and Canadian governments have given us strong indications that they are looking for reconciliation with the Métis on a nation-to-nation basis," explained President Froh, "and so these are critical times for our Nation as we chart our

way forward on a path of self-government. All Métis citizens have a part to play in moving our Nation forward."

Following the arrival of the Voyageur canoes and a procession led by MNO veterans, MNO North Bay Métis Council Senator Marlene Greenwood offered the opening prayers and there were remarks from a number of the dignitaries present followed by a ceremony to swear in the recently elected members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). The PCMNO members were sworn in by the Honourable Todd Ducharme. Justice Ducharme is the first Métis to be appointed to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

The evening concluded with wonderful concerts; first from MNO youth Alicia

Blore, Joanna Burt and Simone Blaise, who got the crowd going with some traditional Métis fiddling and jigging before MNO citizen and Juno-nominated singer/songwriter Amanda Rheume took the stage. Amanda's amazing performance included "Red Dress," which she wrote to honour the over 1180 murdered and missing Indigenous women in Canada and "We Aspire," which she wrote for the MNO and is inspired by the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*.

This year's AGA was jointly hosted by the Region 4 Community Councils: the MNO North Bay; Sudbury; and Mattawa Métis Councils. Their hard work laid the foundation for a very successful event that attracted more MNO citizens than any previous AGA.

continued on page B3



Top: MNO veterans lead the procession from the canoe landing to the tent where more events took place during the Welcome to the AGA. Bottom: A traditional Voyageur salute is given by paddlers during the Welcome to the AGA.

AGA 2016 Overview



▲ **Taking care of business:**
Chair Picotte in action during the business part of the AGA.



▲ Pictures above (left) Métis youth Courtney Vaughan and (right) MNO North Bay Métis Council Senator Marlene Greenwood, who performed the Opening Prayer during the AGA Opening Ceremonies.



▲ Middle: PCMNO Postsecondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix speaks during the AGA business meetings. (Below: left-right) MNO Senator Bill Morrison and PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle.

continued from page B2

The formal AGA got underway the morning of Saturday, August 27 and continued until noon on Monday, August 29. The AGA was ably chaired by MNO Chair France Picotte with the assistance of MNO Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau. Over 600 MNO leaders, citizens and partners from across Ontario gathered in North Bay for the AGA and as President Froh predicted conversations were abuzz about *Daniels v. Canada*, Supreme Court of Canada decision affirming federal jurisdiction for the Métis, and the release of the Isaac Report on Section 35 Métis Rights under The *Constitution Act*, 1982, which are expected to advance the long-held goals of Métis self-government and reconciliation in Ontario.

During her State of the Nation address, President Froh stated: “The MNO shines in the Isaac Report ... Mr. Isaac laid out a path towards reconciliation with the Métis.”

Speaking during the opening ceremonies, Ministers Bennett and Zimmer both positively referenced the Isaac Report, the Daniels decision and the strength of the MNO.

In her remarks, Minister Bennett indicated that her ministerial mandate letter had stressed rights, cooperation and partnership and stressed that the federal government’s approach to partnership is based on a “relationship of equals.” Minister Bennett described the MNO as “a responsible and accomplished partner.” She concluded her remarks by saying: “The current is with us – we can complete the unfinished business of Confederation.”

In referring to the Daniels decision, Minister Zimmer stated that “the timing is exquisite.” He pointed out that the provincial government had already committed \$250 million dollars for its reconciliation strategy that includes Ontario Métis. He explained that “these issues [Métis rights] are now on the public mind and, when they are on the public mind, they tend to happen.”

“The stars are aligned for the Métis Nation of Ontario”, stated President Froh. “As we work with Ontario and Canada toward reconciliation, we need to consult with our citizens across the province on issues related to

Métis rights and self-government.”

Accordingly during her State of the Nation address, President Froh launched the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government. Seven commissioners will tour all MNO communities in Ontario starting in the late fall and finishing in late spring 2017 (see full story on page A3)

Other dignitaries that spoke during the opening ceremonies included the Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Member of Parliament Bruce Stanton and Members of the Provincial Parliament Vic Fedeli and John Vanthof as well as Alex Bezzina, the Deputy Minister of Children and Youth Services. Métis leaders Bruce Dumont representing Métis Nation British Columbia, Audrey Poitras representing the Métis Nation of Alberta, Clément Chartier representing the Métis National Council and Melanie Omenihw, representing Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak also addressed the As-

“
I think the high energy we can feel here tonight has a lot to do with Métis people feeling that the stars are indeed aligning for the Métis Nation.”
MNO President
MARGARET FROH

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BACK ROW (left to right): Jean Camirand (Thunder Bay), Urgel Courville (Northern Lights), William Gordon (Greenstone), Ronald Robinson (Northwest), Scott Lloyd (High Land Waters), Derrick Pont (Niagara), Jerry Clarke (Clear Waters), Tera Beaulieu (Toronto), Peter Coture (Great Lakes), Nelson Montreuil (Mattawa), David Hamilton (Chapleau), Brady Hupet (Sunset Country), Joel Henley (Kenora), and Trent Desaulniers (Superior North Shore).
FRONT ROW (left to right): Andy Dufrane (Peterborough), Liliane Ethier (Temiskaming), Benny Michaud (Ottawa), Yvonne Jensen (North Channel), Marlene Davidson (Atikokan), MNO President Margaret Froh, David Dusome (Georgian Bay), Kristin Randall (Oshawa), Kim Powley (Sault St. Marie), Jennifer Parkinson (Grand River), Donna Grayer (Windsor-Essex-Kent)

Métis Nation of Ontario Meetings and Leadership

The various groups within the MNO took advantage of the AGA to hold meetings and discuss issues impacting their respective jurisdictions.



BACK ROW (left to right): Larry Duval, Parmillia Burgie, Terry Bloom, Ray Bergie, Blair Sterling, Carol Levis, Bill Morrison, Cecile Coutu, Roland St. Germain, Garry Laframboise, John Van Wyck, Ken Simard, Gerry Bedford, Brian Gouliquer, Patsy Dryden, Al Roussin, John George, Robert Lloyd, Eugene Content, Romeo Sarrazin.
FRONT ROW (left to right): Alis Kennedy, Karen Cederwall, Constance Simmonds, Marlene Greenwood, Audrey Vallee, Joseph Poitras, Reta Gordon, Rene Gravelle, Verna Porter-Brunelle, Maryjane Buttenham, Brenda Powley, Parmallia Burgie, Cecile Wagar.



BACK ROW (L-R): Gwendalyn Gomez; Amanda De Blasi; Alan Gauthier-Poelman (Algoma University); Isabella De Blasi (University of Guelph); Joanna Burt (Glen Gould School of Music); Andre Nault (University of Waterloo); Heather Bell (York University); Brittany Mathews IRF (University of Ottawa); Julia Simon (Algoma University); MNO President Margaret Froh; Tara Yeates (Algoma University); Matthew Bombardier (St. Clair College); Melissa St. Amant (Fanshawe College); Katie Plante (Queens University); Paul Robitaille (Lakehead University); Breton Burke (Queens University); and Dana Carson (University of Windsor).

FRONT ROW (L-R): Faith Bell IRF (Lakehead University); Kayla Tanner (Lakehead University); Melanie-Rose Frappier (Laurentian University); Bryer Twiss (Confederation College); Jordyn Playne (Lakehead University); Janna Garrett (Nipissing University); Eleni Pappas (York University); and Shanese Steele (Trent University).



Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario

Members of the WSMNO with the President of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak at 2016 AGA. (left to right) Suzanne Jackson, Representative; Sharon Cadeau, Spokesperson; Melanie Omeniho, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak President; Pearl Gabona, Representative; Katelyn LaCroix, Representative; and, Cora Bunn, Representative.



Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council

MNO Veterans' Council Executive Members at the 2016 AGA. (left to right) Shelly Claus, Women's Representative; Greg Garratt, Secretary; Joseph Paquette, President; Guy Mandeville C.D., Chair; and, Dr. Alis Kennedy O.ONT., C.D., O.M.C., Senator. Absent from picture: Robert Baskey, Sergeant-at-Arms

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SUZANNE ROCHON-BURNETT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Joe seems to be everywhere and be doing everything

by MNO Staff

In a moment that many felt was long in coming, during the 2016 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA), Joseph (Joe) Paquette was announced as the recipient of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award. Visibly moved by the presentation by MNO President Margaret Froh, Joe, who is seldom one to be at a loss for words, could only say “Wow, Oh my God.”

Once he had composed himself, however, Joe shared a story of how he had known Suzanne Rochon-Burnett personally and how that had added an extra layer of meaning to his receiving the award at this time.

Joe was nominated by his fellow MNO veteran Greg Garratt who wrote in Joe's nomination form:

Joseph (Joe) is a consummate volunteer. He embraces and embodies what a volunteer is. Selfless to a fault, Joe takes pure joy in doing everything he gets involved in. Whether it is a youth-elder weekend or veteran recognition or a community assembly. Joe is there, always helping. Joe seems to be everywhere doing everything with passion. He is contagious with his enthusiasm. The children and adults alike enjoy his spirit, his candor and his energy. Joe is a dedicated volunteer with

decades of being there, volunteering, under his belt. Always turning new stones of involvement, always giving more of himself.

Joe's resume of volunteer activities within the MNO is practically matchless. He is probably best known for the last several years as the President of the MNO Veterans' Council. Serving in that capacity Joe has been instrumental in unprecedented growth and activity of the Veterans' Council. Under his leadership the Council completed the ground-breaking Métis veterans' book *Fighting for Canada before there was a Canada* and initiated the Vimy Ridge Youth-Veterans Project. Every issue of the *Voyageur* is now filled with stories about MNO veterans and their amazing contributions to the Métis Nation and Canada as Joe has raised the profile of Métis veterans to never-before-achieved heights.

Joe's contributions to the Veterans' Council alone likely merited consideration for the Volunteer of the Year Award but these are only part of his volunteer activities within the MNO. Joe is also well-known as a Métis Knowledge Holder who shares what he knows about Métis culture and way-of-life with young people and communities all over the province. Joe has been a regular fixture of the MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camps since their in-



▲ MNO Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette is the 2016 recipient of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award

ception and his medicine walks are very much in demand at community council functions. Joe is known as a wonderful storyteller, whose tales are better than any Hollywood movie. He shares his stories with his fellow MNO citizens and they love him for it.

In accepting the award, Joe said: “I have faith in you – I know you will succeed but you have to believe in yourself. I don't do it for awards – I do it for them [veterans, youth] they don't deserve any less – oh my God!”

“I have faith in you – I know you will succeed but you have to believe in yourself. I don't do it for awards – I do it for them [veterans, youth] they don't deserve any less – oh my God!”

— Joe Paquette



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We have a journey to take together

— President Froh speaking to Minister Bennett during the AGA Opening Ceremonies



David Zimmer

Ontario Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

"There is a whole new Métis spirit that is bubbling up [and] a whole new regard by provincial and federal governments about the quality of Métis governance structures."



Dr. Carolyn Bennett

Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs

"We have a lot to learn from you [the Métis] in terms of honouring veterans. This is something your community does very well—the way you celebrate people's contributions—the way you lift people up."



Al McDonald

Mayor of North Bay

"There is a buzz in our community about you [AGA delegates] being here. We are excited to have you in our community."



Clément Chartier

President of the Métis National Council

"We as a people have witnessed many successes and many disappointments [but] now is a time for change."



Audrey Poitras

President of the Métis Nation of Alberta

[Peter Rivers thanking President Poitras] "She is more than a friend of the MNO – as far as I am concerned she is family."



Bruce Dumont

President of the Métis Nation British Columbia

"I commend the youth for stepping forward, stepping up to the plate as Métis leaders, aspiring leaders for the Métis Nation of Ontario."



Melanie Omeniho

President of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak

"Métis women are not a disposable part of our society [and] the MNO has done a good job with honouring Métis women."



Michael Gravelle

Minister of Northern Development and Mines

"We recognize this is an exciting and important time for new Crown-Indigenous relations in Ontario [and] strongly support MNO involvement in mining development opportunities."



Bruce Stanton

Member of Parliament for Simcoe

"Our canoes remain steady and ready to help Minister Bennett advance issues for the Métis across Ontario."



Alex Bezzina

Deputy Minister of Children and Youth Services

"This is a time of great opportunity to address the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report. We are a committed partner to the MNO to improve services for Métis children and youth."



Vic Fedeli

Member of Provincial Parliament for Nipissing

"We appreciate the contributions Métis have made, and continue to make to Ontario."



John Vanthof

Member of the Provincial Parliament for Timiskaming-Cochrane

"[Canadians] don't know how much they owe to the [Métis] culture that has created this country."



▲ MNO veterans colour party during the AGA Opening Ceremonies.



▲ Retired PCMNO Executive Senator and now Honourary Senator Reta Gordon during the Welcome to the AGA.

▲ Members of the PCMNO were sworn in during the Welcome to the AGA in a ceremony led by Justice Todd Ducharme. (left to right) Chair France Picotte, Region 6 Councillor Tom Thompson, Justice Ducharme, Youth Representative Mitch Case, Region 2 Councillor Cam Burgess, Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund, Region 4 Councillor Ernie Gatien, Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau, Postsecondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix, President Margaret Froh, Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, Senator Verna Brunelle-Porter, Senator Ray Bergie and Senator Joe Poitras. Not visible in this picture but in attendance: Region 5 Councillor Dan Boulard, Region 7 Councillor Pauline Richardson, Region 8 Councillor Anita Tucker, Region 9 Councillor Peter Rivers and Senator Rene Gravelle. Missing was Region 3 Councillor Marcel Lafrance.

“
Our youth
are amazing
they bring a
vitality and
energy that
enriches
everything
we do.”

MNO President
MARGARET FROH

continued from page B3

sembly (see page B7 for some of their remarks).

Other highlights of the business section of the AGA include a very positive report on MNO finances and the audit delivered by MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile. Secretary-Treasurer Pile reported a surplus of \$874,947.00 for the 2015-16 fiscal year and that the MNO Secretariat received another unqualified opinion from the auditor indicating the MNO was in a very secure financial position as of March 31, 2016.

Secretary-Treasurer Pile indicated the MNO's debt had been reduced to \$254,750 from \$730,538 in the last fiscal year. “Do not forget,” Secretary-Treasurer Pile said, “the MNO Secretariat started with a debt load of 4.2 million dollars in 2008 to be paid back over 25-30 years. To date we now have a debt of \$475,788.00 and with a recent recommendation to the PCMNO provided the cash flow is healthy, we have decided to complete the debt repayment plan so that both debts will expire at the same time by November 30, 2017. We should all recognize that we all played a part in accomplishing this

important goal.”

As always there were a number of special resolutions and regular resolutions brought to the Assembly for consideration. The complete final versions of all resolutions passed at the AGA can be found on page B16.

Despite the very busy AGA schedule, delegates still found some time to bestow some well-deserved honours. Joseph Paquette, the President of the MNO Veterans' Council, was the 2016 recipient of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award (see page B6 for the full story).

Recently retired MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson was the first recipient of a new award named in his honour that recognizes excellence in the MNO public service. The award, which will not be given out annually but rather on an occasional basis, consists of a \$5000.00 that the recipient can give to the charity of his or her choice. In this case, Mr. Wilson has decided to donate the funds to Leukemia and stem cell research through the Ottawa Hospital Founda-

tion. In order to be considered for this award an individual must like Mr. Wilson embody the utmost in professionalism and make truly exceptional contributions to the MNO, in particular in advancing the goals of the *Statement of Prime Purpose*.

President Froh also paid tribute to Honourary Senator Reta Gordon who announced her intention, just prior to the start of the AGA, to not seek another term as a PCMNO Senator. President Froh spoke about Senator Gordon's selfless dedication to the MNO and the Métis cause and how her wise counsel has helped the PCMNO and other MNO leaders (see results of Senate elections on page C14).

The AGA was not just all business though; as Chair Picotte always loves to point out: “Métis work hard but we also play hard.” On Saturday evening, AGA delegates had the choice of attending either a cruise on Lake Nipissing with entertainment from Métis songstress Leah Belle or an evening of entertainment under the tent in Champlain Park courtesy of the MNO Host

at Métis Nation of Ontario



Mr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs speaking during the Welcome to the AGA.



Justice Ducharme speaks prior to swearing in the members of the PCMNO during the Welcome to the AGA.



Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation David Zimmer speaking with MNO Education Officer Alicia Blore (left) and SYCP facilitator Joanna Burt.



MNO leaders and special dignitaries give a traditional Voyageur salute during the arrival of the canoes.



PCMNO Region 6 Councillor Tom Thompson (middle) and PCMNO Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund (bottom) are being introduced during the AGA Opening Ceremonies.

community councils. Sunday afternoon included a full range of Métis cultural activities in Champlain Park while on Sunday night everyone kicked up their heels at a gala hosted by the MNO North Bay Métis Council (see page B10 for more AGA highlights).

Feeding the optimism at the AGA was the presence of a very large Métis youth contingent. Over 60 young MNO citizens participated, many of whom are part of MNO programs that promote Métis culture in their communities and in postsecondary institutions. “Our youth are amazing,” said President Froh, “they bring a vitality and energy that enriches everything we do.”

“The true strength of our Nation comes from our people and our communities,” added President Froh. “Our citizens have given so much of themselves over the past year to continue building strong, healthy and thriving Métis communities and we will see the results of all their excellent work here at the AGA,” she concluded. ∞



◀ **As the fiddle flows**
The talented fiddling of MNO Education Officer Alicia Blore has become a staple at AGAs. She led the procession following the landing of the canoes on Friday night and was part of the traditional Métis music performance that preceded the Amanda Rheume concert. Throughout the rest of the AGA, Alicia was always quick to grab her fiddle and spread the Métis spirit!

AGA 2016 Highlights

▶ **PCMNO Sworn in**

The PCMNO were sworn in on Friday night in a powerful ceremony led by Justice Todd Ducharme. (L-R) Region 9 Councillor Peter Rivers, Region 8 Councillor Anita Tucker and Youth Representative Mitch Case reciting their oath of office.



Campfire friends: Following the conclusion of the Amanda Rheume concert at the Welcome to the AGA events on Friday night, many citizens and friends of the MNO stayed for a campfire on the Lake Nipissing beach. Among the hard-core who stayed to the end were (left to right) Minister David Zimmer, MNA President Audrey Poitras, Rachel Osbourne (President Froh's spouse), MNO President Froh, Minister Bennett and MNBC President Dumont



A generous gift: Métis Nation British Columbia President Bruce Dumont is a long-time friend of the MNO and a regular guest at AGAs. As is often the case, President Dumont came bearing gifts and this year it took the form of some natural art created out of a piece of Red Cedar right from British Columbia. It was an especially appropriate gift because President Dumont had spent 40 years of his life working in the forest industry



A beautiful gift of Métis art: At this year's AGA, dignitaries, presenters and other guests received a beautiful print by MNO youth Kelly Duquette who recently graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Kelly asked to personally present one of the prints to Métis lawyer Jason Madden who was one of the AGA presenters. Kelly, who started law school this fall, wanted to acknowledge Jason as one of her inspirations.

Honouring Métis women is a part of our culture ▶

Following her address to AGA delegates on Saturday morning, Minister Bennett is presented with a Honouring our Métis women shawl by President Froh.



AGA 2016 Highlights

President's Welcome ▶

MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council President Kim Powley (left) and PCMNO Region 4 Councillor Ernie Gatien during the Friday night Welcome to the AGA.



Senators Meets and Greet

The presence of MNO Senators at the AGA underlined the crucial role they play in MNO governance. Senators offered their insights and guidance during the discussion of resolutions as well as in private moments with other delegates. Prior to the AGA, Senators hold their traditional Senators meet and greet as well as their formal meeting. ▼



Senators Meet and Greet: This year Senators were presented with either small pin-on sashes or sash shoals as part of the MNO Honouring Métis Women program. MNO Victim Services Manager Jennifer Lord (right) presents Honourary Senator and Captain of the Hunt Gerry Bedford with a pin on sash.

Reta & Ronnie: Senator Reta Gordon with her husband Ron at the Senators' meet and greet.



(L-R) MNO Senators Cecile Wagar and Carole Levis at the Senators' meet and greet.



MNO Veterans' Council Sworn-in: In addition the PCMNO being sworn in on Friday night, the newly acclaimed members of the MNO Veterans' Council Executive were also sworn in by President Froh on Sunday afternoon. (Left to right) President Joseph Paquette, Secretary Greg Garrett, Chair Guy Mandeville, Women's Representative Shelley Claus, Senator Alis Kennedy and President Froh.



New to the team: During the opening ceremonies Saturday morning, members of the PCMNO were introduced. Above, new Region 5 Councillor Dan Boulard waves to the crowd as he is introduced while Region 8 Councillor Anita Tucker (left) and Region 6 Councillor Tom Thompson right) look on.



AGA 2016 Highlights



NWMO Session: The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) made a presentation prior to the start of the formal AGA that outlined its mandate and plans for the next several decades and beyond. Left, MNO Grand River Métis Council President Jennifer Parkinson makes a point during the workshop.

Dance the night away: Underneath the spectacular sky over Lake Nipissing, after the Welcome to the AGA ceremony, Métis performed traditional dances accompanied by Métis fiddling. (Left to right) Alicia Blore, MNO Education Officer; Wanda Botsford, MNO Education Officer; Julia Simon, MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program Facilitator; and Katelyn Lacroix, PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative and WSMNO Representative.



Super fan: It turned out that Minister David Zimmer is among Amanda Rheuame's many fans. Following her concert at the Welcome to the AGA, he bought one of her CDs and took the time to ask her to autograph it for him.



Métis Youth Meeting: The 2016 AGA featured the largest youth contingent ever! Over 60 young people from all over the Métis Nation in Ontario attended including community council youth representatives, Infinite Reach facilitators and MNO Summer Youth Culture Program students. The youth added their energy and vitality to the AGA. Below are a few pictures from the Youth meeting that took place prior to the start of the formal AGA



Honouring Métis Women: Participants in the Women's Secretariat of the MNO meeting held prior to the AGA were gifted special sash shoals as part of the MNO's Honouring Métis Women campaign.





Three generations of Métis: MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile (centre) with his daughter (Kristin Randall) and his grandson Weston.



Strong Métis leadership: The AGA was ably chaired by MNO Chair France Picotte (right) and Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau (left). One of the responsibilities of the Vice-Chair is the decoration of the stage and podium to give it a Métis feel. Vice-Chair Cadeau always does an excellent job of this – this year providing both beautiful sashes and an awesome piece of fur.

AGA 2016 Highlights



A gift of a sash: In an extremely poignant moment during the opening ceremonies on Saturday morning, Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) President Bruce Dumont removed his personal sash and presented it to MNO Youth Representative Mitch Case. The sash presented to Representative Case was one of a series produced by MNBC for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. President Dumont explained: “If we are going to continue to build our nation we have to embrace the youth.”



◀ **Special Guest:** Norm Miller, MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, speaks at the Welcome to the AGA on Friday.



Our Generous Sponsors: This year Bruce Power was the AGA's Platinum sponsor. Above James Scongack, Vice-President of Corporate Affairs for Bruce Power speaks during the Friday evening Welcome to the AGA event.

Saturday night at Champlain Park ▶
Trent Desaulniers President of the Superior North Shore Métis Council and William Gordon President of the MNO Greenstone Métis Council enjoy the fish fry at Champlain Park hosted by the AGA host councils

WSMNO Meeting: MNO Chair France Picotte speaks during the meeting of the Women's Secretariat of the MNO, which met prior to the beginning of the formal AGA.



Resolutions Committee: One of the toughest jobs at the AGA goes to the Resolutions Committee. This committee reviews all resolutions from the floor and prepares them for discussion by the whole AGA. The committee members were left to right: Métis lawyer Jason Madden, PCMNO Region 7 Councillor Pauline Richardson, PCMNO Senator Ray Bergie, PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case and MNO Youth Council Region 1 Representative Kelly Duquette.



High energy: The Welcome to the AGA event on Friday evening turned out to be a rip roaring affair. Here Senator Brenda Powley kicks up her heels with a boisterous contingent of Métis women!

AGA 2016 Highlights



Fish fry: On the Saturday night, AGA delegates had two choices either a cruise of Lake Nipissing or a fish fry at Champlain Park hosted by the AGA host councils. Both events garnered big crowds whose enthusiasm could not be dampened by the rain that evening. MNO North Bay Métis Council President Marc Laurin cooks up some delicious fish.



Cruise sing-along: While on the cruise some AGA delegates provided their own impromptu entertainment. Above, MNO Citizen Richard Meilleur (right) accompanies PCMNO Region 4 Councillor Ernie Gaten as he belts out an old favourite.



Chief Commanda II Cruise
Leah Gravelle, a 12 year old Métis youth and rising performer entertained guests during the cruise.



Rock 'n' Roll Raffle winners: Sunday night featured a fantastic gala hosted by the MNO North Bay Métis Council. With awesome food and exciting entertainers, AGA delegates enjoyed themselves in true Métis fashion! Part of the Gala included a raffle for six guitars. Above are the winners who clearly can't wait to start playing!



Gala dinner and dance: Maxine and Garry Laframboise, MNO Niagara Region Métis Council Senator, were among the many AGA delegates that cut a rug during the gala on Sunday night.



◀ **Amanda Rheume** performs in concert at the Welcome to the AGA event. She provided a rousing rendition of “We Aspire,” a song she wrote for the MNO based on the *Statement of Prime Purpose*.



The MNO Veterans' Council each were gifted an Eagle feather at the 2016 AGA in North Bay. (L-R) Shelly Claus, Women's Representative; Guy Mandeville, Chair; Joseph Paquette, President; Greg Garratt, Secretary; and Dr. Alis Kennedy, O.Ont., C.D., O.M.C., Senator. Missing from picture: Robert Baskey, Sergeant-at-Arms. (Photo provided by: Greg Garratt.)

AGA 2016 Highlights

AGA Hosts: The 2016 MNO AGA was hosted by the three councils in Region 4: the MNO Sudbury, Mattawa and North Bay Métis Councils. These councils were recognized for their great work during the Opening ceremonies when each council president was presented with gifts by the PCMNO Senators. In presenting the gift to Marc Laurin, MNO North Bay Métis Council President, PCMNO Senator Verna Brunelle-Porter stated: “The Presidents of each council make us look great with all the hard work they do.” (Left to right) PCMNO Senator Rene Gravelle, Nelson Montreil, President of the MNO Mattawa Métis Council, PCMNO Senator Ray Bergie, Richard Sarrazin, President of the MNO Sudbury Métis Council, Marc Laurin, President of the North Bay Métis Council and PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle.



Know History Workshops: Prior to the AGA, MNO Presidents, Senators, Youth, Captains of the Hunt and the Executive of the MNO Veterans' Council and Women's Secretariat of the MNO participated in an oral history workshop presented by Know History, a company that has worked with the MNO on a number of projects including the Mattawa Report released last year. The workshop provided many opportunities for interaction and sharing and was a hit with all those in attendance. Middle: Region 2 Captain of the Hunt and interim Senator Ken Simard makes a point. Bottom: MNO citizens listen intently to Emily Keyes from Know History.



Infinite Reach: A special training session for MNO Infinite Reach (IR) facilitators took place prior to the start of the formal AGA. It helped prepare the facilitators for the upcoming school year that would be starting very soon. As is the tradition with Infinite Reach, each facilitator was presented with a special sash by President Froh. Above Alan Gauthier-Poelman, IR Facilitator for Algoma University, receives his sash from President Froh.

AGA 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions of the 23rd Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 27-29, 2016, at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Centre, North Bay, Ontario.

2016 SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #: AGA-SPECRES2016-004
Title: **AMEND SECTION 4 OF THE MNO SECRETARIAT BY-LAWS**
Mover: **Daniel Boulard**
Seconder: **Jessica Boulard**

WHEREAS the Métis National Council can change or amend the Métis definition without full agreement of the Métis Nation of Ontario citizens;

AND WHEREAS the Métis National Council does not give equal seats for voting to the Métis Nation of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS it is the democratic right for Métis Nation of Ontario citizens to have a voice on whom the Métis people are in their community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED to remove “in accordance with the Métis National Council” in section 4 of the MNO Secretariat Bylaws and to read as follows; “Citizenship in the MNO shall be limited to individuals interested in furthering the objects of the MNO and who are Métis within the definition adopted by the MNO, which is as follows;”

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS
(AGA-SPECRES2016-004)

Resolution #: AGA-SPECRES2016-005
Title: **MNO HARVESTING CARD FEES FOR SENIORS 65 AND OVER**
Mover: **Yvonne Jensen**
Seconder: **Guy Mike Laderoute**

WHEREAS the MNO Harvesting Policy came into effect on the 27th day of June in the year 2011;

AND WHEREAS the MNO Harvesting Policy has been amended from time to time;

AND WHEREAS article 4.3 of the MNO Harvesting Policy refers to “Applicable Fees as set out in Schedule “A” which is attached to and forms part of this MNO Harvesting Policy”;

AND WHEREAS the government of Ontario has waived the fees for Outdoors Cards or Fishing Licence for citizens 65 years and older;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that any MNO citizen 65 years and older who possesses a Valid Harvesting Card or is eligible to possess a MNO Harvesting Card have all fees associated with obtaining or renewing their Harvesting Card waived.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS
(AGA-SPECRES2016-005)

2016 NON-SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #: AGA-RES2016-01
Title: **PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO MÉTIS PROSPERITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY LAW**
Mover: **David Dusome**
Seconder: **Peter Coture**

WHEREAS one of the foundational objectives of the MNO, as set out in its *Statement of Prime Purpose*, is to develop prosperity and economic self sufficiency for the Métis Citizens, Métis Communities and the Métis Nation – as a whole – within Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Prosperity and Economic Self-Sufficiency was adopted by the MNO Annual General Assembly and the PCMNO may make changes to the Law to be subsequently ratified the next MNO AGA;

AND WHEREAS there is a need to inform Métis communities about when economic opportunities are being explored or pursued in a given region;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1) That the PCMNO consider making the following changes to the Law:

a. That Section 40 be amended to read as “This Law may be amended by the Board of Directors of Infinity Investments GP and only implemented by resolution at the Current Year Annual General by way of resolution and in compliance with the MNO policy number 2011-002

b. That ‘Appendix A page 10 ‘ the word “Governance” be changed to read MNO Chartered Community Councils Capacity Fund;

c. That the term “Day to Day Operations” be defined by explicit language to ensure there is clear direction on the boundaries and duties allowable to the Board of Director under the Prosperity and Self Sufficiency Law to conduct the affairs of Infinity Investments GP.

CARRIED (AGA-RES2016-01)
166 - IN FAVOUR
1- AGAINST
1- ABSTENTION

Resolution #: AGA-RES2016-02
Title: **ADVANCING MÉTIS HARVESTING RIGHTS**
Mover: **Margaret Froh**
Seconder: **Victor Brunelle**

WHEREAS harvesting and the continuing Métis relationship to the land is fundamental to the protection of Métis culture and identity;

AND WHEREAS the MNO has established a Harvesters Policy to protect Métis rights and manage the Métis harvest in Ontario in order to ensure Métis values of conservation and safety are respected;

AND WHEREAS the 2004 MNO-MNR Harvester Agreement requires that an independent review of the MNO Harvester Card system be completed in order to remove the cap and also includes a commitment that Ontario would pursue collaborative historic research on the MNO’s identified traditional territories where it did not agree with the MNO’s assertions;

AND WHEREAS the MNO and Ontario are in the process of finalizing a MOU on the conduct of the needed independent review;

AND WHEREAS there are still some areas where additional historic research is needed, including the West of Lake Nipissing region;

AND WHEREAS many Métis citizens need assistance in completing their Harvester Cards files and the MNO Registry currently does not have capacity to assist citizens in this work;

AND WHEREAS the MNO have established a Commission on Métis Rights & Self-Government to advance these issues;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1) That the MNO be directed to move forward as quickly as possible on the independent review so the cap on Harvester Cards is removed once and for all;

2) That the MNO be directed to press for additional historical research to be undertaken in areas like West of Lake Nipissing, including developing template letters so MNO citizens can send these letters to their respective MPs and MPPs for funding support;

3) That the MNO be directed to lobby to secure funding from Canada or Ontario to establish a mobile MNO Registry unit that can

assist both citizens and harvester applicants in completing their files;

4) That while the independent review is ongoing the PCMNO and Captains of the Hunt consider issuing additional Harvester Cards over the current negotiated cap (even though it is recognized that those Cards will not be recognized by the MNR for the interim period) for harvesters’ with completed files in order to encourage citizens to complete the process.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2016-02)

Resolution #: AGA-RES2016-03
Title: **MÉTIS REPRESENTATION IN MAINSTREAM MEDIA**
Mover: **Mitchell Case**
Seconder: **Benny Michaud**

WHEREAS the mainstream media plays a role in shaping public opinion on issues in Canadian society;

AND WHEREAS public opinion plays a role in shaping public policy;

AND WHEREAS Currently the Métis Nation is underrepresented in mainstream media;

AND WHEREAS all too often when “Métis” issues are covered they are covered in a way that misrepresents the Métis Nation, our history and our stories;

AND WHEREAS the CBC; as a crown corporation has a mandate which includes, but is not limited to: reflect Canada and its regions to national and regional audiences, while serving the special needs of those regions, actively contribute to the flow and exchange of cultural expression, contribute to shared national consciousness and identity, and reflect the multicultural and multiracial nature of Canada;

AND WHEREAS local media plays a role in raising the profile of groups and events in communities across the country;

AND WHEREAS the MNO currently has an outstanding communications infrastructure for internal communication, including but not limited to the Voyageur, E-voyageur, Website, Facebook and now Twitter;

AND WHEREAS while MNO is currently limited in the amount of support that can be provided to the community councils in the area of communications and outreach;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO President write a letter to the head of the CBC/Radio Canada, expressing our concern with underrepresentation of the Métis Nation in Media and specifically in the coverage by the CBC.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a second letter be sent to CTV;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MNO Communications branch work to develop a strategy to better engage mainstream media with the Métis Nation, our issues, rights etc,;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to better promote, and advance the agenda of the Métis Nation in Ontario through the community councils, as well as the other MNO councils (WSMNO/MNOYC/MNOVC); the 2016 AGA direct the PCMNO to seek resources to create a training module on media relations for the councils, specifically in the area of local outreach and event promotion; and that the PCMNO review and approve the training module before it is delivered.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2016-03)

Resolution #: AGA-RES2016-04
Title: **AMENDMENT TO THE SENATORS ELECTION PROCESS**
Mover: **Verna Porter-Brunelle**
Seconder: **Cecile Coutu**

WHEREAS we state in the Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose that its guiding principles are to:

- Establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self government;
- Encourage the full participation of all Métis Nation Senators;
- To promote fairness to election process and consistency of democratic policies;

AND WHEREAS, Senators are elected among the active Senators to sit on the Provisional Council of Métis Nation of Ontario;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO Senators should develop and establish a specific electoral code for PCMNO Senators and election of the Executive Senator.

CARRIED (AGA-RES2016-04)
147 – IN FAVOUR
1 – AGAINST
1 - ABSTENTION

Resolution #: AGA-RES2016-05
Title: **PROVINCIAL TWO-SPIRITED/LGTBQ WORKING GROUP**
Mover: **Benny Michaud**
Seconder: **Tera Beaulieu**

WHEREAS Two-Spirited and LGBTQ Métis people contribute greatly to our Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS Two-Spirited and LGBTQ Métis people were traditionally valued for their distinctive responsibilities and roles within our communities and have had these roles devalued and diminished through the process of colonization;

AND WHEREAS Two-Spirited and LGBTQ people have unique cultural, health, and social needs;

AND WHEREAS Two-Spirited and LGBTQ people continue to face discrimination and prejudice and remain at higher risk of serious mental health challenges and suicide;

AND WHEREAS various levels of government in Canada have identified Two-Spirited and LGBTQ rights as a high priority;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario’s *Statement of Prime Purpose* states that the MNO will commit to “improved health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community”;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario has other representative special interest groups such as the Women’s Secretariat, Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council and the Métis Nation of Ontario Veteran’s Council;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Ontario establish a provincial Two-Spirited/LGTBQ working group comprised of Métis citizens, with the support of the MNO public service, to assist in developing Two-Spirited and LGBTQ cultural and wellness programming, the identification and advocacy of Two-Spirited and LGBTQ rights, and consider the establishment of an MNO provincial representative body.

CARRIED (AGA-RES2016-05)
155 – IN FAVOUR
0 – AGAINST
1 - ABSTENTION

COMMUNITY



▲ (L-R) The Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, and NOHFC Chair; the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario; Theresa Stenlund, PCMNO Region 1 Councillor; and Joel Henley, MNO Kenora Métis Council President.

MNO citizens meet with Premier Wynne and Minister Gravelle

submitted by
Joanne Meyer, MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations

On August 10, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Kenora Métis Council President Joel Henley and PCMNO Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund attended a reception hosted by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) in Kenora.

At the reception, they had the opportunity to meet with the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, and the Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of

Northern Development and Mines, and NOHFC Chair. During the evening, Premier Wynne highlighted the government's support for building and growing the economy in northern Ontario. Established in 1988, the NOHFC works to build strong, prosperous northern communities.

Premier Wynne's visit to Kenora is a part of her seven day tour of northern Ontario where she will listen to local ideas and will highlight how the government is supporting economic growth and job creation in the north. Premier Wynne was just in Fort Frances on August 9 where she attended a meet and greet with the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council and MNO citizens. ∞



Photo By: Jenna Muirhead, Liberal Caucus Service Bureau Photographer

▲ Front row: Nora Klyne and Min Crowe. Back Row: Brady Hupet, MNO Sunset Country Métis Council (SCMC) Secretary/Treasurer; Roz Calder, MNO SCMC Chair; Kelly Calder, MNO SCMC Women's Rep; the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario; Sarah Marusyk, MNO SCMC Youth Rep; Karen Chowman, MNO SCMC Councillor and Clint Calder, MNO SCMC President.

Premier Wynne meets with MNO citizens in Fort Frances

submitted by
Joanne Meyer, MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations

On August 9, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens hosted a meet and greet with the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, in Fort Frances. Guests included the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council (SCMC), MNO staff, former MNO President Gary Lipinski as well as many MNO citizens.

During the evening, MNO citizens had the opportunity to meet Premier Wynne and discuss local topics of interest of Mé-

tis people in the area. Guests also enjoyed refreshments and Métis fiddle music. In remarks to the crowd, both Premier Wynne and Clint Calder, MNO SCMC President, emphasized the very positive relationship between Premier Wynne's provincial government and the MNO.

Premier Wynne's visit to Fort Frances is a part of her seven day tour of northern Ontario where she will listen to local ideas and highlight how the government is supporting economic growth and job creation in the north. One of Premier Wynne's priorities remains discussing how the government can help ensure that people in every corner of Ontario prosper and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. ∞

MNO Sunset Country Métis Council members meet with the Honourable Carolyn Bennett

submitted by
Clint Calder, MNO Sunset Country Métis County President

On August 18, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Sunset Country Métis Council (SCMC) welcomed the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs to their office in Fort Frances. Also in attendance were Don Rusnak, MP for Thunder Bay–Rainy River, and Monique Doiron, Director of Governance, Individual Affairs and Government Relations at Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

Clint Calder, MNO SCMC President, relayed to Minister Bennett the community's excitement in having a new government that was so committed to reconciliation. He

mentioned the hope that they can build off of the Daniels' decision and the Isaac report and start working on the details of a new relationship with the federal government. Minister Bennett was very receptive and said that she looks forward to working with the MNO.

Other topics discussed during the meeting included, the Half-Breed Adhesion, post-secondary education funding, health benefits, tax benefits and harvesting. President Calder stressed the importance of these issues and the need for them to be addressed as soon as possible. ∞



▲ (L-R) John George, Senator; Sarah Marusyk, Youth Representative/Secretary; Karen Chowhan, Councillor; Clint Calder, President; Wade Nelson, Councillor; Don Rusnak, MP for Thunder Bay–Rainy River; and Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.



▲ MNO Education Officer Alicia Blore (second from right at front) fiddles while MNO SYCP Lead Joanna Burt (far right at front) plays the Métis spoons.

MNO meets with Canadian Opera Company

by
MNO Staff

On June 6, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff arranged a presentation for the Canadian Opera Company (COC) to provide them with information on Métis history and culture. This presentation was arranged in preparation of their upcoming opera entitled, *Louis Riel*, which is set to run from April 20 to May 13, 2017. Composed by Harry Somers, *Louis Riel* is one of the most famous and influential Canadian operas.

The meeting began with a Métis 101 presentation by MNO Education Officer Alicia Blore and was followed by a presentation on

Louis Riel by MNO Education Officer Anne Trudel. Trudel along with MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) Lead Joanna Burt then led the group in a Métis jigg activity, which Blore accompanied on the fiddle. The presentation was very well attended with approximately 60-70 people in attendance.

Trudel was very pleased with the presentation and the receptivity of those in attendance. “The questions and participation by those in attendance displayed a genuine interest in the Métis perspective on Louis Riel and our Métis culture,” said Trudel.

The success of this presentation would not have been possible without MNO Education Officer

Wanda Botsford who developed the Louis Riel PowerPoint presentation and MNO Officer/Analyst Chantal Côté who will be following up any questions regarding the Métis language Michif. ∞

Hero, martyr, or traitor? The story of the polarizing Métis leader and Canada’s westward expansion is told in this landmark work. Composed by Harry Somers for our nation’s centennial in 1967, this uniquely Canadian contribution to the opera world is returning on the work’s 50th anniversary, and will help mark the 150th anniversary of Canada’s confederation. The COC has joined with Canada’s National Arts Centre to proudly present this new production of Louis Riel.

For more information about the opera, please visit the Canadian Opera Company website at coc.ca



▲ (L-R) MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council Secretary Katie Baltzer, Symposium keynote speaker Dave Jones, and MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council Women’s Representative Donna Grayer.

MNO Council participates in Through the Native Eye symposium

submitted by
The MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council

On May 27, 2016, members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council (WEKMC) participated in a symposium put on by the Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB). The symposium entitled, *Through the Native Eye*, invited high school students and teachers to learn about First Nations, Métis, and Inuit culture.

MNO WEKMC Secretary Katie Baltzer and Women’s Representa-

tive Donna Grayer facilitated a breakout session during the symposium called *So you think you are Métis?* The session included a presentation on Métis history and way-of-life and a question and answer period. All of the students were familiar with Louis Riel and were engaged in the discussion. Also assisting MNO WEKMC members with their presentation was Grayer’s daughter, Fawne Lo-Mascolo, MNO citizen and teacher with the GECDSB. ∞



▲ Minister Zimmer meets with the MNO Northwest Métis Council (NMC), MNO staff and citizens in Dryden. (L-R), Pat Livingston, MNO NMC Women’s Representative; Danielle DeLaronde, MNO staff; Janet Hipfner; MNO staff, Mandy Montgomery; MNO staff, MNO staff, David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; Al Roussin, Senator; Sophie Kiwala; Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; Jim Doherty; MNO NMC Councillor, Allen Mireault, MNO NMC Councillor; and, Julia Mitchell; MNO NMC Councillor.

MNO Northwest Métis Council meets with the Honourable David Zimmer

submitted by
Mandy Montgomery
MNO Employment Developer

On August 18, 2016, the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, met with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Northwest Métis Council, MNO staff and citizens in

Dryden for a meet and greet. Also in attendance was Sophie Kiwala, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

During the meeting, MNO citizens spoke with Minister Zimmer about priorities and key issues that people in northern Ontario are currently facing. A few of the topics mentioned include: high hydro and fuel costs; concerns with

eliminating wood heat and wood stoves; healthcare; issues with travel and transportation; highway maintenance; affordable housing; and, implementing dual highways.

Minister Zimmer was very receptive and provided valuable insight to the provincial and federal government’s involvement and concern for the issues in our northern communities. ∞

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) & Métis Awards Committee (MAC)

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is seeking Métis community members who are interested in volunteering their time as members of Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) or Métis Awards Committee (MAC). These roles offer an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the Métis community across Ontario. RAC and MAC members assist in the review of employment and training services in keeping with program Principles, Policies and Procedures.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- RAC members review and recommend training proposals through an anonymous review process with the assistance of the Regional Employment and Training Coordinator (RETC). Reviews are ongoing however time commitment is limited in nature.
- MAC members are required to review bursary applications once or twice a year.
- All RAC and MAC business is to be completed by fax, e-mail and/or teleconference wherever possible. MNO will provide the tools necessary to assist us with making informed decisions
- RAC/MAC work is strictly voluntary

If you are interested in this position or would like to know more please contact:
Jade Bourbonnière
jadeb@metisnation.org
1-800-263-4889

Métis Nation of Ontario ∞

A WONDERFUL WAY TO PROVIDE VALUABLE FEEDBACK TO OUR COMMUNITIES



▲ Members of the MNO Credit River Métis Council, family and friends.

MNO Council hosts second annual Garden Awakening Workshop

submitted by
Andrea Jibb, MNO Credit River Métis Council Community Outreach Coordinator

On Saturday, May 14, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) hosted its second annual Garden Awakening and Preparation Workshop at its community garden with the City of Brampton, where the Council currently has six plots. This annual event provides the MNO CRMC with an opportunity to cel-

ebtrate the beginning of spring and gave everyone an opportunity to spend time outdoors among other MNO CRMC members, family and friends. This workshop is one of many public events hosted by the MNO CRMC with the help of a Trillium grant to promote Métis culture and way of life. Despite the rainy forecast and high winds, a number of people came out to help clear the garden plots. To begin the day, workshop facilitator and MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent led participants in an opening prayer and tobacco offering. What made this year's

event truly special was the presence of children and youth, some as young as three years old. MNO CRMC citizens were delighted to be joined by a new youth volunteer; Connor Cozens, grandson of Ed Hass who is the former Senator of the MNO Grand River Métis Council. Once all of the hard work was done, participants took a break to enjoy some delicious traditional food prepared by Treasurer Lent. Rababo (homemade blueberry sauce) and bannock were among the spread of scrumptious food. ∞



▲ The MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council members and guests pose for a picture at the Harry Daniels potluck.

MNO Council hosts Harry Daniels Potluck

submitted by
Christa Lemelin, MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council Chair

On June 12, 2016, the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) hosted a Harry Daniels Potluck in celebration of the recent Métis victory in *Daniels v. Canada*. The potluck was a family fun event with crafts for kids and adults and great prizes. Many local MNO staff were also in attendance. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal of traditionally prepared wildlife and

other great food. The Council was delighted to have in attendance special guest and MNO citizen Anthony Carelli. Carelli better known by his ring name Santino Marella, is a Métis professional wrestler who was signed with the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) for eight years until his retirement in 2014. Carelli enjoyed the festivities and shared a few stories with everyone. ∞



▲ The MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council citizens pose for a picture on the Trent-Severn waterway.

MNO Council takes voyageur canoe tour on Trent-Severn Waterway

submitted by
Christa Lemelin
MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council Chair

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) citizens recently had the opportunity to join the Canadian Canoe Museum for a one-of-a-kind voyageur canoe tour on the Trent-Severn Waterway in Peterborough. While paddling in the 36 foot Montreal canoe, the citizens were lifted atop the Trent-Severn Waterway by the Peterborough Lift Lock—the world's highest hydraulic boat lift, and were offered a spectacular view of the city. Tour guides Jaqueline Brown and Dave Taylor taught the citizens about the basics of paddling, the types of paddles commonly used by voyageurs and recited stories of the voyageur life. Paddlers were also encouraged to try and keep up with the speed and effort that was put forth by their ancestors. Unfortunately, these modern day voyageurs were tired after only 30 seconds of hard paddling! The MNO PDWMC would like to thank the Canadian Canoe Museum for the wonderful and unique experience. ∞



▲ The MNO Sunset Country Métis Council. Back row: (L-R) Wade Nelson, Councillor; John George, Senator; Roz Calder, Chair; Kelly Calder, Women's Representative; Karen Chowhan, Councillor; Wendy Kabel, Councillor. Front row: (L-R) Brady Hupet, Treasurer; Sarah Marusyk, Youth Representative and Secretary; Clint Calder, President

MNO Council hosts a Ring in Spring Open House and Tea event

submitted by
Sarah Marusyk, MNO Sunset Country Métis Community Council Youth Representative and Secretary

On May 29, 2016, in Fort Frances, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Sunset Country Métis Council (SCMC) held a Ring in Spring Open House and Tea event. MNO citizens

enjoyed steeped tea, bannock, desserts and great conversation! MNO SCMC President Clint Calder also provided guests with Council and MNO updates. ∞



▲ Back row (L-R): John Henry, Mayor of Oshawa; Dr. Colin Carrie, MP Oshawa; Shadi Ashabanian-Azad, Métis Youth. Middle row (L-R): Serge Gagnon, Emcee; Peggy Forbes, Durham College Aboriginal Advisor, Aboriginal Student Centre; Jennifer French, MPP Oshawa; Margaret Froh, MNO President; Alicia Blore, Keynote Speaker and MNO staff; Sylvie Gravelle, Assistant to the Emcee. Front row (L-R): Kristin Randall, MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council (ODRMC) President; Cecile Wagar, MNO ODRMC Senator; Joseph Poitras, PCMNO Executive Senator.

MNO Council hosts 10th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration

submitted by **Cecile Wagar**, MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council Senator

With perfect weather and a great attendance, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council (ODRMC) could not have asked for a better way to celebrate their 10th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration (the Celebration)! Cecile Wagar, ODRMC Senator and Chairperson of the Celebration said “it was the best event to date and allowed MNO citizens the opportunity to renew and form new Métis connections!”

The Celebration took place the weekend of June 25-26, 2016 at Memorial Park in Oshawa and included great participation from many MNO citizens and staff. The Celebration opened with a prayer from Joseph Poitras, Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Senator, and a welcome address from MNO President Margaret Froh. MNO staff member Alicia Blore also was a keynote speaker during the event.

During the Celebration, guests were invited to visit many different vendors and exhibitors as well as a silent auction booth. Amidst the exhibits, was a display and Colour Party set up by the MNO Veterans’ Council and a Métis roots cultural display set up by MNO staff member Scott Carpenter. There were also many different interactive activities set up for participants, including crafts, fiddle and spoons and different workshops. The MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) Toronto staff members led a jigging workshop and taught guests Métis Voyageur games.

Guests were entertained throughout the day by musical performances by: Ariko (La Famille Lefaiwe Family), All Our Relations Métis Drum Circle, Gravel Road Fiddlers, Leah Belle and Amy Pinkus. There was also a surprise performance by MNO citizen Auriele Diotte, former member of the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers—the Métis

dance group of the MNO ODRMC.

The MNO ODRMC would like to thank their long-term partners and sponsors: Celebrate Canada, City of Oshawa, Ontario Power Generation, Via Rail Canada, Durham District School Board and LaQuinta Inn & Suites. The Council would also like to acknowledge their new sponsors: Nuclear Waste Management Organization and Apex Sound & Light.

Senator Wagar said a “gran marsee” to all who attended, participated, performed, and volunteered! A special marsee to our refined [MNO] council and committee members who continue to build and improve on past successes with new ideas and energy.”

The MNO ODRMC would like you to mark your calendar for next year’s annual Métis Heritage Celebration. The event will take place on June 24-25, 2017 at Memorial Park in Oshawa. More details to come. ∞



▲ (L-R) Kristin Randall, MNO ODRMC President; Margaret Froh, MNO President; and Jennifer French, MPP Oshawa.



▲ The celebration provided a chance for people to reconnect with their culture and with each other.



▲ Attendees take part in a traditional jig.



▲ A young fiddler provides some accompaniment.



▲ Musicians and a local harmonica player jam together at the end of the day.



▲ The MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council and AGM keynote speaker: (L-R) Councillor Justin Kogler, Senator Constance Simmonds, President Tera Beaulieu, AGM Keynote and MNO Citizen Dr. Lynn Lavallée, Secretary-Treasurer Marilyn Hew, and Chair Todd Ross

MNO Toronto and York Métis Council

MNO Council celebrates National Aboriginal History month

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) had a busy June participating in several events for National Aboriginal History month!

submitted by

Tera Beaulieu

MNO TYRMC President

Todd Ross

MNO TYRMC Chair

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Annual General Meeting

The MNO TYRMC held their Third Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, June 4, 2016. The AGM, which was preceded by the council's monthly business meeting, was held at Anishnawbe Health Toronto—a community health centre that provides culturally specific and integrated holistic healthcare to the Aboriginal community of Toronto. MNO TYRMC Councillors in attendance included President Tera Beaulieu, Chair Todd Ross, Secretary/Treasurer Marilyn Hew, Senator Constance Simmonds, and Councillor Justin Kogler, with Youth Representative Christine Skura sending her regrets.

Upon arrival, MNO citizens and Métis community members mingled before they were invited to join in a feast for lunch. After the AGM was officially called to order by Chair Ross, Senator Simmonds led everyone in an opening prayer. President Beaulieu then welcomed those in attendance highlighting the AGM's theme—Métis health and well-being. In her opening remarks, President Beaulieu acknowledged the traditional territory of the Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nation and offered gratitude to them and the other Indigenous peoples who have historically taken care of the land within the Toronto and York Region boundary. President Beaulieu also expressed thanks to each of the MNO TYRMC

Councillors for their dedicated and committed work over the last year, noting that the Council had a successful year busy with cultural-based gatherings for the community of Toronto and York Region.

Shifting gears, President Beaulieu kicked off the Executive Council Reports with her report on the Region 8 Consultation Committee and highlighted the Council's key achievements over the past year. These achievements included: participating in the precedent setting proponent engagements; participating in the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games; successfully being awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Laidlaw Foundation; participating in the Paddle the Don and Paddle the Rouge events; hosting numerous cultural events, including a drum-making workshop, an evening of jigging and fiddling, and a beading circle; and, writing and publishing several articles detailing the Council's work.

Senator Simmonds was up next to deliver a report outlining the numerous cultural initiatives she has participated in and led over the last year, which included: joining and representing the MNO TYRMC on several new committees; launching a Women's Circle at Native Child and Family Services of Toronto; and, providing personal support to Métis individuals in the community.

Secretary/Treasurer Hew then presented the Council's financial report, which provided an overview and explanation of monies received through the New Relationship Fund. It was noted that this year the MNO TYRMC had successfully earned the largest revenue to date through a variety of initiatives, including the sale of goods and the delivery of educational workshops

and presentations on Métis history, culture and community.

Once the Executive Council reports were completed, President Beaulieu provided an overview of the Council's Strategic Plan as well as key achievements from the various internal MNO TYRMC committees. Some of these included highlights from the Communications Committee, including maintenance of the MNO TYRMC website (www.torontoyorkmetis.com), Twitter (@TOYorkMetis), and Facebook, with a continued focus on reaching out to citizens for their email addresses to ensure they are aware of Council events in a timely manner.

Another key achievement for the MNO TYRMC was through the work of their Youth Committee, led by Youth Representative Skura. Under her leadership, the Youth Committee was successful in obtaining a \$25,000 grant from the Laidlaw Foundation to host Métis youth and knowledge keeper cultural exchanges in 2015-2016. Entitled Weaving the Sash, this cultural youth-led initiative has been highly successful in building the Métis youth community of the Toronto and York Region, with each of the events having a waitlist for participation, and the Youth Committee receiving ongoing recognition and invitations to present on their extraordinary work.

Chair Ross next reviewed the work of the Sustainability Committee, which included an exciting new project with the Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO). As a result of a generous donation from the Royal Bank of Canada, CESO has been funded to work with the MNO TYRMC to develop a corporate social responsibility

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▲ MNO citizens and special guests including Prime Minister Trudeau pose for a picture at the Paddle the Rouge event. Left to right: Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, Senator Constance Simmonds, Ella-Grace Trudeau, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Chair Todd Ross, and MNO Citizen Virginia Barter.



▲ Secretary/Treasurer Marilyn Hew (left) with MNO citizen Suzanne Brunelle (right) at the Na-me-res Pow Wow.

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strategy that will support the Council in its fundraising efforts to host cultural community events over the next several years.

As part of the Health Committee update, Chair Ross also introduced the AGM keynote speaker—Dr. Lynn Lavallée, who delivered an engaging and interactive talk on the health needs of Métis individuals. Those in attendance were welcomed to share and reflect on their own Métis family ancestry, with Dr. Lavallée continuing to discuss the relationship between Métis identity, health and well-being.

MNO staff Sabrina Roy also presented on MNO Healing and Wellness programs and services and facilitated a dot art exercise. Various Métis vendors were also in attendance selling goods, which included a table set up by the MNO TYRMC that offered Métis specific merchandise, including sashes, firebags, spoons, pins, and infinity flags.

The AGM was concluded with a musical performance from MNO staff and citizen Alicia Blore on fiddle and MNO citizen Liam Blore on guitar. President Beaulieu also led the group in learning Métis jigging, including the basic step, Red River Jig, and 7-step group dance. Once the final group dance ended, President Beaulieu offered closing remarks to the circle, thanking each person for attending the AGM and supporting the Council in its work and initiatives moving forward. Senator Simmonds offered a final closing prayer to the circle of participants and best wishes for safe travels home were shared by all.

The MNO TYRMC would like to express its sincere thanks to MNO citizens, community members, and staff for joining in to celebrate the work of its Councillors over the past year, as well as providing direction and guidance for the coming year. The MNO TYRMC Councillors were inspired by the strength and vitality of the Métis community of



▲ President Beaulieu (second from left) leads MNO citizens in the 7-step Métis jig at the MNO TYRMC AGM.

the Toronto and York Region and they greatly look forward to meeting with new citizens and connecting with old friends over the next year.

Paddle the Rouge

On Saturday June 18, the MNO TYRMC partnered with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) at the Paddle the Rouge event. Senator Simmonds was invited to give an opening prayer and brothers Danton and MNO citizen Nicholas Delbaere-Sawchuk provided a musical performance as special guests arrived, which included: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; Minister of Environment and Climate Change Katherine McKenna; Minister of Economic Development and Growth Brad Duguid; and, a number of MPs and MPPs. A special announcement was made to declare that the Rouge would be named a National Park. As they prepared to take their canoes out for a paddle, Prime Minister Trudeau, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau and Ella-Grace Trudeau posed for a photo with Chair Ross, MNO citizen Virginia Barter and Senator Simmonds. The MNO TYRMC spent the remainder

of the day speaking to the paddle participants at a historical display set up by Barter, which showcased Métis history and culture.

Na-Me-Res Pow Wow

Across the city on June 18, Secretary/Treasurer Hew, Councillor Kogler, Councillor Jonquil Peel, MNO citizen Robyn Grant-Moran and Jess Beaulieu had a busy afternoon selling Métis products at the Na-Me-Res Pow Wow at the historic Fort York. This year's Pow Wow was attended by over 12,000 people. MNO TYRMC Councillors had a fantastic day engaging the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community of Toronto in discussing the Métis Nation!

Sunrise Ceremony

On the morning of June 21, Chair Ross participated in the sunrise ceremony hosted by the Toronto City Council. Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Minister David Zimmer and Mayor John Tory were in attendance and braved the 5:30 a.m. start. Chair Ross has participated in the sunrise ceremony for many years to mark the City of To-



▲ (L-R) Chair Todd Ross, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett, Secretary/Treasurer Marilyn Hew, and MNO staff Jean Appel at the Native Canadian Centre's National Aboriginal History Month Celebration.

ronto's commitment to celebrating National Aboriginal History Month.

Native Canadian Centre's National Aboriginal History Month Celebration

On Thursday June 23, Secretary/Treasurer Hew, Chair Ross, President Beaulieu and MNO staff Jean Appel, set up a table to provide information and to sell Métis goods at the Native Canadian Centre's National Aboriginal History Month Celebration. Special guest Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, attended the event and stopped by the Council's table. Later in the afternoon, the newly formed jig group—the Toronto Métis Jiggers, performed a number of dances, accompanied by the musical talents of MNO staff and citizen Alicia Blore on fiddle and MNO citizen Liam Blore on guitar. The Toronto Métis Jiggers received an invitation to perform as the headlining Métis group for the celebration and introduced the crowd of approximately 1000 people to the musical and dance traditions of the Métis Nation! MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program staff Kyle Burton, Joanna Burt, Simone Blais, and Sha-

nese Steele performed close to 10 Métis jigs, while President Beaulieu emceed the performance and shared teachings on Métis cultural traditions with the crowd, including the significance of the sash and the infinity symbol. The performance was widely applauded by the audience, with the group receiving several accolades and requests for pictures following their performance.

TD Bank Luncheon: The Daniels' decision and Métis people in Canada

Finally, on Friday, June 24, Chair Ross and MNO citizen Kelly Campagnola spoke at a TD Bank luncheon series on the Daniel's decision and the current political landscape for Métis people in Canada. This was the Council's third invitation to deliver educational talks at TD Bank with their employees. Partnering on such educational initiatives with various groups and corporations is a high priority for the MNO TYRMC. The Council strongly believes that sharing knowledge with the general public on the Métis Nation is a wonderful example of truth and reconciliation efforts at the community level. ∞



TD celebrates the 23rd MNO
Annual General Assembly

Whether it's help with your
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here to help.



Métis across Ontario celebrate National Aboriginal Day

Every year on June 21, we celebrate National Aboriginal Day. This important day is an opportunity for Métis and other Aboriginal people to remind our fellow Canadians of the very important contributions made by Métis, First Nations and Inuit peoples to this country. It is a day to let your Métis spirit shine as we honour the summer solstice and celebrate our culture and heritage. Below are a few of the events that were hosted and attended by Métis in Ontario:



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▲ On June 21, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council (HSSMMC) partnered with Batchewana First Nation to celebrate National Aboriginal Day! The all-day event took place on Whitefish Island in Sault Ste. Marie. The day included many different activities including a welcoming address, family activities, a fish fry, a step dancing contest, a mini Pow Wow and fireworks at dusk. The MNO HSSMMC and the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program facilitators helped to organize and lead several activities for guests. It was a very successful and well-attended event!



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◀ On National Aboriginal Day, MNO Veterans' Council Sgt-at-Arms Rob Baskey presented Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Aboriginal Policing Bureau Commander, Superintendent Mark Pritchard and Deputy Director, Inspector Brian Therrien with a copy of the MNO veterans' book entitled, *Fighting for Canada Before there was a Canada: Ontario Métis Veterans pass the torch*.



5



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◀ The Community of Renfrew County came together at the Pembroke Marina to celebrate National Aboriginal Day. Métis, First Nations, Inuit and other community members enjoyed a fun filled day celebrating Indigenous culture. Throughout the day, a variety of activities took place including bannock making, Indigenous crafts, dancing, drumming, singing, teaching circles, a health fair and many more! The day brought in over 500 people including schools around the county who wanted to immerse their students in Indigenous culture.



6

◀ Bryanna Scott, MNO Thunder Bay Metis Council Treasurer, brought opening remarks to the City of Thunder Bay's National Aboriginal Day activities held at Marina Park in Thunder Bay. Scott acknowledged the traditional homeland of the historic Métis community in the Thunder Bay area and provided guests with some Métis history. Métis people have lived in the Thunder Bay area from the beginning of the nineteenth century and following the making of the Robinson Treaties in 1850 in an area that was known as Prince Arthur's Landing and later Port Arthur. Their settlement at Fort William is recognized as one of the first Métis settlements in Canada.

1. (L-R) John Konawalchuk, MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council (HSSMMC) Chair; Dianne Beaudry, MNO HSSMMC Councillor; Brenda Powley, MNO HSSMMC Senator; Steve Gjos, MNO HSSMMC Secretary; Ernie Gatien, Region 4 PCMNO Councillor; Shirley Loubert, MNO HSSMMC Women's Representative; Ken Smale, MNO HSSMMC Councillor; Virginia Rydal; and Alicia Blore, MNO Education Officer. 2. MNO youth who spoke to the Senate Committee on Aboriginal peoples on National Aboriginal Day. (L-R) President Froh, Kelly Duquette, Katelyn LaCroix and Mitch Case. 3. MNO staff from the Dryden Northwest office held a community BBQ in celebration of National Aboriginal Day. (L-R) Janet Hipfner, MNO Community Support Services Coordinator; Mandy Montgomery, Employment Developer; and Tori Finlay, MNO Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator. 4. (L-R) Deputy Director, Inspector Brian Therrien, MNO Veterans' Council Sgt-at-Arms Rob Baskey and OPP Aboriginal Policing Bureau Commander, Superintendent Mark Pritchard. 5. The Community of Renfrew County came together at the Pembroke Marina to celebrate National Aboriginal Day. 6. MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council Treasurer Bryanna Scott speaks at the City of Thunder Bay's National Aboriginal Day activities held at Marina Park in Thunder Bay. 7. A young participant gets up close and personal with a moose calf at the National Aboriginal Day celebration in Pembroke.



▲ (L-R) Jean Camirand, President, MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council and Paul Robitaille, MNO Youth Council Region 2 Representative.

MNO Council steps up to support Métis youth

submitted by
Paul Robitaille
MNO Youth Council Region 2 Representative

The newly-elected Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Thunder Bay Métis Council (TBMC) wasted no time in getting down to business when they sat down for their inaugural meeting on June 14, 2016. As their first official action, the MNO TBMC voted by consensus in favour of a historic resolution that will guarantee long-term financial support for youth-focused initiatives, both at the local and provincial levels.

Originally tabled by MNO Youth Council Region 2 Representative Paul Robitaille, the resolution ensures that a minimum of 25 % of any future payments received by the MNO TBMC through negotiated agreements with natural resource related proponents, including mining, forestry, and energy companies, will be directly allocated towards opportunities and initiatives that benefit Métis youth. While 15 % will be earmarked for programming in the Thunder Bay area, 10 % will be gifted to the MNO Youth Council to support their ongoing efforts to engage and empower Métis youth across the province. This marks the first

time that a chartered community council has provided a long-term financial commitment to the MNO Youth Council.

When asked about the Council's motivation for passing the resolution, MNO TBMC President Jean Camirand said that he has "always stated most emphatically that the youth are our future and that we must all work together to encourage and support all of the great work they do within our communities and across the Métis Nation. In the minds of our Council, this resolution was the least we could do to help ensure their efforts are able to continue."

Upon hearing of the resolution's passing, MNO Youth Council President Mitch Case, commented, "I am so excited by this resolution. Since the founding of the MNO, the leadership at all levels have made space for youth at the table. The youth have always responded and have worked to build our own capacity to give back to the MNO. This kind of meaningful investment from the Thunder Bay Métis Council is exactly the kind of insightful thinking that has made the MNO one of the leading Métis Governments in the Homeland. I commend everyone involved, for their commitment to our young people, and to our shared future."

Anyone wishing to find out more about the MNO TBMC and its upcoming events is encouraged to visit the Council's website at thunderbaymetisCouncil.com or contact them directly at thunderbaymetis@hotmail.com. More information about the MNO Youth Council can be found at metisnation.org/governance/governing-structure/mnoyc-youth.



▲ The MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council stand in front of the Calvary Church MNO rooftop solar project.

MNO Council tours Calvary Church MNO rooftop solar project

submitted by
Christa Lemelin
MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council Chair

The Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) had the opportunity to tour the Calvary Church rooftop solar project located in their community on Lansdowne Street West in Peterborough.

This rooftop solar project is one of 50 projects in Ontario currently owned by the MNO, in partnership with BrightRoof Solar LP. CarbonFree Technology Vice-President of Project Development Ven Seshadri and Project Development Manager Syd Healey provided the MNO Council with a guided tour of the facility on a beautiful sunny day and answered questions. According to Vice-President Seshadri, the Calvary Church solar facility is a 190 kilowatt solar power

er system that can produce enough power to service more than 25 homes. It was officially connected to the grid in August 2015. The MNO PDWMC was pleased to see the efforts and values of the MNO's long term goals to move forward with clean technology and reduce their carbon footprint. They were also very appreciative to have the opportunity to tour this facility and to learn about the technology.



▲ Members of the MNO Credit River, Oshawa Durham and the Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council. Back row: (L-R) Karen Derocher, MNO CRMC President; Christa Lemelin, MNO PDWMC Chair; Luke Thompson, MNO PDWMC Councillor; Terry Bloom, MNO PDWMC Senator; Taryn Blackstock, MNO PDWMC Women's Representative; Andy Dufrane, MNO PDWMC President; Kristin Randall, MNO ODMC President; Terri Head, MNO ODMC Councillor. Front row: (L-R) Cecile Wagar, MNO ODMC Senator; Jeanette Ireland, MNO ODMC Secretary; Janet Huttman, MNO ODMC Treasurer.

MNO Councils take part in Bridging Worldviews workshop

submitted by
Christa Lemelin
MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council Chair

Members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) and the MNO Oshawa Durham Métis Council (ODMC) recently joined the MNO Peterborough

and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) for a workshop held at Fleming College in Peterborough. The course entitled, *Leading Responsibly: Bridging Worldviews to Address Complex Problems*, was led by Jane Gray. During the workshop, Gray shared her years of experience, which allowed Council members to explore different approaches and perspectives that influence decision-making about lands, waters and communities. The course also touched on ways to develop bridging strategies through communication and problem solving and identified steps towards solutions on various issues. Council members were provided with tools and strategies to create practical and positive approaches for working with other organizations on issues large and small.



▲ The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council and youth campers at the YMCA Camp Kitchikewana.

Annual Youth Aboriginal Week at Camp Kitchikewana

submitted by

Larry Ferris, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chair

This summer, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) held its annual Aboriginal Week Youth trip to YMCA Camp Kitchikewana. Also in attendance were youth from Beausoleil Island First Nations and Benny's Club from Waubaushene. The MNO GBMC had the largest group again consisting of 29 people: 25 youth and four Councillors.

One of the goals of the camp is to foster leadership and team building amongst the youth. One of the ways this is created is with the "moving up" of youth from a camper to a Councillor. One youth that made this transition this year was long-time camper and MNO citizen Dalton Latondress. MNO GBMC Chair Larry Ferris stated that, "Dalton did a wonderful job supporting the younger children, providing guidance and making sure they had the most fun possible!" There are also many other youth that will soon be able to make this important next step.

The MNO GBMC were very impressed with the youth at this year's camp as they created a caring environment and were attentive in making sure that everyone was having a great time and got the chance to participate. They were also very welcoming and made friends with many of the other youth at the

camp. Chair Ferris was very pleased that "all our youth w[ere] well behaved and [were] great ambassadors for our Council and the MNO."

YMCA Camp Kitchikewana provides a positive space for youth to try new things. The MNO GBMC noted that it is always rewarding watching the youth learn new skills and the big smiles and new-found confidence they get when, with a little bit of work, they succeed!

A few new activities added to this year's camp; fire starting was a big hit and showed youth how important fire is for survival and how hard it would have been for our ancestors to start a fire without modern matches or lighters. Youth got to test out traditional fire starters including a bow drill, flint and rock, and flint steel strikers.

The second new activity was an archaeological dig. Parks Canada staff provided a mock dig site that our youth were able to test out to get an idea of all of the work that goes into a real dig. Other activities at the camp included canoeing, kayaking, hiking and more! The MNO GBMC remarked that it is great to watch the youth progress and excel at the different activities offered every year.

"On behalf of the MNO GBMC and our youth, I would like to thank the Georgian Bay Islands National Parks, the YMCA Camp and staff for providing the opportunity

It is always rewarding watching the youth learn new skills and the big smiles and new-found confidence they get when, with a little bit of work, they succeed!

at a reduced cost," said Chair Ferris. "We also thank Ontario Power Generation (OPG) for providing the funds this year for the Camp. OPG made it possible for us to take all the children who applied to go and no parent had to say they could not afford to send them. This Camp in the summer would cost for a week about \$1000.00 per child."

The MNO GBMC would also like to thank the other volunteer's at YMCA Camp Kitchikewana, Trish Paradis and Janice Ferris. "This was Tricia's first time at the Camp and she did a wonderful job," continued Chair Ferris. "It is not easy to get good volunteers like Janice and Trish with the promise of a trip to a remote Island with 25 kids; most people would run!" ∞



▲ Kitchikewana campers have a hands-on experience with some of the local wildlife.



▲ Parks Canada staff provided the campers with a mock-archaeological dig site to learn about the work that goes into a real dig.

MNO Council volunteers invited to celebrate at Beausoleil Island

submitted by
Larry Ferris, MNO Georgian Bay
Métis Council Chair

On August 12, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) volunteers were invited to Beausoleil Island—the largest island within Georgian Bay Islands National Park—to celebrate some of the achievements and work they have completed at the Cemetery of the Oaks. Most recently, the GBMC assisted with tree planting efforts and were instrumental in the construction of information plaques—written in Anishinabe, French, English and Michif—that can be found beside the cemetery.

The event was led by Brian Charles, Aboriginal Liaison Officer at Georgian Bay National Park. Throughout the day, guests were treated to a free boat ride and were invited to take part in a guided tour provided by Heritage Presenter/Naturalist Shawn Corbiere.

The MNO GBMC were happy to bring along four MNO staff members—Debbie Giammottolla, Tracy Bald, Shirley Dorion and Tera Lynn Moreau Vivian—who have worked so hard and collaborated with the Council on many different projects. The celebration was an opportunity for the Council to

show MNO staff some of the work they have recently done on behalf of MNO citizens.

For lunch, the Georgian Bay Islands National Park staff cooked up a barbeque lunch. While digging in to some delicious food, an impromptu brainstorming session was held between the Council and MNO staff on future events they can collaborate on. “When we join the two efforts of the Council and MNO staff for the benefit of our citizens, good things can happen,” said Larry Ferris, MNO GBMC Chair.

Earlier this spring, Chair Ferris’ son Carl planted over 20 trees on the Island on behalf of MNO GBMC harvesters. Upon returning to the Island for this celebration, Carl was thrilled to reconnect with an old friend, however unfortunately not everyone was as excited as Carl. Slithering in the bushes was no other than Carl’s old friend Pineapple the Fox Snake! Chair Ferris said that the circle of visitors spread out quite quickly during Pineapple’s visit!

To close off the celebration, Corbiere gave a presentation on the history of the Beausoleil Island and passed around several artifacts. Guests were also entertained with an Atlatl throwing demonstration—an ancient method of spear throwing. ∞



▲ MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council volunteers, citizens and staff took part in a guided tour of Beausoleil Island, and later enjoyed an impromptu visit from Pineapple the Fox Snake.

MNO staff member experiences life as a commercial Métis fisherman

submitted by
Joan Panizza
MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

Below is a first-hand account by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Wellness Coordinator Joan Panizza who experienced what it would be like to live as a commercial Métis fisherman in northern Ontario:

As an MNO Community Wellness Coordinator, I have the opportunity to make connections with Métis people from many different walks of life. When the chance arose to accompany two first-year Northern Ontario School of Medicine students on board the Marion G. boat for a day of learning, I leapt at the opportunity!

Our host and owner of the Marion G. boat was Ron Gerow and his son Patrick. They are fourth and fifth generation commercial fishermen who self-identify as Métis. Ron has a license to work on the north shore of Lake Superior around Welcome Islands in Thunder Bay and in and around Magnet Point in Black Bay.

The Gerows are one of three commercial enterprises still using this traditional Métis trade in Thunder Bay. Patrick, like his father Ron, learned the trade at a young age by working on the boat. His great-great grandfather was fishing around Toronto Island before he made his way up to the top of Lake Superior.

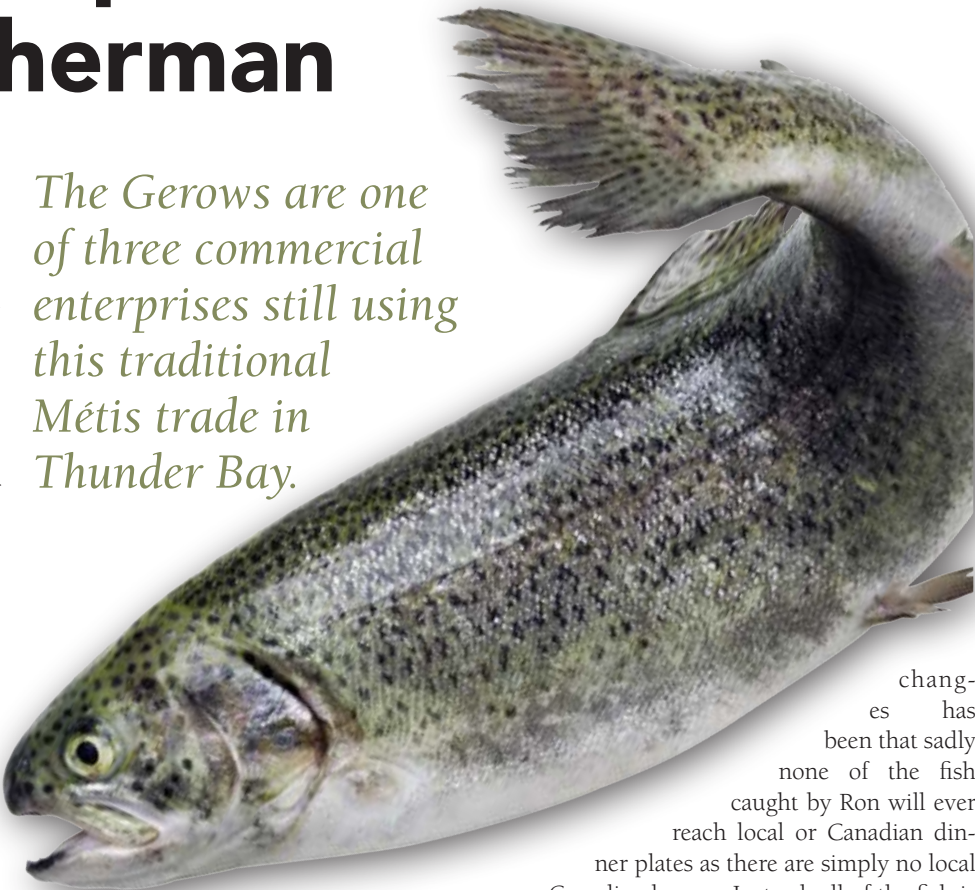
The Marion G. is named after Ron’s youngest aunt. She came up from Lake Erie in 1952. The boat is a 40 footer with a 471 GM diesel. It replaced the last coal fired fishing boat in the area, which was manned by Ron’s grandfather. The boat draws 3 and ½ feet, so it can get into some pretty shallow waters. It has a heater and wood stove for colder days. Luckily, the weather was so good that day that we did not need to use the heater—something that is kind of unheard of this time of year on the open water.

Daily outings for the Gerow family begin at 6:00 a.m. Although it was an early start, as we made our way out of the harbour, the sunrise over the Sleeping Giant rock formation was just the beginning of good things to come for us. Our day out on the lake could not have been more perfect: clear skies, light wind, and calm waters.

While on the boat, I learned that commercial fishing is hard work! In addition to piloting the boat, Ron sets and then pulls up the fishing nets once their full. He does this over and over again until his boat has reached capacity. He then returns to the harbour, where the fish are cleaned off and loaded onto trucks for further distribution.

My time with the Gerow family seemed to fly by! Before I knew it, we were back at the docks, nets full with our latest catch: lake trout and whitefish. Later in the season Ron will set nets at Magnet Point for salmon and herring. Ron informed us that the best time of year to catch fish is between April and No-

The Gerows are one of three commercial enterprises still using this traditional Métis trade in Thunder Bay.



vember. Ron says that although there are more fish now than ever before, the times have definitely changed. When he first took over the business, you could make a living from just one box of fish; now it takes 10 boxes. Another big change is the number of commercial fishermen in the area as the number has dramatically dropped down to just three when there used to be 25 in the Thunder Bay area. But probably one of the most dramatic

changes has been that sadly none of the fish caught by Ron will ever reach local or Canadian dinner plates as there are simply no local or Canadian buyers. Instead, all of the fish is packed up and sent to Chicago in the United States of America.

At 68, Ron has no plans to retire. Patrick is apprenticing to become a certified Millwright and works with his father when his schedule permits it. For the Geroux family, making a living from the bounty of the lake is simply a way of life. There are many of us who dream of living off the land—or in this case, the water, but only a few are really able to do this. ∞

MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Youth Committee organizes fishing derby

submitted by
Larry Ferris, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chair

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) Youth Committee teamed up with the MNO GBMC Veterans' Committee to organize a Fishing Derby for MNO citizens in the Georgian Bay region. The main goal was to promote fishing—a traditional Métis harvesting activity—to Métis youth. It was also an opportunity for Métis youth to meet with MNO veterans, to whom we owe so much.

As youth arrived, they were given a fishing rod and tackle pack to use during the derby and the best part is they got to keep them! Many of the youth were successful in catching a fish. For some this was the first fish they had ever caught! One youth caught a turtle, another first!



▲ Métis youth and members of the MNO GBMC Youth Committee and MNO Veterans' Council at the fishing derby.

MNO Region 7 Captain of the Hunt (COTH) and Veterans' Council Secretary Greg Garratt and his wife Heather (MNO GBMC Treasurer)

er) generously hosted a barbeque lunch for derby participants at their home. The hot dogs and hamburgers were delicious but, unfortunately for the hosts, their raspberry bush was almost picked clean. They should have known better then to let nearly 30 Métis youth loose in

their backyard! After lunch, prizes were awarded and youth were gifted grab bags to take home.

There was a great turn out with several MNO Council members, 27 youth and many parents and grandparents in attendance! It was an amazing event and everyone, especially the youth, enjoyed the day!

The MNO GBMC Youth Committee would like to thank in particular MNO GBMC Veterans' Committee Chair Mike Duquette and COTH Garratt for all of their help. They would also like to thank the town of Penetanguishene for the use of their docks, Canadian Tire Midland for providing a discount on fishing tackle, MNO GBMC Youth Representative Markie Tuckett and all of the other volunteers. A final thank you goes to Ken 'two-dogs' Frazer for his tireless work in making this event such a success. When we all work together as a team, we can accomplish so much for the good of our MNO citizens! ∞



▲ Conservation effort volunteers on Beausoleil Island National Park. (L-R) Ethan Rodgers, Josh Rodgers, Rob Rogers, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chair Larry Ferris, Carl Ferris, Brenda Laurin, Roger Laurin. (Photo credit: Janice Ferris).

MNO Council finishes another successful conservation effort on Beausoleil Island National Park

submitted by
Larry Ferris
MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chair

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) Harvesters Committee finished off another successful conservation effort on Beausoleil Island National Park in Georgian Bay. Volunteers made their way to the Island by boat where they planted about 120 trees ranging from small seedlings to 10-foot maples, large cedars and pines. All species are indigenous to Beausoleil Island. Volunteers also planted white and red cedars, sugar maples, and white pine. The group worked hard to get all the trees in

and planted properly.

The MNO GBMC was thrilled with the great group of volunteers that came out this year. Volunteers included members from the MNO GBMC and the Moon River Métis Council, the Georgina Island First Nation, and Beausoleil Island park staff. At lunchtime, everyone took a well-deserved break to enjoy a barbecue lunch, which consisted of buffalo burgers and other snacks.

One highlight from the day was the interest of three bears that made their way into the planting area. MNO GBMC Chair Larry Ferris acknowledged that "it is always good to see animals and know that we are helping to improve their habitat."

This year, the MNO GBMC re-

ceived a very generous donation from Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to pay for the project. The MNO GBMC would like to thank the OPG for their support so that this project could be arranged. Chair Ferris says that one of the "nice things about planting on a National Park site is that we don't need to worry about these trees being cut down or damaged prematurely. These trees will be around for many generations."

Parks Canada was very pleased and thankful with the results of the planting. They were also impressed with the quality of trees that were planted. Projects like this show the commitment of the Métis, our partners and sponsors to conserve wildlife and natural habitats. ∞



▲ 2014 MNO Canoe Expedition participant Amilia DiChiara (left) and MNO Education Officer Alicia Blore stand in front of the Tree of Reconciliation in the foyer of the Macdonald building.

MNO youth perform at the kickoff celebration for National Aboriginal History Month

by MNO Staff
with excerpts from
newsontario.ca

On June 1, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Education Officer Alicia Blore and 2014 MNO Canoe Expedition participant Amilia DiChiara participated at an event in downtown Toronto to celebrate the beginning of National Aboriginal History Month. Blore and DiChiara were among the Indigenous performers that entertained guests at this special event. They proudly demonstrated Métis culture in their performance where Blore fiddled while DiChiara performed a Métis jig.

Special guests at the event included David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Recon-

ciliation and Deborah Richardson, Deputy Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. Minister Zimmer stated that he is "excited to once again take part in National Aboriginal History Month celebrations. This month I hope we can continue to learn from our past and reflect on the next chapter of Canadian history – one that should be defined by reconciliation with Indigenous people."

Declared in 2009, National Aboriginal History Month is a time to acknowledge the role Indigenous peoples played in the development of Canada, to honour Indigenous heritage and to celebrate Indigenous cultures. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the strength of present day First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities, and their hopes for the future. ∞



▼ (L-R) MNO Niagara Region Métis Council citizens and Métis youth sit on their float for the Welland Rose Parade: Giselle Legiehn, Women's Representative; Garry Laframboise, Senator; Amanda Pont-Shanks, Chair; Holden Shanks, Preston Legiehn, Ema Brown; Leah Brown, Secretary; Brian Kon, Councillor; and Calab Legiehn.

submitted by **Amanda Pont-Shanks**, MNO Niagara Region Métis Council Chair
with excerpts from an article that appeared at walkerind.com

Every summer seems to be a little busier for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC). This summer was no different and what a success it was!

Fourth Annual Community Fish Fry:

The MNO NRMC Fourth Annual Community Fish Fry kicked off the Council's summer events. The event was held on June 16, 2016 at Club Richelieu in Welland. This event was another great partnership between the MNO Healing and Wellness branch and the MNO NRMC. Once again, this event sold out quickly and welcomed many new faces from across the province.

The Fish Fry began with opening remarks from MNO NRMC President Derrick Pont. MNO staff member Glen Lipinski then took over the mic to serve as emcee for the rest of the evening. Local fish was prepared by MNO NRMC Senator Garry Laframboise, Councillor Pierre Carre alongside many other volunteers. MNO staff and the Council were an unstoppable team that were able to quickly serve food to the many hungry attendees.

The night was filled with traditional Métis music by the Old Time Fiddlers. Guests danced, ate, laughed, and formed old and new friendships. The night was a great success and the Council looks forward to hosting it again next year!

Dream Catcher Workshop:

Also in June, MNO NRMC Chair Amanda Pont-Shanks and Youth Representative Niki Ann Brideau hosted a Dream Catcher Workshop. This was a family event where parents and children came together to learn how to make dream catchers. The workshop had over 20 participants ranging from seven years of age to 'life experienced' participants (as they liked us to put it).

While the dream catchers are a concept borrowed from our First Nations cousins, this began the conversation around Métis traditions and culture sharing. At the workshop, generations of Métis people shared their own personal experiences with one another. Elders shared with the youth stories from their childhood and fond memories of traditional Métis cooking and family events.

There were many laughs and a great time was had by all. Everyone agreed that one of the best dream catchers was made by 11-year old Métis youth Theron Young.

Welland Rose Parade:

On June 26, the MNO NRMC participated

in the Welland Rose Parade. The float was beautifully designed by NRMC Women's Representative Giselle Legiehn. New additions to the float this year were wooden canoes that were kindly made by students from Jean Vanier High School in Welland. Plants and trees for the float were kindly loaned to the Council from Paul's Garden Centre in Welland.

A truck, trailer, and driver were kindly donated to the MNO NRMC from local community partner, Walker Industries. The sponsorship assists the Council with their mission to unite Métis people and promote the historical values, culture, language and traditions of the Métis Nation.

"The Niagara Region Métis Council is very thankful to have a community partner like Walker Environmental. Over the last several years Walker Environmental has helped our Council bring awareness of the Métis way of life and history to the citizens of the Niagara Region" says Derrick Pont, MNO NRMC President.

Many Council members volunteered their time to set up the float and participate in the parade along with a few of their children who they brought along so that they could learn about Métis traditions and customs. The kids worked well as a team and were very proud to show their Métis heritage to the community.

As the Council paraded down the street, many cheers could be heard from the crowd. For the seventh year in a row, the MNO NRMC float took home the prestigious Best Cultural Float Award. Senator Laframboise naturally took home the most cheers.

Métis encampment at Fort George:

From July 16-17, the MNO NRMC Council continued their busy summer with their annual traditional Métis encampment at Fort George in Niagara on the Lake. The Council along with the help of many MNO citizens, set up a traditional fur trade post just outside the fort's entrance and live as their Métis ancestors would have in the early 1800's. They also dress in traditional Métis clothing, eat traditional foods, and participate in many traditional activities.

Some of the activities demonstrated during the day were traditional dot art taught by Chair Pont-Shanks, wood carving by MNO staff Glen Lipinski and campsite building by



▲ MNO NRMC Youth Representative Niki Ann Brideau (top-left) and workshop participants show off their dreamcatchers.



▲ Kelly Brishke, MNO NRMC Councillor, and her mother, Margaret Burr paint dot art at the traditional Métis encampment at Fort George in Niagara on the Lake.

President Pont. MNO NRMC Councillor Kelly Brishke also took part by greeting visitors and shared traditional Métis teachings.

The fort was quite busy on the weekend with lots of interested visitors stopping by our encampment who travelled from all over the world including South Korea, Israel, Poland, the United States of America, England and France. Visitors were very engaged and enjoyed learning about Métis people and our place in Canada.

31st Annual Siege of Old Fort Erie:

From August 6-7, the MNO NRMC participated in the 31st Annual Siege of Old Fort Erie—the largest annual re-enactment of Canada's efforts within the War of 1812. This is an annual re-enactment hosted by Parks Canada at historic Fort Erie. This event is always very popular and draws in crowds from across Canada and the United States.

Summer HEAT Program:

This summer, the MNO NRMC once again teamed up with the District School Board of Niagara for their Summer HEAT (Helping Everyone Achieve Together) Program. Summer HEAT is committed to enhancing student achievement by providing highly engaging research-based camp activities that build literacy and numeracy skills (District School Board of Niagara). The camps focus this year was on the Indigenous peoples of Canada and included presentations from First Nations, Métis and Inuit community members.

Chair Pont-Shanks visited four different camps across the region and taught over 300 students about Métis history and culture, spending particular time on the Métis sash. The interactive presentation allowed students the opportunity to put on the sash and learn about the many different ways the sash was

used such as a first aid kit, calendar, protection from the elements, and a proud symbol of Métis culture. Students also learned about the symbolism behind the different colours weaved into the sash.

Students later created friendship bracelets to represent their own sash. Instead of making bracelets, students in kindergarten to Grade 4 instead learned simple knots—a beginner step in sash making to create their own unique bracelet. The presentations were a great success and many students were excited to share with their friends and family the new skill they had learned as well as information about Métis history and culture.

Chair Pont-Shanks also visited the camp her son Holden Shanks was attending in Beamsville. As a parent volunteer, she taught 100 students and their parents about Métis history and culture and led a workshop in traditional Métis dot art on locally sourced rocks. The students loved making their own beautiful keepsake.

Holden was very proud and excited to share with his friends a little bit of his culture. He helped classmates paint and shared with his group what it meant to him to be Métis. "It's a lot of fun!" Holden said. "You get to do a lot of fun stuff and I like spending time with my Grandpa and Mom!"

The MNO NRMC had a busy but fulfilling summer and are not showing any signs of slowing down! They have many future events already planned! The Council enjoys working with their community and have built many great relationships with community partners. Please visit their website (www.niagararegionmetisCouncil.org) and their Facebook page ([Facebook.com/niagarametis](https://www.facebook.com/niagarametis)) for upcoming events. They love seeing new faces at their events and are always looking for volunteers to help out! ∞



▲ Baby Levi enjoys an infant massage during the workshop.

MNO staff host an infant massage class

submitted by
Robin Simpson
MNO Métis Healthy Babies
Healthy Children Coordinator

During the months of April and May, parents in Bancroft gathered with Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff for infant massage classes. The classes were led by MNO Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinators Robin Simpson and Tammy Hoover. During this time, parents learned about the health benefits of infant massage and how to build stronger connections with their babies. They also learned techniques to relax together with their baby, how to build sleep time routines and how to effectively read and respond to their babies' cues.

One parent Kristen Seaborne expressed her gratitude and ef-

fectiveness of the class. "I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to participate in the infant massage classes as they have benefitted both myself and my baby," said Seaborne. "I have incorporated the massage techniques that we learned into my baby's bedtime routine and find that it's a great way to help him relax and wind down before bed. It is an awesome way for me to bond with him. I have noticed that infant massage has also helped my baby with tummy troubles."

These workshops created a great networking opportunity for parents to get to know each other better. Parents were also able to take part in Métis crafting activities such as dot painting, blanket making and creating body scrubs. MNO staff stressed the importance of being kind and taking care of yourself as parents as well. ∞



▲ (L-R) Members of the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council: President Derrick Pont, Chair Amanda Pont-Shanks, Councillor Brian Kon and Youth Representative Niki Ann Brideau.

MNO Council shares traditional Métis knowledge with over 300 students

submitted by
Amanda Pont-Shanks
MNO Niagara Region Métis
Council Chair

On May 27, 2016, members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC) shared their traditional Métis knowledge with students from the District School Board Indigenous Summit (DSBIS). The event was very successful with a total of over 300 students in attendance.

MNO NRMC President Derrick Pont and Councillor Brian Kon set up a hands-on, interactive tradi-

tional encampment where students could learn about the life of a Métis fur trapper. Students were also given a summary of Métis history and culture.

MNO NRMC Chair Amanda Pont-Shanks and Youth Representative Niki Ann Brideau taught students dot art—which is inspired by traditional Métis beadwork—on locally harvested rocks. Their presentation was inspired by the amazing artwork of MNO citizen Christi Belcourt.

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) Indigenous student service, which is run by George Groat and Jennifer Stewart, held a First Nation, Métis and Inuit

conference last month with their Grade 7 and 8 students and allowed the youth to plan the DSBIS. The students decided that they wanted to share their Indigenous culture with their classmates and invited schools from across the Niagara region to attend.

The feedback from facilitators, students, and educators was very positive. Many teachers were excited to bring back to their schools what they learned at the summit.

The MNO NRMC and the DSBN have been in partnership for many years and this summit was just another example of their great relationship. ∞

MNO citizen performs smudging ceremony at monument unveiling in Parry Sound

submitted by
Larry Ferris, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chair

On June 21, 2016—National Aboriginal Day, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Ethan Rodgers was given the honour of performing a smudging ceremony before the monument of Francis Pegahmagabow during the unveiling ceremony at the Charles W. Stockey Centre for the Performing Arts in Parry Sound. Rodgers was chosen because of his dedication to Aboriginal studies.

The life-sized bronze monument commemorates Francis Pegahmagabow as the most highly-decorated First Nations World War I soldier. The monument features elements of Ojibwa culture and was created by Sudbury artist Tyler Fauvelle.

The event was well attended with around 100 people and in-

cluded special guests such as: Lieutenant-General Marquis Hainse, former Commander of the Canadian Army; Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Parry Sound-Muskoka MP Tony Clement; Chief Warren Tabobondung of Wasauksing First Nation; Shawanaga Chief Wayne Pamajewon; members from the provincial government and many more. The Canadian Military also provided an honour guard during the unveiling.

The speeches at the event focused on the contributions of all Aboriginal peoples and their part in helping to build Canada. Particular attention was made to Aboriginal veterans. The history of poor treatment of Aboriginal peoples was acknowledged with promises of changes to come.

The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) would like to acknowledge the excellent job by Rodgers in performing the smudging ceremony, especially with the windy conditions. Rodgers proudly wore his sash and was easily identifiable as Métis.

Smudging is a cleansing ritual practiced by First Nations and some Métis people. It is a practice where you burn a single or a combination of sacred medicines, which include sweet grass, sage, tobacco and cedar. The smoke that is created is then directed over an individual's body, with particular attention usually being focused on one's head, eyes, ears and heart.

MNO GBMC Chair Larry Ferris attended the event and was happy "to see our youth involved in these ceremonies to celebrate, especially when they represent us with such dignity." ∞



▲ MNO citizen Ethan Rodgers performs a smudging ceremony before the monument of Francis Pegahmagabow.

MNO Council offers support to Métis youth and veterans

submitted by
Benny Michaud, MNO Ottawa
Regional Métis Council President

This spring and summer has been a busy one for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Ottawa Region Métis Council (ORMC). For the first time in years, the MNO ORMC has all but one position filled and is working very hard to ensure that community building is the focal point of all upcoming council activities. This year, the Council has already raised enough money to support both MNO veterans and youth.

This past April, the MNO ORMC hosted a beaded medicine pouch workshop that was led by then-Chair, Parmillia Burgie. Driven to support our veterans, Burgie organized the workshop and ensured that every detail was attended to. The workshop took place on Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 1:00 to 6:00pm at the Westboro Legion. Participants were taught about the history and significance of beadwork in Métis culture and given instruction to bead their own medicine pouch. A home-made chili and bannock lunch was provided and with over 20 people registering, the MNO ORMC was able to raise \$525.00. Funds raised were presented to the MNO Veterans' Council at this year's 2016 Annual General Assembly (AGA) in North Bay and will be used to help bring veterans to Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa this November.

The MNO ORMC also had the pleasure over the past few months to demonstrate their commitment to supporting Métis children and youth by partnering with the MNO Youth Council to create a GoFundMe campaign. The campaign was launched to help the MNO Youth Council raise money to purchase a trappers tent for the 2017 AGA. Métis communities from all over the province pitched in and offered funds to support the initiative and eventually the campaign reached its goal of \$2250.00. After paying applicable fees to the GoFundMe website, the MNO ORMC were proud to present the MNO Youth Council with a cheque for \$2067.00 at this year's AGA. The tent will be used for youth-specific activities, events and ceremonies and will be raised at all future AGAs.

The MNO ORMC will continue to support the initiatives of the MNO Youth Council and the MNO Veterans' Council in their future endeavors and would like to extend a big kischii marsii to everyone who helped us along the way! ∞



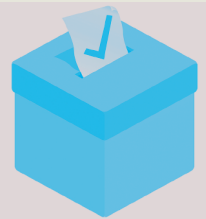
▲ Benny Michaud (left) and Mitch Case (right) at the 2016 AGA in North Bay.

MNO High Land Waters Métis Community Council hold their AGM



▲ On June 18, 2016, the MNO High Land Waters Métis Community Council held their Annual General Assembly in Flinton. The afternoon was filled with music, leather work demonstrations and Métis Voyageur games and ended with a barbeque supper.

RESULTS FROM ELECTIONS HELD AT AGA: Elections were held August 26, 2016, prior to the 2016 MNO Annual General Assembly in North Bay for positions as PCMNO Senators, WSMNO Representatives and vacancies on the MNO Youth Council. The election results were as follows:



WSMNO REPRESENTATIVES:

At a WSMNO meeting four individuals were elected to serve as WSMNO Representatives. The following were elected:

**Cora Bunn
Pearl Gabona
Suzanne Jackson
Katelyn LaCroix**

MNO YOUTH COUNCIL:

A vacancy for the position of Region 4 Representative on the MNO Youth Council was filled through electronic voting. The successful candidate was:

Taylor McNally

Vacancies are still available for Regions 5, 8 and 9. Interested candidates may contact Mitch Case at mitch.case@hotmail.com

PCMNO SENATORS:

All MNO Senators participated in an election to elect four citizens to serve four year terms as PCMNO Senators. The following Senators were elected:

**Senator Ray Bergie
Senator Rene Gravelle
Senator Joseph Poitras
Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle**

In addition to the four PCMNO Senators selected, **Senator Joseph Poitras** was elected to serve as Executive Senator

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ACHIEVEMENTS

MNO citizen works alongside youth organization in Uganda

submitted by
Courtney Vaughan, MNO Citizen

Courtney Vaughan is an MNO citizen and this summer worked as a Métis Nation of Ontario Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) staff member in Sault Ste. Marie. Below is a first-hand account of Courtney's volunteer trip to Uganda:

I am walking down the red dirt road alongside my housemate. My new neighbours are yelling out to me in a language that, three days earlier, I didn't even know existed. My Ugandan friend tells me that they are saying, "How are you, foreigner? How long will you be here?" With two days under my belt, I still ask whether that blue bug with wings can bite, and, "If that plant rubs against me, will I break out in hives?"

I am completely out of my element: I don't know the language; I don't know the people; and, I don't know the land—and everyone here knows it.

Where am I? I am in Uganda in East Africa. I am living in the village of Ndazabazadde, which in the local language—Luganda, means "womb of the parents." We are in the district of Wakiso, just 45 minutes north of Kampala—the bustling capital city of Uganda.

I am volunteering here as an International Youth Intern through Global Affairs Canada. Through their partnership with Douglas College in Vancouver and the Ugandan Community Libraries Association, I was chosen to go to Uganda to volunteer for six months as an Educational Worker at the Centre for Youth Driven Development Issues—a community resource centre and library.

At the centre, I was involved in a variety of the library's programs and projects, but I felt most in my element working with a group of local women on building a sustainable micro-business project—a micro-bakery. These women inspired me: they were resilient, creative, and passionate. From the traditional grandmother and elder who knows of the medicinal use of every plant I can see, to the young mother trying to occupy that awkward space between traditional ways and the modern world, to my mischievous host aunty who insisted upon meddling in my romantic life. All of these women exist within a tight-knit and interdependent village community.

Although I most certainly was out of my home, my roots,



▲ Supervisor Babirye Prossy (left), and Intern Courtney Vaughan (right) represent the Centre for Youth Driven Development Initiatives in the 2015 World Aids Day Commemoration Celebration in Wakiso District, Uganda.

and the land to where I belong, I found myself within a place of belonging: it was in the love of the grandmothers; it was in the red mud that left a permanent hue of orange on my toenails; it was in eating the food that grew in my yard and the avocado that was given to me by my next-door neighbour; it was in the community and the land where I found comfort.

Being away from my roots, I realized that it is the land and

community that I value the most. Not money, not creature comforts like Starbucks and electricity available at my whim—the most common complaint of the other Canadian interns. I gained a renewed passion and pride in being Métis, and I am incredibly grateful to be a part of a culture that similarly values the land and those with whom I share it. ∞

MNO Citizen attends 2016 Paralympic Games as Team Canada physician



submitted by
Rebecca Menard, MNO Citizen

Dr. Darrell Menard, OMM, CD, MD, is a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen who embarked on a very exciting adventure in September. Dr. Menard was chosen as one of the core Team Canada physicians for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. The application process to join the team was very competitive and involved a lengthy selection process against other qualified medical personnel.

At the 2016 Paralympic Games, Dr. Menard was one of four Team Canada physicians and was assigned to work with the track and field team. Team physicians complete medical and medication reviews for all of their assigned athletes prior to the Games. While at the Games, they were responsible for providing sideline coverage during practices and games. They were also responsible for running a Canadian Team medical clinic at the Paralympic village.

Dr. Menard has worked at over 20 major games

including the 2015 Parapan Am Games, the 2014 North American Indigenous Games, the 2013 Military World Football Cup and the 2012 Olympic Games.

Dr. Menard graduated from the University of Alberta in 1976 with an Honours Degree in Physical Education and then began a 40-year career in the Canadian Forces. In 1981, he completed a Master of Arts Degree in Exercise Physiology at the University of Alberta. He graduated from the medical program at Queen's University in 1988. Dr. Menard completed his flight surgeon training in 1991 and in 1992 he opened a family/sport medicine practice in Russell, Ontario. In 1994, he completed his Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine Diploma.

Dr. Menard is currently a family physician with a specialty in sport medicine. He retired from the Canadian Forces after 40 years of service in both the regular and reserve forces and continues to work as the Surgeon General's Specialist Advisor in Sport Medicine. Dr. Menard also teaches Musculoskeletal Examination Skills at the University of Ottawa, Queen's University and the Northern Ontario University programs. ∞

▲ MNO citizen Dr. Darrell Menard, OMM, CD, MD, in his 2016 Paralympic Games uniform.

It's never too early!

Register your children as MNO citizens!



▲ (L-R) MNO citizens Chloe Burey (17 years old), Hazel Burey (2 years old), Emily Burey (14 years old), Gloria Burey (5 years old) and Sydney Burey (12 years old).

Hazel Jo-Anne Burey
Birthdate: August 17, 2014

"We chose to register Hazel as soon as she was born because it is important to us that Hazel knows about her history. Hazel's father only recently was able to get his Métis citizenship and he completed a great deal of research on his family history. He uncovered a great deal of information and felt that he had been missing part of his history. We don't want our girls to feel that way. We also recognize that there are numerous opportunities for students and children who are Métis. We are very excited for our children to be a part of this and we want them to experience their heritage to a full capacity. We are thrilled that our daughters will get to be part of the Métis community right from birth."

— Jill Plaunt, mother of Hazel



Desmond Kelly
Birthdate: April 9, 2015

"My family's Métis ancestry was only recently discovered a few years ago and since then we have been trying to learn as much as we can about our Métis roots. We want Métis culture and heritage to be something that Desmond knows about from the very beginning and is something he can be proud of and embrace."

— Sara Kelly, MNO citizen



▲ Big brother Kamran Hadaway holds his brother Harrison Hadaway.

Kamran Hadaway
Birthdate: May 1, 2009

Harrison Hadaway
Birthdate: November 7, 2014

"I feel knowing your roots and where you come from helps build a stronger foundation. By registering my boys with the Métis Nation of Ontario, they will always be connected to their heritage."

— Erin Hadaway, MNO citizen



▲ The Dion family. (L-R) Lily Dion, Terri-Lynn Dion, MNO citizen Anthony Dion, and Elwood Christopher Dion.

Elwood Christopher Dion
Birthdate: July 24, 2014

"The reason we chose to register Elwood as a MNO citizen is: it's a privilege that we do not take lightly. Our family lives by Métis practices and we could not imagine our child not carrying on this heritage."

— Terri-Lynn Dion, mother of Elwood



Edwin Raymond Goyetche
Birthdate: June 4, 2014

"We registered Edwin [as an MNO citizen] so he is able to learn about his history and how his family roots helped shape this country we live in."

— Craig Goyetche, MNO citizen

MNO citizen forever grateful for the MNO’s assistance

by MNO Staff

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Bridget Bowman loves going into work every single day as she is doing the kind of work she enjoys at the Human Rights Legal Support Centre (HRLSC) as a Human Rights Representative (HRR) – Aboriginal Designation. The MNO played a crucial role in helping Bridget get this dream job.

Bridget first heard about the services offered by the MNO while attending the Humber Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning. “While studying at Humber in Toronto...I contacted the MNO and explained to them that I wanted to work within the Aboriginal community, and give back to my community at the same time,” said Bridget. The MNO referred Bridget to Nokee Kwe—a South London Employment and Education Centre, who was able to hire her as employee with financial assistance provided from the MNO’s Employment and Training programs.

Later in 2013, Bridget received her diploma in Paralegal Studies – Honours Distinction and successfully passed her P1 licensing exam with the Law Society of Upper Canada and became a licenced Paralegal. As part of the Paralegal Studies program, students are required to complete co-operative education (co-op) placements. One of her professors at the time referred Bridget to Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY), where she was hired on as co-op student.

Once her co-op term came to an end, Bridget presented JFCY with the proposition to extend her contract as the MNO was once again able to provide financial assistance from one of the MNO’s Employment and Training programs. JFCY jumped at the opportunity and was able to keep her on for the duration of the funding—one year.

“The legal community is very competitive and finding a position at all, let alone one that is paid, can be very tricky,” said Bridget. “I felt



▲ MNO citizen Bridget Bowman in her office at the Human Rights Legal Support Centre.

that I had a benefit to be able to offer my employment at no charge to the employer, while being able to make meaningful connections (which led to my current career) in the legal community and gain valuable experience to add to my resume.”

It was through her time working with JFCY that Bridget began volunteering as a community volunteer with the Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto. “While volunteering, I met a staff lawyer in the Indigenous Services program offered through the HRLSC; she suggested that I apply for a position that was available at the HRLSC and the rest is history,” said Bridget.

At HRLSC, Bridget is part of an

Indigenous Services team created to support human rights claims from Indigenous people in Ontario. Métis and other self-identified Indigenous persons facing discrimination can contact the HRLSC and ask to speak with an Indigenous staff member who will listen to their situation.

“We understand the reasons for the general reluctance amongst Indigenous communities to access the human rights process,” said Bridget. “The Indigenous Services team at HRLSC is hoping to change that through providing direct access to our expertise and advice.”

Bridget continues: “As a Métis person living in 2016, I understand the struggle for identity and people-

hood. It gives me great pride to be able to provide services in my role as a Human Rights Representative at HRLSC. I understand how difficult it can be to raise concerns about potential human rights violations.

“I would like to thank the MNO for supporting me in reaching my goals—for this I am forever grateful [to] the HRLSC for taking me on, and Lori Mishibinijima [Indigenous Legal Counsel at HRLSC] for shining a light down this path for me,” said Bridget.

For more information on the MNO’s Employment and Training programs, please visit the Employment and Training Programs section on the MNO website. ∞



▲ MNO youth Devin Emerson (centre) stands with his fellow Pipedream Welding Program graduates from Niagara College.

Métis youth graduates at the top of his class

by MNO Staff

Métis youth Devin Emerson, who identifies as Métis, has graduated as Valedictorian from the Pipedream Welding program from Niagara College. This apprenticeship program was in partnership with the Niagara Peninsula Aboriginal Area Management Board.

The MNO Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC) is so proud of Devin for completing this course top of his class! We wish

him luck in his future endeavors. This is a start to an amazing career!

Below is the lovely message his mother, Marie Jameson sent to the MNO NRMC Council:

I want to thank the Niagara Region Métis [Council] for emailing the notice about the Pipedream Welding course a few months back. If it wasn't for that email my son would have waited a very long time to follow his dream. His graduation was today and he was the class Pipedreams 2016 Valedictorian. Again thank you so much. ∞

MNO citizen one step closer to making her dream a reality

by MNO Staff

On June 15, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Katie Baltzer graduated from the University of Windsor with a Master of Social Work degree. While enrolled in her program, Katie participated in the MNO’s Infinite Reach program as a

facilitator and was able to pass along what she learned from the program to other students. She plans to continue her education at Laurentian University and is now enrolled in the Indigenous Studies program through distance education. Katie hopes to someday work with the Indigenous population as a social worker. ∞

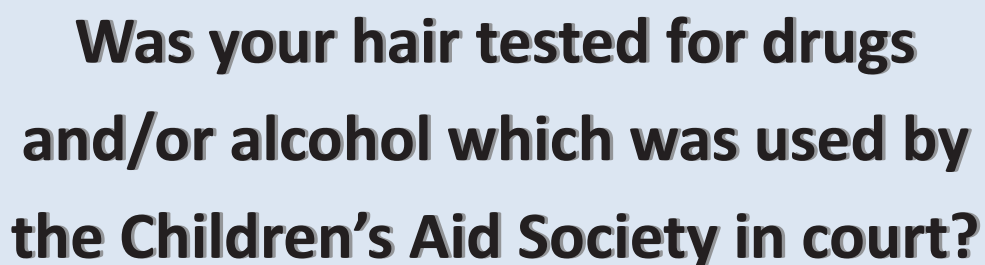


▲ MNO citizen Katie Baltzer proudly stands with her Master of Social Work diploma on Convocation.



submitted by
Jessica Boulard-Poirier,
MNO Employment Developer, Region 3

The Métis community was very well represented during the BDF Equestrian Horse Driving Trials in Flesherton. Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Bernadette Picco proudly displayed the Métis flag on her protective vest for everyone to see while running the trial. Bernadette is a proud Sudbury Métis woman who is not afraid to show her roots. She is also the Women's Representative for the MNO Sudbury Métis Council (SMC). MNO SMC Youth Representative Jessica Boulard-Poirier would like to thank Bernadette for including the Métis community in her run. ∞



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SVS with MNO participants in the Rainy River,
New Gold Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study (2014)
Photo courtesy of Damian Bouchard

- Bernard Nietschmann, 1995

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MNO assists a Métis student in entering the workforce

submitted by
Paula Bouchard, MNO Regional Employment & Training Coordinator

Riley Saunders is a recent high school graduate from the community of Nipigon in northwestern Ontario who self-identifies as Métis. Interested in the prevention and treatment of disease, Riley immediately began looking for a unique career in health care.

One job that caught her eye was a Medical Radiation Technologist, which involves producing and analyzing diagnostic images to assist physicians in the diagnosis and management of various system disorders. Knowing that this job would be a tremendous responsibility and would require a delicate balance between attention to detail and empathy, it was something that she knew she could handle and enjoy!

Riley researched the program a bit more before enrolling in a unique two and a half year Medical Radiation Technologist Diploma Program at the Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology in Thunder Bay. Through the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Training Purchase Program, Riley was able to complete this advanced level program, which included learning about: radiology, x-ray and computed tomography (CT) in courses such as general radiology, patient management, radiation safety, quality management, and research methods. This program equips students with the theory and in-class practical skills to successfully integrate into positions in diagnostic imaging in hospitals and other clinical settings.

Fresh from graduating and after only a brief job search, Riley secured a permanent position with Royal Inland Hospital—a 224 bed acute care facility in Kamloops, British Columbia. ∞



▲ Riley Saunders

The Wind Wielder

Author and MNO citizen Leona Hass releases fantasy novel

by MNO Staff

Author and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Leona Hass marks her debut into the world of fantasy literature with the release of *The Wind Wielder*, which is published by Xlibris. Drawing on her love of anime and manga, Hass weaves a tale of magic, drama and lesson-filled adventure. Hass is an elementary school teacher who took her own teaching advice, gathered her courage and self-published to show her students that any dream is possible. Hass currently lives with her family in the quiet, rural area in Ontario where she grew up.

The *Wind Wielder* takes place in a world where certain people are born with the ability to control the natural elements. The protagonist Selene is a seventeen-year-old wind elemental who seeks to uncover the truth behind her repressed memories. Along the way, she meets Jeremy and Lillian both of whom are trapped within a magical

barrier. When Selene attempts to rescue them her own past trauma causes her elemental powers to manifest in destructive ways.

Breaking stereotypes in literature, the author has created a unique and strong female character who works through her own weaknesses to build herself up and save those around her. The *Wind Wielder* also covers pressing issues faced by young people, from sexual assault and bullying to suicide. The book seeks to help readers understand that no matter how dark their past they will always have the strength to overcome if they believe in themselves.

“Being a victim is not always something that is forced upon you from the outside, but sometimes we take on that role ourselves,” Hass says. “You can shed that mask and become the strong person you need to be to manifest your dreams.” ∞

The Wind Wielder is now available for purchase on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



▲ MNO citizen Leona Hass’ new book follows the journey of a young girl as she overcomes her past and finds her true strength.



▲ Roger Bourgeois working hard delivering goods to a local corner store in Timmins, Ontario.

Métis student secures employment thanks to the MNO’s assistance

submitted by
Jaylin Renaud, MNO Employment Developer, Region 3

In 2015, after completing the two-year Powerline Technician program from Cambrian College, self-identified Métis youth Roger Bourgeois was very proud to finally graduate. He thought his future was set and started working as an apprentice in April 2015. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the trade, he was laid off in October of that year and once again began actively looking for work.

Not having a job made things financially difficult for Roger, so he approached the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in Timmins for help. MNO staff immediately began assisting Roger in his job

search. After that proved unsuccessful, MNO staff were able to secure funding to help Roger further his education. The funding allowed Roger to complete the AZ Driver course, buy all necessary equipment and complete testing. The AZ Driver course teaches experienced drivers how to drive a tractor trailer.

After six weeks of full-time training Roger now has a certificate of completion from Transport Training Centres of Canada and an AZ driver’s license. “As a powerline technician or a truck driver, it is important to have this [AZ] license [as it] makes me become more employable,” said Roger Bourgeois. “With support from my family,

girlfriend and the MNO, I was able to overcome the barriers to finding meaningful employment and I succeeded in doing so.”

Roger is now employed with PepsiCo Beverages Canada as a delivery driver and works out of their Timmins office. His main responsibilities include delivering Pepsi beverages to businesses and companies within Timmins and surrounding areas in northern Ontario.

“I am enjoying working with Pepsi and my life has improved both financially and emotionally after securing employment,” said Roger. “Although my career path has shifted, taking the AZ driver training has provided me with a secure, rewarding, and meaningful job where I am happy and has provided me with more opportunities as a result.” ∞

“With support from my family, girlfriend and the MNO, I was able to overcome the barriers to finding meaningful employment and I succeeded in doing so.”

FAMILY & MILESTONES



▲ Rose and Roland Courville at their 60th wedding anniversary supper in 2006.



▲ The Courville family at Christmas. Picture was taken around 1969-1971. Back (L-R): Urgel, Roland, Rose, Lucien, and Aurel. Middle (L-R): Gerry, Sue, Claude, Rachel, and Marcel. Front (L-R): Lillian, Jackie, Pauline, Elizabeth, and Irene.

Métis couple celebrate 70th wedding anniversary

submitted by **Urgel Courville**, MNO Northern Lights Métis Council President

On December 10, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens Rose and Roland Courville will officially have been married for 70 years! The happy couple celebrated this milestone anniversary with family this summer on July 30, 2016. They were presented with accolades from His Holiness Pope Francis; The Most Reverend Bishop Robert Bourgon; the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; and the Right Honourable, David Johnston, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

Rose and Roland have 13 children: six boys and seven girls—Gerald, Susan, Aurel, Urgel, Lucien, Marcel, Rachel, Lillian, Claude, Jacqueline, Irene, Pauline and Elizabeth. Today, they have a total of 28 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren (plus one on the way this December), and one great-great-grandchild. There are a total of 101 family members (including in-laws) in the Courville family!

Rose Courville (née Contant) was born on May 22, 1926 in Mattawa. She is one of 13 children born to Romeo and Therese Contant. Roland Courville was born on September 28, 1927 in Cochrane. He is one of five children born to Napoleon and Natalia Courville.

Fate brought Roland and Rose together in Driftwood, Ontario as Roland worked with Rose's father Romeo on the railroad. Romeo was the camp cook and Rose would go to work every day to help her father in the kitchen. Rose first noticed Roland one day as he was hauling wood. Although she had not officially met him, Rose thought Roland was very handsome and developed a crush on him. Rose and Roland finally met some time later at a dance that was held in Frederick House.

It was love at first sight for Roland and Rose! They planned to marry in September of 1946 however Rose's father passed away and they had to postpone the wedding. They were married later that year on December 10, 1946. The rest is history! ∞



▲ The entire Courville clan at Rose and Roland's 65th wedding anniversary celebration in 2011.



▲ Rose and Roland in the early days of their marriage



▲ Rose and Roland on a boating voyage.



▲ Rose and Roland in the summer of 2016.



▲ Rose and Roland at their wedding in 1946.



Birth Announcement



hunter james FRANCIS

It is with pleasure that Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens Garry and Linda Montsion of Carlton Place announce the birth of their first grandchild Hunter James Francis, son of MNO citizen Rebecca (Montsion) and Justin Francis. Hunter was born on February 8, 2016. First time grandparents Michael Francis and Edie Van Alstine of Ottawa also share in this pleasure. ∞




Obituary

Terry Grant “Tony” Couture

Peacefully surrounded by the love of his family, at the Grey Bruce Health Services in Owen Sound, on Thursday evening, June 30, 2016. Terry Grant “Tony” Couture, of R.R. #4, Owen Sound, passed away at the age of 78 years. Terry was a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and an active member in his roles as MNO Senator and Councillor.

Dearly loved husband and best friend of Jeannette Couture (nee Yeo). Loving father of Kimberley Waring and her husband, Douglas, of Owen Sound. Proud grandfather of Samantha and Rebecca Waring. Dear nephew of Doreen Nichols, Madeline Marshall and Joyce Porter. Tony will be sadly missed by his in-laws, Carol Lockwood and her husband, John, Lou Duggan and Janet Yeo and his many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his parents, Wilfred and Charlotte Couture; his parents-in-law, Micky and Ruby Yeo; his in-laws, Gail Duggan and William Yeo; his uncles, Nelson Porter, Glenn Porter, Bill Nichols, Roy Marshall and Jack Cook; his aunt, Doris Cook.

A Memorial Service for Tony Couture was held at the Brian E. Wood Funeral Home, on Wednesday, July, 6th, 2016 at 11am. with Jeff Lockwood officiating. Interment at Greenwood Cemetery. If so desired, the family would appreciate donations to Residential Hospice of Grey-Bruce as an expression of sympathy. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family on-line at www.woodfuneralhome.ca.





I threw a rock once

submitted by
Richard Aubin, MNO Citizen

I threw a rock once...(as a curious boy) to see if the wasps were in this monstrous-sized nest....they were home. My mother never found out, but Mother Nature did. Lesson learned the hard way....so don't mess with her! (Not very smart!)

I threw a rock once...(more like a boulder)...out of frustration. Under a high wooden bridge, a school of largemouth bass in clear shallow waters below were ignoring my fishing line! With all the strength my eight-year old broom stick arms could muster, I struggled and heaved the rock over the handrail. A thunderous splash created the tsunamis of tumbling fish. Ok, I might

be exaggerating a little there, but keep in mind that I am a fisherman! Anyway, the concussion created by the displacement of water, stunned one of the fish who began to float and reached the surface. Quickly wading waist high into the creek, I managed to retrieve the fish for my family. (Smart!)

Remember, rocks can create or release your stress depending on how you throw them.

These days as a grandfather, I limit myself to skipping stones on the lake to relax...try it and teach this technique to a child! ∞

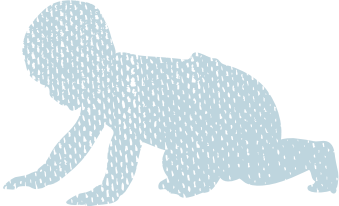
Newborn

submitted by
Anne Huguenin

Child, you are an image of perfection
Adorable as could be
A gift sent from up above
For your Daddy and me.
Child, you're a picture of a life for us
A future to unfold
A miracle in front of us
With stories yet to be told.
Perfect lips, perfect nose and not even a crooked brow
You'll always be as perfect as you are right now.
Child, we love you little star
Shinning bright for all to see
An angel resting in my arms
As content as can be.
Child you are an imagine of perfection
Adorable as could be
Oh precious little one
You mean the world to me



Salay Child



submitted by
Anne Huguenin

I feel your Orenda little one,
your spirit rides the winds,
for Mother Earth has gifted me,
this precious child within.

There is life in all we see,
and all that we have touched,
for you little Salay child,
I love you very much.

Life is full of wonders,
with stories yet to unfold,
my miracle to marvel,
and little hand to hold.
Salay child you bring me sunshine,
as cherished as a gifted feather,
a breeze through swaying pine,
We will see this life together.
We will ride the tides along way,

Mother Earth tells us not to fuss or strain,
for even on a cloudy day,
she teaches us to dance in the rain.

She is the fire that will keep us warm,
the breath of clean fresh air,
the shelter from four wind storm,
chanting her great spirit prayer.

Salay child always remember,
there is always a reason in all we do,
I am blessed to be your mother,
To love and treasure you.

Life is full of wonders
with stories yet to be told,
my miracle to marvel
and little hand to hold.

Hazel Sullivan

submitted by
Anne Huguenin

Thank you for the grandmother
our kids had by their side,
oh Nana if you could see them now
your heart would be filled with pride.
Thank you for the road trips
the times, just you and I,
searching for the perfect cup of coffee
and slice of homemade pie.
Thank you for the thumbprint cookies and
yummy lemon squares,
for all the pizza night's and board games, that
we all loved to share.
Tears are replaced with smiles now
when the kids recall you dear,
they remember your little surprises
and hugs when you were here.
We see you in a sunshine glow
changing leaves, fresh fallen snow,
we see you in the stars up high

in a colorful fluttering butterfly.
We still share meals and laughter each time that
we are able,
and you are dearly missed sitting here at our table.
Times were many
but still too few,
memories live on
because of you.
You are at peace in heaven now
and your mind is at rest,
always know the love we shared
was simply the best.

Letters to the Editor

The opinions and information presented in *Letters to the Editor* are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the policies or perspectives of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

A Cry from the Heart to All Elders and MNO Citizens

Submitted by:
Marie-Claire Vignola (Ethier),
MNO citizen

At the request of a few of my co-citizens of the 'great Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)'—as our newly elected president, Margaret Froh, refers to so fondly—please allow me to share a cry from the heart that I felt compelled to express on the last day of our 2016 Annual General Assembly (AGA). The following words do NOT imply that my wish list doesn't already exist at our Assemblies and throughout our Nation, but it is simply a plea that we continue to strive to reach our 'highest potential' in those areas mentioned below:

1) *Spirituality*: May the prayers that guide our deliberations at the Assembly not only set the tone but remain within our hearts and minds and truly inspire us as we make decisions for the good of all our citizens.

2) *Unity*: May we strive for unity of purpose, viewing disagreements as an opportunity to work together to blend our differences with respect and compassion, giving an equal voice to all our citizens as we truly hear each other's stories. Unity and kinship allowed our nation to survive. Unity will make it thrive as we look together in the same direction!

3) *Communication*: May respectful communication and conveying of accurate and truthful information be of prime importance at all levels of service and government and within our own Councils and local citizenship.

4) *Leadership*: May we presume 'good will' on the part of our 'trusted servants' whom we have elected as leaders at all levels of government in our 'great' Nation and towards all those who sincerely and tirelessly work towards advancing our Métis rights, including each and every citizen on the ground that has done so for decades and our dedicated public service sector and legal counsels. And may these leaders, and those who represent our Nation, do so in a spirit of service, selflessness and true democracy always keeping in mind that Métis are 'family'.

5) *Healing*: May everyone, and particularly the Senators and elders, be sensitive to those who hurt in our communities—in any way, shape, or form, and may we all be healers and reconcilers for one another. Truth and reconciliation starts within our own midst!

And, succinctly, in northern Ontario Michif French:

Y faut suiv la vwâ du Créateur dans toutt c'qu'on fa et décide. Faut pu qu'y'è des chicanes : on est toutt d'la famille. Y faut s'parler et dir les choz qui sont vra! Nos chefs doiv s'donner pou le bien de toutt nouz aut. On souff toutt d'une manière on din aut : faut s'tnir pi met du baume su no pla! •

The Métis Flag

Submitted by:
Jim Turner
MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent
Métis Council Senator

On June 21, 2016—National Aboriginal Day, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 9 Senator Jim Turner attended a Métis flag raising ceremony at the Windsor City Hall. Senator Turner is a strong advocate for Métis people and was inspired to write a letter about the Métis people, which he read aloud while the Métis flag was being raised:

The Métis flag represents a coming together of the European and Indigenous people. It has come to represent freedom from oppression for the Métis people. It's our symbol of pride after 150 years of subhuman treatment from the government. It represents our undying spirit and our resolve as a people.

When Sir John A. Macdonald became Prime Minister, he waged war on our people to systematically render them helpless, hungry, hopeless, and homeless. He stripped us of our rights, our language, our culture, and in a lot of cases, our lives.

He said it was necessary because they had to solve the (Indian problem!) The adults were forced out of their homes and made to live on road allowances. They were treated like animals.

They called us Savages! But who were the real Savages? I'll leave that for you to decide.

We were under total government control. The leaders said that they had to take the Indian out of the child to solve this problem.

They stole the children at gunpoint, put them in residential schools! Some survived, a lot didn't. They were beaten, thrown down stairs, thrown out windows, given blankets and pillows with tuberculosis germs on them. They had pins pushed through their tongues if they tried to speak their native language. There was a tremendous amount of abuse; in fact it was unimaginable for the human mind to comprehend it!

Later, no one admitted to, or talked about being native.

Louis Riel said the Métis people will sleep for 100 years and then it will be the artists that will wake them up. We are awake now! No more hiding, no more shame. The flag is our testament to that!

From its inception just after the war of 1812, when 48 Métis, free-man and First Nations people raised the flag in defiance of what they knew was a battle for their very existence, it still flies today. It is emblazoned in our culture and we are extremely proud to say it is ours. •

Does the Jake Gaudaur bridge really exist?

This article is part of a series of texts entitled Thirty and a half useful facts worth knowing about the Great Lakes Métis. The author and Métis Nation of Ontario citizen Micheline Marchand, would like to thank the Ontario Arts Council—an Ontario government agency, for its support.

Submitted by:
Micheline Marchand
MNO citizen

Every day, thousands of motorists drive over Métis Jake Gaudaur's back. He has a solid build, made of steel and concrete. When I cross the provincial government bridge on Highway 12 that spans the straights separating Lakes Couchiching and Simcoe, I am proud to be on the Jake Gaudaur Bridge. At least that's what I thought up until the fall of 2015.

Why does the Métis Jacob Gill "Jake" Gaudaur Senior deserve to have a bridge named in his honour? Gaudaur was born on April 3rd, 1858, very close to this bridge. He is the descendant of a few of the major founding families of the City of Orillia: the Gills, on his mother's side, and, on his father's side, his grandparents are the fur traders, Antoine Godard and Mary Shilling, the daughter of the Chippewa chief Big Shilling. At the beginning of the 19th century when the latter couple settled in Orillia to raise a family, they were among the community's first inhabitants.

But Jake Gaudaur is known mainly for his sporting feats. The list of Métis coureurs des bois, Métis voyageurs, Métis soldiers, Métis traders, is long. But it's not the case when it comes to Métis that have become professional athletes.

Gaudaur quickly made his mark in the sports' world by becoming a rowing champion. He



Jacob Gaudaur in 1898. (Picture source: J Gaudaur Oarsman (HS85-10-10053), 1898, photo: Edwards Brothers, Canada. Patent and Copyright Office, Library and Archives Canada, British Library)

would train by rowing between 11 to 32 kilometers twice a day on Lakes Couchiching and Simcoe. In 1887, he beat Ned Hanlan, rowing champion of the world at that time. In 1892, he and his American teammate, George Hosmer, won the double sculls title during the World rowing championships held on Lake Couchiching. A year later, in a race held in Austin, Texas, Gaudaur set a world record in the single scull competitions covering a distance of 4.8 km with a turn. The following year he smashed his own record. In 1896, he won the world single scull competition that took place on the Thames River in England, a title he will successfully defend

for five years.

But even after leaving the world of competitive rowing, Gaudaur continued to work out on the water of his home town, but in another more typically Métis sport. According to the writer Stephen Leacock, this man he rubbed shoulders with for nearly a quarter century was both an exceptional fishing guide and a good companion. Leacock was inspired to write the story Bass fishing on Lake Simcoe with Jake Gaudaur, published in 1939, in which he reminisces about Gaudaur and the good times they shared. Leacock describes Gaudaur in the following manner:

Continued on page C23

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

— from the Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose

Across the Homeland



▲ Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC) President Bruce Dumont (left) at the 2016 AGA in North Bay.



▲ Audrey Poitras, Métis Nation of Alberta President, speaks at the MNA 2016 Annual General Assembly.



▲ The town of La Loche, Saskatchewan.



▲ (L-R) Yingdong Qiu, President, Beijing Yingdong Industrial Ltd; David Chartrand, President, Manitoba Metis Federation; and Joseph Ng, Chairman, JNE Consulting.

■ British Columbia

On September 11, 2016, MNBC released their preliminary general election results. After serving as President for the past 11 years, President Bruce Dumont will pass on the torch to President-elect Clara Morin Dal Col.

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) President Bruce Dumont has an impressive resume working for Métis people in British Columbia. In the 1990s he was elected Vice President and later President of the North Island Métis Association. In 2001, he became an alternate Regional Director for Vancouver Island for the Métis Provisional Council of BC and later represented them on the National Level with the National Michif Language Working Group. He first joined the MNBC in 2004 when he was elected Vice-President and later served as President from 2005-2016.

President Dumont says his interest in entering Métis politics “was to promote and encourage Métis Peoples to become involved through self-identification and expression of knowing their ancestry, culture, heritage and language and, being proud of who they are as Métis Canadian Citizens.”

Source: MNBC and Simon Fraser University

■ Alberta

The Statement of Principles on Crown Consultation and Accommodation with Métis in Alberta (Statement of Principles) was unanimously adopted by the 88th Annual General Assembly on August 6-7, 2016.

The Statement of Principles was developed over a period of 6 months by the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Consultation Policy Technical Working Group (TWG), the members of which are volunteers appointed to represent each of the MNA's six Regions. Karen Collins and Bev New, the MNA's Provincial Council Ministers of Métis Rights and Accommodation, were also active participants in the TWG's work.

The Statement of Principles is not meant to be an enforceable document that establishes the consultation process. Rather, it is meant to guide further work that must now be done to develop an enforceable consultation process to which the MNA's Provincial, Regional, and Local Councils can consent.

To read the full Statement of Principles on Crown Consultation and Accommodations with Métis Alberta, please visit the Métis Nation of Alberta's website at www.albertametis.com.

Source: Métis Nation of Alberta

■ Saskatchewan

On January 22, 2016, Canadians were shocked to hear that four people were killed and seven injured in a shooting spree in La Loche. In August, Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall noted that, “Since the terrible events of last January, the people of La Loche have inspired us with their resilience, unity, and optimism.”

On August 19, the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, announced a \$33.1-million post-secondary infrastructure investment at the University of Saskatchewan, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), and Carlton Trail College.

“Gabriel Dumont Institute will receive \$880,000 for an expansion that will provide additional space for skills training and adult basic education to the community of La Loche. The Institute is providing an additional \$100,000 for this project.”

GDI has operated in La Loche for several years to provide educational, employment, and cultural services to the Métis community. According to the 2011 Statistics Canada Census data, almost seven out of 10 people (68%) in La Loche self-identify as Métis.

Source: Gabriel Dumont Institute

■ Manitoba

On September 1, 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau witnessed a historic Joint Venture Agreement signed between the Manitoba Metis Federation's (MMF) construction arm, Metis N4 Construction and a leading Chinese housing developer, Beijing Yingdong Industrial Ltd to bring new innovative green technology to Canada to meet the housing needs of Indigenous and northern communities. The Joint Venture agreement also includes the participation of JNE Consulting who will ensure the new housing products are engineered to Canadian housing standards.

“This Joint Venture brings together leading edge green housing technologies that can be used to improve Canadian housing for Canada's Indigenous people,” said MMF President David Chartrand who co-signed the Venture along with Jack Park, Chairman of Metis N4 Construction Inc.

By way of background, the Joint venture will bring light-weight steel housing frames to Canada together with highly durable fire retardant outer wall materials that have high R rated insulation values to tackle Canada's cold temperatures.

Source: Manitoba Metis Federation

Does the Jake Gaudaur bridge really exist?

Continued from page C22

Jake was of mixed French and Indian descent but belonged in the Lake Simcoe country (...) Jake was a magnificent figure of a man; he stood nicely over six feet in his stocking feet —the only way we ever measure people up there. He was broad in the shoulders, straight as a lath, and till the time when he died, just short of eighty, he could pick up the twenty-pound anchor of his motor boat and throw it round like a tack-hammer. Jake—standing erect in the bow of his motor boat and looking out to the horizon, his eyes shaded with his hand—might have stood for the figure of Oshkosh, war chief of the Wisconsin Indians.

For Leacock, this Métis seems to be the incarnation of the noble savage myth.

Jake Gaudaur, who spent his whole life plying the waters that make Orillia a charming place, acquired an intimate knowledge of them. Right up until two months before his death, he continued to run his boat livery and fishing expedition business. He was 79 years-

old when he died on October 11th, 1937, in the family home located on the Atherley straights.

And that is why Jake Gaudaur is remembered. However, the particular way his lifetime achievements have been commemorated have a, well... Métis character. In 1960, the City of Orillia erected a plaque in his honour. In 2004, it was stolen. Ten years later, on May 31st, 2014, the Ontario Heritage Fund put up a new one, unveiled in Centennial Park at the Port of Orillia. My initial research about Gaudaur indicated that the bridge spanning the Atherley straights was named after him. A plaque and a provincial bridge to honour him. Not bad for a Métis man!

But hold on. Let's not get carried away in heaping praise on this illustrious man. Imagine how stunned I was when I learned that, officially, the bridge is not named after Gaudaur as I thought. In fact, nothing indicates what the bridge is called. No sign. I checked. The regional office of the Provincial

Jake Gaudaur, who spent his whole life plying the waters that make Orillia a charming place, acquired an intimate knowledge of them.

highways management division confirmed in a series of emails I exchanged with them that, according to their maps and files, the bridge is called the Atherley Narrows bridge, and nothing would indicate that it has ever been called the Jake Gaudaur bridge as well, or that it has ever been dedicated to the memory of our Métis athlete.

Nevertheless, in the Orillia area itself, the municipality and others often refer to this bridge as the Gaudaur bridge, a fact that municipi-

pal clerical staff confirmed when I phoned them. I have also seen the name appear in various publications. In The Orillia Spirit: An Illustrated History of Orillia, published in 1996, on page 82, Randy Richmond states: “The bridge over The Narrows is named after him (Gaudaur).” In Atherley Narrows fishing weirs, part 2, Local science and nature series, The Packet & Times, December 14th, 2012, Bob Bowles writes: “The seventh traffic bridge

and the first that did not swing was built and named the Jake Gaudaur Bridge in 1964.” The Orillia Hall of Fame committee: “The Bridge at the Narrows is now called ‘Jake Gaudaur Bridge’” (Orillia Hall of Fame, 2008, p. 4). The web site cruising.ca: “The bridge commonly known as the Atherley Narrows bridge but is officially the Jake Gaudaur Bridge...”

In an article by Sara Carson summarizing an Orillia municipal council meeting, the journalist, referring

to the discussion around renaming the Highway 12 bypass, writes: “The bypass runs from the Atherley Narrows bridge, legally named the Jake Gaudaur Bridge, to Old Barrie Road.” She goes on to quote councillor Pete Bowen: “Because Gaudaur has already been honoured with the naming of the Jake Gaudaur Bridge, council should look at honouring other Orillians” (Orillia Packet, July 4th, 2011).

I still don't understand how it is that many Orillians believed, and still believe, that the bridge is officially named after Gaudaur when the Province of Ontario categorically says that it's not the case.

It would be appropriate to honour Jake Gaudaur, a descendant of the City of Orillia's first pioneers, by acknowledging him and having the bridge officially bear his name. There should be a plaque on the bridge to clearly, proudly and categorically show the bridge's true name. Maybe then the thousands of cars that cross his back every day wouldn't malign the memory of Jake Gaudaur and the invisible history of the Métis as much. ∞

Building the MNO Team

SIMON BAIN

Métis Family Well-Being Supervisor
Brampton

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) would like to congratulate Simon Bain in his new positions as Métis Family Well-Being Supervisors with the MNO Healing and Wellness branch. Simon will be working out of the Brampton office. Simon holds a Bachelor's degree in Social and Behavioural from Booth University College. He has also completed courses in Anthropology, Psychology, and Statistics from Athabasca University.

Simon has a background working with non-profit organizations, which includes working in group homes, food banks, support services, corrections and justice, and fundraising for community organizations. For the past six years, Simon has gained valuable work experience in his role as a Community Wellness Coordinator for the MNO. Submitted by Wenda Watteyne, Director of Healing and Wellness and Acting Chief Operating Officer



BONNIE BARTLETT

Consultation Assessment Coordinator
Toronto

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Bonnie Bartlett to the position of Consultation Assessment Coordinator with the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch. Bonnie will be working out of the Toronto office.

Bonnie has five years of professional experience in planning, including most recently as a Transportation and Urban Planner with Arup—a large engineering and planning firm. In this position, Bonnie worked on environmental assessments and hearing processes for large scale infrastructure projects. In 2012, Bonnie graduated from the University of Toronto with a Masters of Science in Planning. Prior to 2010, Bonnie worked for an environmental non-profit organization as a Strategic Planning Program Manager. Submitted by Aly Alibhai, Director of Lands, Resources and Consultations



KARYNE BELANGER

Research Assistant
Ottawa

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Karyne Belanger to the position of Research Assistant with the MNO Registry Branch. She will be working out of the Ottawa office.

Karyne completed her undergraduate studies at McGill University and the University of Ottawa and holds an Honours Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences in Cultural Anthropology and Music Performance. She has also taken the Fundraising Management program at Algonquin College. Karyne has a background working with non-profit heritage and arts organizations in the areas of



research, cultural knowledge, and development. Her past community work includes facilitating cultural learning workshops for the Akwe:go program at the Odawa Native Friendship Centre and administering the First Story project at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto.

Prior to joining the MNO, Karyne completed the Aboriginal Training Program in Museum Practices at the Canadian Museum of History where she contributed to the research and care of the museum's Indigenous artifact and archival collections. She also assisted in the curation of the new Canadian History Hall gallery, which presents the history of Indigenous and government relations. Submitted by Jane Brennan, Director of Registry

JOHN CONNOR

Forestry Coordinator
Thunder Bay

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome John Connor to the position of Forestry Coordinator with the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations branch. He will be working out of the Thunder Bay office.

John has 25 years of experience with the Provincial Government as a Management Biologist. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from the University of Manitoba, a Master's of Science degree in Forestry, Honours Bachelor of Science in Forestry and a Diploma in Forest Technology all from Lakehead University. John has a good working knowledge of the regulatory process in Forestry Planning gained through his career with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

John self-identifies as Métis and is looking forward to applying his knowledge and experience to help the MNO with forestry-related initiatives. Submitted by Aly Alibhai, Director of Lands, Resources and Consultations



PETER DUCHARME

Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
Thunder Bay

The Métis Nation of Ontario is pleased to welcome Peter Ducharme to the position of Administrative Assistant/Receptionist at the MNO Thunder Bay office.

Peter is very familiar with the property management as he completed the MNO's Building Systems Technical Advisory Internship Program (BSTAIP) in 2010. In his role as Inspector/Technical Advisor/Client Services, Peter was responsible for managing a portfolio of government housing through north-western Ontario. He also performed building inspections and provided various client services such as lease preparation, counseling and ongoing client support. Peter also holds a Heavy Equipment Operator Training certification.

We are delighted to welcome Peter to the MNO team and encourage you to introduce yourself and show him some of our wonderful MNO hospitality. Submitted by Diane Lampi, General Manager of MNO Infinity Property Services



SARAH HARRIS

Registry Administrative Assistant
Ottawa

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Sarah Harris to the position of Registry Administrative Assistant with the MNO Registry Branch. She will be working out of the Ottawa office.

After graduating from the Carleton University with an Honours Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, Sarah traveled to South Korea for one year to teach English to children between the ages of 4 and 12. She gained many transferrable skills during this work placement such as problem solving, effective communication and creativity as her student's comprehension levels varied greatly from those not knowing any English to others who were already completely fluent.

Sarah has a banking background and has worked and volunteered with several non-profit organizations. She is an active volunteer with The Tibetan Resettlement Project Ottawa where she teaches new immigrants English and is also the Board's Administrative Assistant. Submitted by Jane Brennan, Director of Registry



JENNIFER KONG

Policy Analyst and Knowledge Translation Coordinator
Ottawa

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Jennifer Kong to the position of Policy Analyst and Knowledge Translation Coordinator with the MNO Healing and Wellness Branch. She will be working out of the Ottawa office.

Jennifer has a Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of Saskatchewan, a Certificate in Epidemiology in Evidence Based Policy from John Hopkins University, Baltimore, and a Bachelor of Science from Trent University. Her previous experience has included working with multiple World Health Organisation research teams developing global immunisation guidelines; program evaluation with the Canadian Diabetes Association, including assessing Indigenous service usage in Northern Saskatchewan, and most recently; project management at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital.

We are delighted to welcome Jennifer to the MNO team and encourage you to introduce yourself and show her some of our wonderful MNO hospitality.

Submitted by: Wenda Watteyne, Director of Healing and Wellness and Acting Chief Operating Officer. Submitted by Wenda Watteyne, Director of Healing and Wellness and Acting Chief Operating Officer



TAMMY PORTER

Métis Family Well-Being Supervisor
North Bay

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) would like to congratulate Tammy Porter on the new position as Métis Family Well-Being Supervisors with the MNO Healing and Wellness branch. Tammy will be working out of the North Bay office.

Tammy holds a Bachelors of Arts in Child and Family Studies and a Minor in Native Studies from Nipissing University. She is an MNO citizen and a fourth generation Métis from northern Ontario (Gogoma) and the mother of a 17-year old daughter, who has been proudly raised with a strong Métis identity.

Tammy is a former MNO Moon River Métis Council member and has served in several roles, including Councillor, Chair, Education Liaison, Aboriginal Child Welfare Advisory Circle Member and Infinite Reach Facilitator. She has also worked for the Catholic School Board as a First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Self-Identification Liaison. Tammy has held several different positions while at the MNO including Community Wellness Worker, Victim Services Coordinator and most recently as the Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women Coordinator role. Submitted by Wenda Watteyne, Director of Healing and Wellness and Acting Chief Operating Officer



MICHAEL V. SMITH

Employment Developer
Owen Sound

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Michael V. Smith to the position of Employment Developer with the MNO Education and Training Branch. Michael will be working out of the Owen Sound office.

Michael is a proud MNO citizen who grew up in the Midland area. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies from Laurentian University. Within his position, Michael will be working closely with clients and employers throughout Region 7 to help find and secure employment. He will also help to develop and strengthen relationships in Grey County and surrounding areas.

We are delighted to welcome Michael to the MNO team and encourage you to introduce yourself and show him some of our wonderful MNO hospitality. Submitted by Jennifer St. Germain, Director of Education and Training



We are
pleased to
welcome
everyone to the
MNO team!