

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ADVANCING RECONCILIATION



MNO signs historic MOU with Canada

Métis Nation of Ontario and Canada sign agreement to advance Métis
rights and outstanding claims in Ontario

See more on pages 3 & 4

Passing on the Trapping Tradition

Pages
21 & 22



MNO Citizen becomes Anglican Bishop

Page 33



MNO TYRMC unveil new Métis sash

Page 19



THE
MÉTIS
VOYAGEUR

MARCH 2017

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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.a Message from the
MNO President

Starting with this edition of the Métis Voyageur, I will be providing a brief message in order to highlight the many exciting developments taking place within the great Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). As you will see in reading this edition of the Métis Voyageur, the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO), all of our councils and volunteers, and the Métis public service have all been hard at work on behalf of our citizens and it is certainly paying off.

As I love to say, the stars have been aligning for the Métis Nation over the last several months and years, and we continue to see signs of just how true that is. Over the last ten months we have been busy at work implementing the many commitments made in my election campaign. We are making good progress and moving our nation forward!

Advancing Reconciliation

In this edition of the Métis Voyageur we see the story about the signing of the *MNO-Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Advancing Reconciliation* (see story on page 8). The signing of this agreement is a truly extraordinary event that has been 150 years in the making. This agreement builds on the commitment that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made before Christmas to create permanent bilateral mechanisms with the Métis Nation. He committed himself and his cabinet ministers to regular meetings with the Métis Nation leadership (see story on page 3). Such commitments would have been unthinkable a few short years ago and are unprecedented in Canadian history. It fills me with great pride and optimism that we seem to be witnessing the beginning of the Métis Nation finally taking its proper place within Confederation and developing a true nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with Canada.

Canada at 150

In 2017, Canadians will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Canada, and celebrations are being planned throughout the country. In some ways, this is a bittersweet anniversary for the Métis as the last 150 years have been years of invisibility for the Métis—especially in Ontario. It has only been in the last decade that the MNO has developed a strong relationship with Ontario based on recognition and respect of the Métis, and our relationship with Canada has been non-existent.

Part of the work of taking our proper place within Canadian Confederation is ensuring we tell the story of how Métis have contributed to Ontario and to Canada, and we will be doing that throughout the year through

**MNO President
Margaret Froh**

various events and initiatives.

We will be telling our stories through the “Ontario Métis 150 –Looking Back, Looking Forward” stories project (see promotion on page 12). As the name suggests, this project will feature short stories from 150 Métis Nation of Ontario citizens, each sharing their history and culture and how that grounds us as we look forward to the next 150 years for Métis in Ontario. These stories will be presented throughout the year in our Métis Voyageur, on our MNO website and social media sites.

100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge

This is a very special year for Métis veterans and all Canadians as we will mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge (April 9). This April, the MNO Veterans' Council along with Métis youth from across Ontario will be participating in events in Ottawa commemorating this anniversary. I congratulate the MNO Veterans' Council and members of our Métis public service for their tremendous efforts on this project that will see Métis veterans and youth stand together to recognize a pivotal moment in Canadian history, and acknowledge the sacrifices of Métis veterans both past and present.

MNO Canoe Expedition

In addition to participating in various National Aboriginal Day (June 21) and Canada Day (July 1) celebrations, our biggest and most exciting Ontario/Canada 150 project will be the 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition (see promotion on page 24). Once again Métis youth will become modern voyageurs by retracing the steps of our ancestors on historic fur trade routes starting in Ottawa in May and finishing in August at the 2017 MNO Annual General Assembly in Kenora. Along the way the Canoe Expedition will stop in Métis communities to provide cultural workshops and participate in community celebrations. Information on their route and when they will be in each community will be posted on the MNO website and be available in the next edition of the Métis Voyageur. We hope all MNO citizens will be able to come out when the young voyageurs come to their community to show their support and share their pride.

Commission on Métis Rights & Self-Government

The young Métis voyageurs will not be the only visitors to our communities this year.

I am very much looking forward to joining the other members of the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government as we visit each Métis community in Ontario as well as meet with the members of the MNO Youth Council, Veterans' Council and Women's Secretariat (see stories on pages 6 & 7). This is an opportunity to hear from every one of our MNO citizens on the issues that matter most—Métis identity, culture and community; enhancing MNO governance; mobility of Métis harvesting rights; and Métis self-government. As a citizen of the MNO, your voice matters! I encourage all of our citizens to come out and join this nation-wide discussion. What the Commission hears from citizens during these community visits will be compiled into a report that will be released at our Annual General Assembly (AGA) at the end of August in Kenora (see story on page 36).

Further to my commitment to increase communication with our citizens we are organizing a series of President's Regional Telephone Town Halls over the coming weeks. This is one more way we can spread the word about the Commission and encourage our citizens to come out and be part of the dialogue about how we move forward – together -- as a nation.

MNO Household Survey

In addition, we are soon launching another project that will provide every citizen with the opportunity to be heard – the first ever MNO Household Survey (see story on page 11). Through responding to the survey, all citizens will be able to inform and influence the programs and services we develop and provide for our citizens, and how we move forward in our negotiations with government on rights, interests and claims.

Métis Voyageur

It is hard to believe that the next AGA is a little more than six months away. So much has been done since the last AGA and so much will be done before the next.

Last but not least, our Métis Voyageur is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments that happen every day for the MNO and its citizens, councils and communities. Congratulations to all who are recognized in these pages for your passion and commitment! You make us all proud. I hope that this message finds each of you well and enjoying these early wintery days of 2017.

Merci – Thank You - Marsee

Margaret Froh
President,
Métis Nation of Ontario

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ADVANCING RECONCILIATION



MNO President Froh (centre) signs the MOU while Minister Zimmer (right) witnesses the signing and Minister Bennett (left) looks on.

MNO and Canada sign Memorandum of Understanding

Agreement to advance Métis rights and outstanding claims in Ontario

by
MNO Staff

On February 3, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh joined the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, M.D., P.C., M.P., Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Reconciliation with the Government of Canada (the MOU). The Honourable David Zimmer, Ontario's Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), MNO citizens and guests were also in attendance.

The MOU establishes an exploratory discussion table between the MNO and Canada with the goal of arriving at a framework agreement by September 2017. The anticipated framework agreement would establish a formal negotiations process based on mutually agreeable subject matters, including Métis self-government, lands, rights and outstanding claims against the Crown.

"Today, we celebrate this new relationship – one based on respect and recognition," said President Margaret Froh. "I thank the Minister and the Government of Canada for their strong leadership on advancing reconciliation with the Métis Nation of Ontario through this nation-to-nation, government-

"This is an historic step forward in achieving lasting and meaningful reconciliation on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis for the benefit of the Métis Nation of Ontario and all Canadians."

- Dr. Carolyn Bennett,
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs

to-government agreement that further solidifies a strengthened relationship with Canada." The MOU comes on the heels

of recent positive political and legal developments for Ontario Métis, including the Prime Minister's November 2015 mandate letter

to Minister Bennett providing direction for her to advance a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with the Métis Nation, the release of the Isaac Report as well as the Supreme Court of Canada's landmark decision in *Daniels v. Canada* that was released in April 2016.

Minister Bennett stated: "Congratulations to the Métis Nation of Ontario on signing a Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Reconciliation. This is an historic step forward in achieving lasting and meaningful reconciliation on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis for the benefit of the Métis Nation of Ontario and all Canadians." ∞

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ADVANCING RECONCILIATION



1



2



3

1 - Over 70 citizens and guests attended the signing ceremony in Toronto. **2** - Alicia and Liam Blore fiddled in the signatories and witnesses in prior to the signing ceremony. **3** - MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council President Tera Beaulieu brings greeting on behalf of the local community.

BACKGROUND & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- FEBRUARY 3, 2017 -



WHAT IS THE MOU?

- The **Métis Nation of Ontario** (“MNO”) and the **Ministry of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada** (“INAC”), on behalf of the Government of Canada (“Canada”), have engaged in bilateral dialogue since the summer of 2016 on how to best develop a process to advance reconciliation between the Crown and Ontario Métis.
- This dialogue led to the development of the MNO-Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Advancing Reconciliation (the “MOU”), which was signed by MNO President Margaret Froh and Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister for INAC, at a signing ceremony in Toronto held on February 3rd, 2017. A copy of the MOU is available at www.Metisnation.org.
- The MOU establishes a time-limited exploratory discussions table between the MNO and Canada with the goal of arriving at a mutually-agreeable framework agreement by September 2017. This framework agreement would establish a formal

negotiations process between the parties to advance reconciliation based on mutually agreeable subject matters. (MOU, Articles 1 & 2)

- Importantly, the MOU, and the exploratory discussions table it creates, allows the MNO and Canada to have frank, confidential and without prejudice discussions on their respective positions with a view to arriving at a mutually agreeable process for formal negotiations. (MOU, Articles 11, 12 & 13)

WHAT LED TO THE MOU?

- Since its creation in 1993, the MNO has advocated for and represented the rights, interests and ambitions of Métis within Ontario—as a part of the larger Métis Nation—through its democratically-elected governance structures at the local, regional and provincial levels.
- Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* recognizes the Métis as one of the “Aboriginal peoples of Canada” and constitutionally entrenches Métis rights and other claims against the Crown. The Supreme Court has held that reconciliation requires that these protected rights and claims be determined, recog-

nized and respected through negotiations between the Crown and the Métis.

- Since 1982, despite Section 35’s promise, governments have largely refused to formally negotiate with the Métis. This led to the Métis turning to the courts to seek justice. In a series of cases over the last 15 years—including the MNO-led watershed Métis rights decision in *Powley-2003* as well as *MMF-2013*, *Daniels-2016*—the Supreme Court has recognized Métis rights and claims and has urged that negotiations with Métis begin. These court decisions, along with Métis political action, have created increased pressure on governments to deal with the Métis.
- In April 2015, Doug Eyford, Canada’s Ministerial Special Representative (“MSR”) on the renewal of its comprehensive land claim policy recommended that negotiation processes to address Métis rights and claims be established.¹ This led to the appointment of Tom Isaac as a MSR appointed to specifically look at Métis Section 35 rights. In July 2016, Mr. Isaac’s report was released and included recommendations on the need for negotiation processes with Métis on rights and claims.²

- In the last federal election, the Liberal Party made a series of policy commitments to the Métis Nation in its platform. In November 2016, consistent with those commitments, the Prime Minister mandated the Minister of Indigenous Affairs to “work, on a nation-to-nation basis, with the Métis Nation to advance reconciliation and renew the relationship, based on cooperation, respect for rights, our international obligations, and a commitment to end the status quo.”³

WHAT ARE EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS?

- Within Canada’s claims resolution processes, exploratory discussions are Stage 2 of a 6-Stage process. These 6 stages include: (1) the filing of a claim by an Indigenous community with Canada; (2) acceptance of that claim for exploratory discussions to see if a formal negotiations mandate can be developed; (3) developing a framework agreement that establishes a formal negotiation mandate; (4) negotiation of an Agreement-Principle (“AIP”) that sets out key terms

for an agreement; (5) negotiation and ratification of a final agreement; (6) implementation.

- In the past, Métis claims south of the 60th parallel never got past Stage 1. For example, in 1981, the Manitoba Métis Federation filed its land claim against Canada, which was summarily rejected by federal lawyers. After 32 years of litigation, the Supreme Court of Canada validated the MMF’s claim in 2013. This led to the MMF and Canada signing a MOU in May 2016 and a framework agreement for formal negotiation in November 2016. The MNO seeks to secure its own framework agreement with Canada without having to spend decades and millions of dollars in the courts.

WHY IS THE MOU IMPORTANT?

- As recognized in the above-noted MSR reports, Métis living south of the 60th parallel have been excluded from Canada’s claims negotiation processes for almost 50 years. Despite Métis inclusion in Section 35 and successive court victories, Canada has not amended its policies to include Métis. As a result, there

¹ Available at: <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1426169199009/1426169236218>.

² Available at: <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1467641790303/1467641835266>.

³ Available at: <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/minister-indigenous-and-northern-affairs-mandate-letter>.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ADVANCING RECONCILIATION



▲ Members of the PCMNO and other guests following the signing of the MOU. Back row (left to right) Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, Senator Verna Brunelle-Porter, Chair France Picotte, Minister Bennett, President Froh, Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau, Minister Zimmer, Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund, Executive Senator Joe Poitras, Region 8 Councilor Anita Tucker, Region 6 Councilor Tom Thompson and Region 3 Councilor Marcel Lafrance. Front Row (left to right) Toronto Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell, Region 7 Councilor Pauline Richardson, Region 2 Councilor Cam Burgess, Region 4 Councilor Ernie Gatien, Senator Ray Bergie, Member of the Provincial Parliament Monte Kwinter, Youth Representative Mitch Case and Region 9 Councilor Peter Rivers.

have been no substantive negotiations on Métis self government, rights and outstanding claims.

- The MOU provides the opportunity for the MNO and Canada to craft a regionally tailored negotiations mandate that meets the unique rights, needs and aspirations of Ontario Métis, rather than being limited by existing federal claims policies that were designed for other Indigenous peoples and that other Indigenous groups often criticize as being frustrating and inflexible.
- Unlike previous federal policy approaches to dealing with Métis—which solely focused on programs and service delivery or the development of Métis institutions—these exploratory discussions will look at how substantive issues such as Métis self government, rights and outstanding claims against the Crown can be negotiated.
- From the MNO's perspective, this is a significant breakthrough because Canada has historically denied Métis self-government, rights and claims. These denials led to long and expensive litigation such as *Powley*, *MMF* and *Daniels*. The MNO hopes that further litigation can be avoided

through negotiations.

IS ONTARIO INVOLVED IN THE EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS?

- The MOU recognizes the importance of having the Province of Ontario involved in an overall process to advance reconciliation between the Crown and Ontario Métis. As such, the MOU provides for the province to become actively involved in the discussions. (MOU, Article 3)
- The Parties hope that the Province of Ontario will ultimately become a full participant in the process; however, advancing the discussions under the MOU is not dependent on provincial participation, since there are several subject matters that may not implicate provincial jurisdiction.

DOES THIS MOU AFFECT OR LIMIT MÉTIS RIGHTS OR CLAIMS?

- No. The MOU simply commits the MNO and Canada to the exploratory discussions process with the goal of achieving a framework agreement for formal negotiations. No negotiations have begun yet. As out-

lined further below, the MNO will be engaging in province-wide consultations in the near future to begin a long and ongoing conversation with Ontario Métis on how to best advance Métis rights and claims as well as reconciliation. How long is the exploratory discussions process?

- The MOU sets out an 8 month exploratory discussions process, which can be extended if need be.

WHAT IS RECONCILIATION?

- The Supreme Court of Canada has held that reconciliation is a process guaranteed to Aboriginal peoples by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. This process requires that Aboriginal rights and claims protected by Section 35 be determined, recognized and respected by governments through honourable negotiations leading to just and lasting settlements (i.e., modern day treaties or other constructive arrangements).
- While the term “reconciliation” is increasingly used to describe any initiative done with or for the benefit of Indigenous peoples, it is the MNO's perspective that real reconciliation requires that substantive issues such as

Métis rights, self government, and outstanding claims against the Crown be dealt with. The preamble to the MOU sets out this perspective (i.e., that the discussions will address substantive rights and claims related issues).

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Over the next 8 months, the MNO and Canada will be meeting regularly to advance the discussions and work contemplated under the MOU with the goal of arriving at a framework agreement that would establish a formal negotiations process. (MOU, Article 5)
- During this same period, the MNO will also be undertaking province-wide consultations with Ontario Métis through the MNO Commission on Métis Rights & Self-Government and other mechanisms to provide further information on the MOU and the exploratory discussions table as well as to receive guidance and input on the priority subject matters to be included in a framework agreement for future negotiations.
- The MNO will also be developing and implementing a comprehensive communication plan to ensure Ontario Métis are able

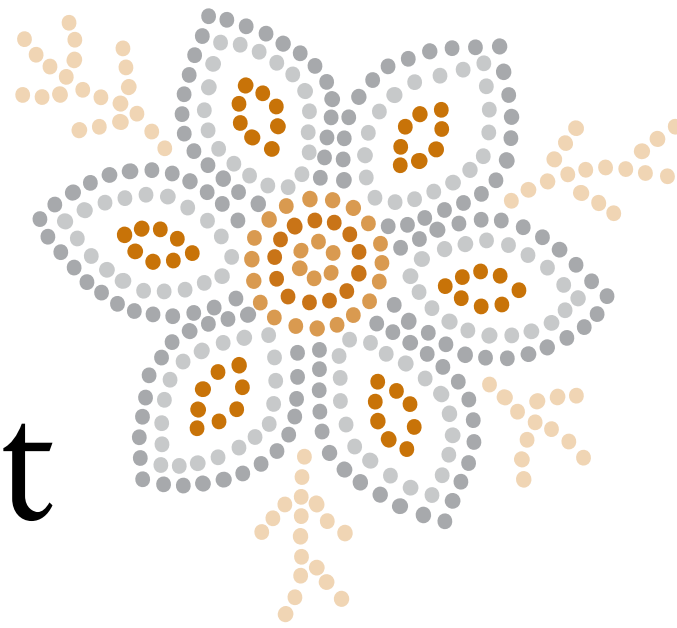
to be informed and engaged and to provide input into the exploratory discussions processes as well as future negotiations. While this is just the beginning of what will likely be a lengthy and far-reaching process, the MNO wants to ensure everyone has an opportunity to become engaged. ∞

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

In order to stay updated in developments, we encourage all MNO members to update their Registry files with their up-to-date address, email and phone numbers. Please contact the **MNO Head Office** at **1-855-798-1006** to update your file.

As well, please regularly visit www.Metisnation.org or join our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Metis-Nation-of-Ontario-147602041992683/ or Twitter at [@MetisNationON](https://twitter.com/MetisNationON) in order to receive regular updates on further developments.

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



The MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government is a direct response to President Froh's commitment in her 2016 election platform to establish such a Commission, the purpose of which will be to undertake province-wide consultations with MNO citizens on key Métis governance issues, including issues related to harvesting rights.



▲ The members of the Métis Nation of Ontario Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government: (Left to right) Paul Robitaille, Karen Drake, Kim Powley, Senator Marlene Greenwood, MNO President Margaret Froh, Pearl Gabona, Nelson Montreuil and Victor Brunelle.

The creation of the MNO Commission is both timely and significant, in light of recent court decisions (the Daniels Decision of April 14, 2016); the tabling of the federal report and recommendations of the Minister's Special Representative Mr. Thomas Isaac on Reconciliation with Métis in July 2016; the recent passage of the *Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act* in December, 2015; and clear, unambiguous

federal commitments and intentions to advance reconciliation for the Métis Nation.

There is also clear recognition in the federal arena that reconciliation must be action oriented, that this action must be swift, and that the process of reconciliation must fully acknowledge the rights of the Métis people, as enshrined in section 35 of the Canadian Constitution.

These watershed events are the culmination of decades of dedicated effort and reflect the collective aspirations of the Métis Nation, aspirations which within the MNO are articulated in the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*, a document that continues to define our strength as a people, a nation and a government.

It is within this ground breaking conversation and climate of

reconciliation and relationship-building that the work of the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government will be situated.

The MNO Commission's consultations with MNO citizens and Métis communities will be informed by, and conducted within, this broader historical and political context.

The findings of the MNO Commission will contribute

substantially to MNO's ongoing efforts to extend and build upon the remarkable achievements of the past 20 years in advancing Métis rights and self-government. They will greatly assist MNO in moving forward with this agenda in the years to come, as we work together to consolidate the accomplishments of those who have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 ...

Métis HARVESTING

The MNO Harvesting Policy is based on Métis jurisdiction, customs and traditions, how should it evolve to deal with issues such as co-management, enforcement or the mobility of Métis rights between our communities?

Métis IDENTITY CULTURE & COMMUNITY

How do you think we could better celebrate Ontario Métis identity, culture and community? How could we further promote these in how we organize ourselves, engage our citizens and make decisions?

HOW WE CAN BETTER
REFLECT MÉTIS COMMUNITY,
IDENTITY AND CULTURE
WITHIN OUR GOVERNANCE;
AND HOW WE CAN
MOVE FORWARD ON
HARVESTING MOBILITY
AND SELF-GOVERNMENT.

... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

come before us, and to lay a solid foundation for those who will follow. At the conclusion of the consultation meetings, the Commissioners will, supported by the policy team and MNO legal counsel, prepare a written report to be provided to the PCMNO and then presented to the MNO AGA in August 2017.

OBJECTIVE

The primary purpose and objective of the Commission is to document, through a process of consultation with MNO citizens from across the province, Métis community members’ perspectives on MNO’s governance structures; how we can better reflect Métis community, identity and culture within our governance; and how we can move forward on harvesting mobility and self-government. The findings of the Commission, as set out in a *What We Heard Report*, will become an essential component and help guide MNO’s broader collective effort to continue to advance Métis rights and self-government, including in its work at the federal and provincial levels.

MANDATE, ROLES AND
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
COMMISSION

- To engage MNO citizens and Métis communities across Ontario on issues related to Métis rights and self-government, both broadly and more specifically as the discussion relates to mobility of Métis harvesting rights.
- To provide presentations and share information on these issues, hear MNO citizen’s perspectives, and gather information from MNO citizens and communities on the issues previously outlined.
- With the assistance of the MNO policy team, Communications Branch and MNO legal counsel, prepare a report entitled “Advancing Métis Rights and Self-Government: What We Heard”.
- Assist the PCMNO Executive in developing a larger synthesis report and associated set of recommendations for advancing Métis rights and self-government that incorporates the findings from the MNO Commission community consultations, as summarized in the *What We Heard* report. ∞

ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULE

Key tentative dates for 2017

Session	Day	Month	Date
MNO Great Lakes Métis Council	Tuesday	February	28
MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council	Wednesday	March	1
MNO Moon River Métis Council	Thursday	March	2
MNO Youth Council	Saturday	March	4
MNO Veterans Council	Saturday	March	4
Women’s Secretariat of the MNO	Sunday	March	5
MNO Toronto & York Region Métis Council	Tuesday	March	7
MNO Oshawa & Durham Region Métis Council	Wednesday	March	8
Peterborough & District Wapiti Métis Council	Thursday	March	9
MNO Clear Waters Métis Council	Monday	March	20
MNO Grand River Métis Council	Tuesday	March	21
MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council	Wednesday	March	22
MNO High Land Waters Métis Council	Monday	March	27
MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council	Tuesday	March	28
MNO Mattawa Métis Council	Wednesday	March	29
MNO North Bay Métis Council	Thursday	March	30
MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council	Monday	April	3
MNO North Channel Métis Council	Tuesday	April	4
MNO Sudbury Métis Council	Wednesday	April	5
MNO Credit River Métis Council	Wednesday	April	26
MNO Niagara Region Métis Council	Thursday	April	27
MNO Windsor Windsor Essex Kent Métis Council	Friday	April	28
MNO Chapleau Métis Council	Tuesday	May	2
MNO Timmins Métis Council	Wednesday	May	3
MNO Northern Lights Métis Council	Thursday	May	4
MNO Temiskaming Métis Council	Friday	May	5
MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council	Sunday	May	7
MNO Sunset Country Métis Council	Tuesday	May	8
MNO Northwest Métis Council	Monday	May	9
MNO Kenora Métis Council	Wednesday	May	10
MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council	Tuesday	May	16
MNO Greenstone Métis Council	Wednesday	May	17
MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council	Thursday	May	18

Métis
GOVERNANCE

How can we get our Métis
citizens more engaged in MNO
councils, activities and initiatives?

Métis
SELF-
GOVERNMENT

What should the priorities be in
our future negotiations with
Canada? What concerns should the
MNO pursue in our exploratory
discussions?

NATION

President Froh supports advances in federal reconciliation efforts

by
MNO Staff

On December 15, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh was part of a delegation of Indigenous leaders who met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Indigenous and Northern Affairs

Minister Carolyn Bennett and other key members of cabinet on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. President Froh along with Métis National Council (MNC) Vice-President David Chartrand, Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poiras and Métis Nation British Columbia President Clara Morin Dal Col attended as members of the MNC Board of Governors.

At the meeting, Prime Minister Trudeau made three announcements concerning actions to be taken by the federal government in partnership with Indigenous governments to further advance the 94 Calls to Action in the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* (TRC) final report.

The first announcement concerned the creation of permanent bilateral mechanisms with the MNC and its governing members, which includes the MNO and similar mechanisms with First Nations and Inuit governments. These mechanisms will provide a Kelowna Accord-like process so that there will be ongoing annual meetings between the Prime Minister and Métis governments to develop policy on shared priorities and monitor progress on reconciliation. Similar meetings will also take place with key federal cabinet ministers at least twice per year. "The MNO is very excited about having this kind of regular access to the Prime Minister and Cabinet," stated

President Froh, "for too long the Métis have had no tables to turn to with the federal government. The Prime Minister's commitment to establish this new bilateral process should dramatically increase the pace of reconciliation efforts with the Métis Nation."

“For too long the Métis have had no tables to turn to with the federal government. The Prime Minister’s commitment to establish this new bilateral process should dramatically increase the pace of reconciliation efforts with the Métis Nation.”

Margaret Froh,
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

MNO has called for. We look forward to working with the federal government and Ontario to ensure the Métis voice are heard in all reconciliation efforts," concluded President Froh. ∞

The Prime Minister also announced the establishment of an Interim Board of Directors to make recommendations for the creation of a National Council of Reconciliation. "Moving forward with a National Council on Reconciliation is critical to monitor progress on implementing the TRC Calls to Action," explained President Froh, "this interim board will have Métis representation and will be critical to moving forward the TRC calls to action and the work that is still to be done to address the legacy of residential schools and day schools for Métis people in Canada."

The Prime Minister also committed \$10 million to support the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation in Winnipeg. "The creation of this centre was one of the Calls to Action in the Final Report and will ensure the history and legacy of Canada's residential school system is not forgotten," said President Froh.

"Prime Minister Trudeau reported that work is underway on 41 of the TRC Calls to Action with the provinces; including the launch of the National Inquiry on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women -- something the



▲ MNO President Margaret Froh with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the meeting with Indigenous leaders on December 15, 2016.

The East-West Tie Electrical Transmission Project

by
MNO Staff

In 2010, in anticipation of increased mining and other industrial activities in Northwestern Ontario, the Ontario Government included in their Long Term Energy Plan the development of an approximately 447 kilometre (km) transmission line north of the Lake Superior. In 2013, the Ontario Energy Board selected NextBridge Infrastructure to develop and construct this line.

The project, known as "East West Tie", involves the installation of a double-circuit, 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Wawa and Thunder Bay and the construction of a transformer station approximately mid-way, in Marathon, Ontario. While a portion of the transmission line will run parallel to the existing 230 kV transmission corridor, sections of the line will follow other routes to avoid sensitive features crossed by the existing line.

Following the OEB's designation, Nextbridge approached the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to

consult on the project and in 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with Nextbridge to enable MNO citizens in the project area to learn about the project and study any potential impacts that the project would have on the environment, Métis rights, interests and way of life. The Calliou Group (experts in Aboriginal consultation) was retained by the MNO to coordinate a Traditional Land Use Study of the project area and interviews were subsequently held with Métis knowledge holders.

At the time, the proposed route for the transmission line included a section through the Pukaskwa National Park. However in June, 2015, Nextbridge was notified by Parks Canada that this would not be permitted. As such, Nextbridge explored other potential routes for the transmission line.

Since the finalization of the new, preferred route for the transmission line, the MNO has entered into a second agreement with NextBridge to explore the impacts of the (altered) project on Métis rights,

interests and way of life. This work is already underway; In February, 2017, Calliou Group and the Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch will be holding focus group sessions in Thunder Bay and Marathon, Ontario, to learn about MNO citizens' use of the land in the project area. The results from both the previous and the current study will be included as part of MNO's submission to Nextbridge and Ministry of Energy regarding the project. ∞



▲ This map shows the proposed route of the East-West Tie (red dashed line).

Since the finalization of the new, preferred route for the transmission line, the MNO has entered into a second agreement with NextBridge to explore the impacts of the (altered) project on Métis rights, interests and way of life.

MNO supports Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change

by
MNO Staff

On December 9, 2016 in Ottawa, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh participated in a meeting of Canada's First Ministers and Indigenous leaders on clean growth and climate change. President Froh was a member of the Métis Nation delegation along with other members of the Métis National Council (MNC) Board of Governors. In addition to the First Ministers, American Vice-President Joseph Biden participated in the meeting. "For Ontario Métis, the lands and waters of our Homelands are the heart, soul and lifeblood of our communities, identity and culture. Climate change puts at risk the living systems that nurture and sustain the health and well-being of all peoples, and it transcends political, geographic, societal, and biological divides," stated President Froh.

The focus of the meeting was to discuss a *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* which is the Canadian government's proposed plan to address climate change and grow the economy. This plan was developed by federal, provincial, and territorial governments following a First Ministers meeting of March 3, 2016. The plan's purpose is to guide the country's transition to a more resilient, low-carbon economy that creates good paying,



▲ Métis Nation delegates at the meeting between Indigenous leaders and Canadian First Ministers (left to right) Métis elder Oliver Boulette, MNO President Margaret Froh, MNA President Audrey Poitras, MNC President Clément Chartier, MNBC President Clara Morin Dal Col, MMF President David Chartrand and MN-S Vice-President Gerald Morin.

long-term jobs. The meeting, which also included First Nations and Inuit leaders, was an opportunity to provide Indigenous perspectives on the framework in advance of the First Ministers meeting.

"The Métis Nation of Ontario welcomes this historic framework agreement, and it looks forward to working on a nation-to-nation basis with all those with which we share

these lands in order to address the challenges before us. We will work with a view of forging collaborations and partnerships, consistent with our traditional alliances and the aspirations set out in the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*."

The Pan-Canadian Framework is predicated on partnerships between all levels of government including Indigenous governments.

"By working together with Ontario and Canada, as well as other Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians," explained President Froh, "we can make a real difference while supporting both the economy and the environment. Ontario's green energy and feed-in-tariff programs, which have helped the MNO become a significant player in the generation of green energy in

Ontario, are good examples of government programs that work and have a positive impact on climate change and the economy. I want to acknowledge the leadership of Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne in backing these types of programs that promote green energy and move the economy away from its dependence on non-renewable energy."

The MNO will take a leadership role in the efforts to reduce climate change by hosting our first Métis Climate Change conference in 2017-18. "Ontario Métis have a vital role to play in tackling the issues surrounding climate change," said President Froh. "Our people often are the first to feel the effects of climate change. We are a people of the land and have always been closely connected to the land. Taking a lead in the effort to reduce climate change therefore is very much part of our Métis heritage and culture."

"We will also work within our nation with our Métis youth, women, veterans, Elders, Captains of the Hunt, knowledge holders, elected leadership, and all interested MNO citizens toward areas of common concern on land and water protection issues, including climate change. We all have hard work ahead of us in order to create the positive change needed to save the planet we all share," concluded President Froh. ∞

MNO expects new proposed legislation will help revitalize Michif



MNO Chair
France Picotte

by
MNO Staff

Prime Minister Trudeau announced on December 6, 2016, that the federal government will soon be introducing legislation to support the preservation, protection and revitalization of Indigenous languages including Michif. Michif is the language of Métis people once spoken all across the Métis homeland. Like most Indigenous languages, the number of Michif speakers declined due to the colonization process that attempted to stamp out the use of languages other than English and

French.

"Michif is an important part of our Métis heritage and culture," stated Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh, "we are very pleased that the government is moving forward on helping to restore Indigenous languages like Michif; in keeping with the Calls to Action in the recent *Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report*."

The Office of the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Melanie Joly, has indicated that developing the legislation will begin with a process of engaging Métis, First Nation, Inuit governments to

draft an *Indigenous Languages Act*. The Ministry of Canadian Heritage has stated that the goal of this legislation will be to ensure the preservation, protection, and revitalization of Indigenous languages with the full input and collaboration of Indigenous peoples.

The Métis Nation of Ontario maintains a Michif Language Speaker group that has developed resources for schools and on-line to help preserve the Ontario dialect of Michif and teach young Métis their language. "We fully expect our Michif Language Speakers will be part of the development of the

Indigenous Languages Act," explained MNO Chair and Chair of the Michif Language Speakers Group France Picotte.

"The proposed Indigenous Languages Act has great potential to revitalize all Indigenous languages and as Métis we are especially pleased that Michif will be part of this revitalization process. We are very grateful to our ancestors who preserved Michif and to our Michif speakers today who will now have the opportunity to make our language flourish again," concluded President Froh. ∞



Métis 101 training for NAC staff

by
MNO Staff

Thanks to the ongoing work being done by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Indigenous stories and issues are becoming more a part of the public consciousness in Canada than ever before. At the National Arts Centre (NAC) in Ottawa, this is taking the form of a new Indigenous Theatre Department, to be headed by an Artistic Director from a First Nations, Métis, or Inuit community.

On January 17, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff members presented a Métis 101 information session to staff of the NAC as part of a broader framework of Indigenous training sessions the organization is implementing in preparation for the new department. “The rest of the NAC now needs to catch up and become educated and aware of what our several histories are across this country,” says Associate Director of English Theatre (and Interim Facilitator of the new Indigenous department) Sarah Garton Stanley.

Since September the NAC has hosted one information session each

month. The presentation by MNO staff was the first Métis-focused session, and introduced staff to both the history of the Métis as a people, and the life and significance of formative Métis leader Louis Riel. MNO Education Officers Alicia Blore and Wanda Botsford led a presentation that included a discussion of the role of Voyageurs in the fur trade, fiddle music, and a jigging demonstration. MNO Manager of Education, Way of Life and Special Projects Scott Carpenter was also on hand to answer questions and provide additional knowledge. He says the Métis 101 sessions are designed to help facilitate understanding of Métis people in today’s contemporary society.

The Métis 101 session comes a few months before the NAC will host a performance of *Louis Riel*, an opera about Riel’s life. Written in 1967 by Canadian composer Harry Somers and co-produced with the Canadian Opera Company, the performance focuses on the events of the Red River and Northwest resistances, and is part of the NAC’s summer Canada Scene Festival.

While the Métis 101 session won’t affect the content of the opera, what it will do is provide NAC



▲ NAC Staff learn traditional Métis jigging in a dance led by MNO Education Officers Wanda Botsford (centre) and Alicia Blore (with fiddle, right).

support staff in the communications, programming, and marketing departments with the context to be able to promote and discuss it in a way that is authentic to the contemporary Métis experience, explained Jason Dubois, Festival Manager for Canada Scene. “There is a whole interest in professional development within the institution,” he says. “There’s sort of a narrow focus around the Louis Riel opera and

a broader focus around the future plans for the NAC.”

“Like any other offering that lands on the NAC stage, we need to have some understanding and be able to talk about it, and this [opera] specifically because it has lots of history around it.”

The first season of Indigenous theatre at the NAC is slated to happen in 2019. “The reason for an Indigenous Theatre Department at

the NAC is because it needs to happen,” Garton Stanley said. “Our stories, our country, this land of Canada was created out of the stories of Métis, Inuit and First Nations people, and those are the central stories of our country ... We have an English theatre, we have a French theatre, and so we must have an Indigenous theatre so that we’re really making sure that we’re telling the story of Canada.” ∞

President Froh congratulates Métis Nation of Alberta on MOU with Canada

by
MNO Staff

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh extended congratulations on behalf of all MNO citizens to the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) for signing on January 30, 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Advancing Reconciliation with the Government of Canada.

“I was very excited to witness the historic signing in Ottawa,” stated President Froh. “All Métis can rejoice with our Alberta brothers and sisters as they enter into a new phase of their relationship with Canada. It is yet another sign that the stars are aligning for the Métis Nation,” she added. ∞



▲ Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) President Audrey Poitras with Métis Nation of Ontario President Margaret Froh following the signing on January 30, 2017, of the Memorandum of Understanding between the MNA and Canada on Advancing Reconciliation.

Métis Nation of Alberta and Canada sign agreement to advance Métis rights and outstanding claims in Alberta

Edmonton, AB - Tuesday, January 31, 2017

The Métis Nation of Alberta (“MNA”) has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Reconciliation (“MOU”) with the Government of Canada. The MOU was signed yesterday by MNA President Audrey Poitras, Bev New, MNA Co-Minister for Métis Rights and the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs in Ottawa.

The MOU establishes a time-limited exploratory discussions table between the MNA and Canada with the goal of arriving at a mutually-agreeable framework agreement by September 2017. The anticipated framework agreement would establish a formal negotiations process based on mutually agreeable subject matters, including Métis self-government, lands, rights and outstanding claims

against the Crown.

The MOU comes on the heels of recent positive political and legal developments for Alberta Métis, including the Prime Minister’s November 2015 mandate letter to Minister Bennett to advance a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with the Métis Nation as well as the Supreme Court of Canada’s landmark decision in *Daniels v. Canada* that was released in April 2016.

“This MOU has been a long-time coming for Alberta Métis. For many years at the federal level, we have been on the outside looking in. This MOU opens the door for us to finally put in place the government-to-government relationship with Canada our people have sought for generations as well as begin to address the pressing issues of our citizens and communities in Alberta, including dealing with Métis rights, lands and self-government,” said President Poitras.

The MOU signing ceremony was held on Parliament Hill with members of the MNA Provincial Council in attendance. A copy of the MOU along with background materials and photos from the event are available at: www.albertaMétis.com.

For more information or to arrange interviews please contact **Sonia Millman** at (780) 445-9956 or via email at smillman@Métis.org.



MNO launches first-ever household survey

by
Margaret Froh,
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is proud to announce the launch of the first ever survey of approximately 20,000 registered MNO Citizens. MNO designed, delivered, and owned, the MNO Household Survey will begin in the Spring and continue throughout the Summer and Fall of 2017. The information gathered during this survey will be invaluable in increasing our understanding of priority concerns and needs of MNO Citizens and families across the province, in the areas of health, education, housing, employment, and social justice. It will do much to inform the development of our MNO programs and services,

and will also play a crucial role in MNO's collaborative work and negotiations with federal and provincial governments and other partners to address service gaps for Métis people.

As an MNO Citizen, over the coming weeks and months you will be approached directly by mail or by email to participate in the MNO Household Survey. A relatively short survey of just 20-30 minutes, we ask you to take the time to provide your input into this important data gathering effort. While the survey is completely MNO designed and delivered, the MNO has recruited the assistance of the Survey Research Centre at the University of Waterloo to help in compiling what will be a very large amount of information. In working closely with our university partners, please rest assured that all MNO Household Survey data will remain the property of our MNO Citizenry at all times, and that there are strict rules in place to protect your privacy and identity throughout every stage of the process.


The MNO Household Survey and the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government are two key ways in which the MNO is directly engaging all of its citizens this year on the issues that are most important to our Métis

families and communities across Ontario.

Your voice is important!

Help guide the MNO as we move forward in this landmark data gathering effort by completing our MNO Household Survey. The success of the survey is entirely and directly dependent upon the number of MNO citizens who take the time to respond. For this reason, all MNO citizens are strongly encouraged to respond. Your participation will benefit you, your family members, and the entire Métis community in Ontario. It is only through your ongoing efforts and your contributions that we will continue to grow and prosper as a nation, and for generations to come.

As your President, I thank you sincerely for your time and dedication in making our first MNO Household Survey the great success I believe it will be. We will continue keep you informed of developments throughout the process, including notifying you of the official launch date once this is finalized. Watch out for these notices on our MNO website and through our social media. Be ready to add your voice to this important, nation-wide conversation. ∞

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▲ Federal Cabinet Ministers with Métis Nation leaders: (Left to right) Métis elder Oliver Boulette; Les Femmes Michif Otipemsiwak President Melanie Omeniho; MNO President Margaret Froh; MNS Vice-President Morin; Minister Hajdu; MNC President Chartier; Minister Bennett; MMF President Chartrand; MNBC President Clara Morin Dal Col; Treasury Board President Brison; Norman Fleury, Métis Elder from Manitoba; Minister Philpot; Cassidy Caron, BC Provincial Chairperson for Métis Youth; MNA President Poitras.

President Froh attends meeting of Métis Nation leaders and federal cabinet ministers

by
MNO Staff

On January 30, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh attended a meeting between Federal Ministers of the Crown and Métis Nation leaders to have a general discussion regarding the relationship between the Métis Nation and Canada.

The first ever Crown-Métis Nation Summit meeting was planned to be held that day between Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Métis Nation Council leaders, further to the commitments made by the Prime Minister on December 15, 2016 to establish a permanent bilateral mechanism to advance a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship between Canada and the Métis Nation. However, the Summit was postponed in light of the act of terrorism that took place the evening before with the shooting in a Quebec City mosque.

“On behalf of all citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario, our thoughts and prayers are with the families that have been impacted by the cowardly act of terrorism that took place in Quebec City. There is no room for hatred and intolerance in

our country,” stated President Froh. “I was honoured, on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario, to participate in today’s discussions with key members of Prime Minister Trudeau’s Cabinet,” stated President Froh. “These discussions mark an important step in the relationship we are building between the Crown and the Métis Nation based on recognition, rights and respect and the opportunity to begin to move forward in the spirit of cooperation and partnership to realize our shared vision of a renewed relationship between Canada and the Métis Nation.”

President Froh was accompanied by MNO Chair France Picotte; Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile; Region 1 PCMNO Councilor, Theresa Stenlund; and MNO senior staff. Canada was represented by:

- Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
- Honourable Scott Brison, President of the Treasury Board
- Honourable Jane Philpot, Minister of Health
- Honourable Patricia Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour

The Ministers were selected by



▲ President Froh (centre) speaking during the meeting between federal cabinet ministers and Métis Nation leaders on January 30. Listening intently are Treasury Board President Scott Brison (left) and Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett (right).

the Prime Minister to attend based on the roles of their respective Ministries in advancing some key priority areas of reconciliation including health, education and training, housing and new fiscal relations with the federal government.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development were unable to attend the meeting due to the tragedy in Quebec.

“The Métis Nation of Ontario continues to strengthen our role in

improving the lives of Métis people in Ontario through supporting Métis community health and well-being; creating opportunity for our Métis children and youth to be the best they can be; protecting and promoting the Métis Way of Life and the environment; advancing the self-sufficiency and sustainability of our nation; and stimulating economic development for our citizens. At the heart of everything that we do are our MNO citizens, families and communities,” said President Froh.

Reflecting on the significance of

the day, President Froh added, “On this day, 36 years ago on Parliament Hill, Métis Nation leaders negotiated the recognition and inclusion of the Métis as one of Canada’s Aboriginal Peoples in section 35 of the soon to be patriated Canadian Constitution with the Government of then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. We will build on that legacy with this new generation of leaders and work together for a better and brighter future for our Métis Nation citizens in Ontario and for all Canadians.” ∞

Ontario Métis: LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD



Ontario Métis have made many contributions to Canada and Ontario and to recognize these many achievements during Canada’s Sesquicentennial the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is launching 150 Ontario Métis: Looking Back, Moving Forward.

Through this special project 150 MNO citizens will share

their stories about Métis history and culture and how it grounds us as we move forward into the next 150 years for Métis in Ontario.

These stories are coming soon and will be highlighted in upcoming editions of the Métis Voyageur as well as on the MNO website and social media pages. ∞

MNO President Froh welcomes new Child and Family Services legislation

by
MNO Staff

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh reacted positively to the introduction of a new Child and Family Services legislation by the Ontario government on December 8, 2016. President Froh stated: “The Ontario government’s commitment to strengthening communities is important to improving outcomes for Métis children and families across this province. Child and family services in Ontario is in need of significant reform, including legislation that replaces offensive terminology with current and more appropriate language and ensures that Métis children, families and communities are recognized, respected and included along with other Indigenous peoples.”

According to information received from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the new legislation will have the following themes:

- Prevention and protection
- Quality improvement
- Accountability and oversight
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis Services

The legislation is also intended to affirm the government’s commitment to reconciliation and implementation of the *Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy* (OICYS) and to reflect a child and youth-centred approach. The legislation is designed to take a distinctions-based approach – recognizing that First Nations, Métis and Inuit have rights to services under the Act. It is expected to focus on unique relationships between Ontario and Métis, First Nations and Inuit people.

While the MNO intends on doing a full review of the new legislation and participating in committee hearings on the legislation, it generally sees the legislation as a positive development.

President Froh stated: “The Métis Nation of Ontario sees new legislation as a step toward

more effective, prevention-based approaches to improving outcomes for Métis children and youth, which is a shared interest of the MNO and the Government of Ontario as set out in our *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*. We look forward to reviewing the bill and participating in the dialogue that will follow its introduction, and to developing a stronger partnership with the Government of Ontario in the area of child and family services for the benefit of all Métis children and youth.” ∞



Additional information on the new legislation can be found at:
news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2016/12/ontario-strengthening-child-welfare-improving-outcomes-for-youth.html

MNO President Margaret Froh meets with Ontario Minister of Energy

submitted by
Todd Ross, MNO Special Advisor on Tripartite

On December 14, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh met with the Honourable Glenn Thibeault, Ontario Minister of Energy. This was an introductory meeting during which President Froh familiarized the Minister with the Métis Nation

of Ontario, its governance, regional communities and the Métis Way of Life; and discussed the MNO’s increasing role as a leader in green energy production, the importance of the protection of lands and waters, and other issues within the Energy sector. ∞



▲ (L-R) The Honourable Glenn Thibeault, Ontario Minister of Energy, and Margaret Froh, Métis Nation of Ontario President.



▲ Back row: (L-R) Yasir Naqvi (Attorney General), Donna Debassige, Helen Cromarty, Albert Dumont, Gilbert Smith, Barney Batise, David Serkoak, Verna Porter-Brunelle (PCMNO Senator) Front row: (L-R) Pauline Shirt, Marlene Pierre, Janice Longboat, Sally Webster.

PCMNO Senator appointed on Ontario’s new Elders Council

Adapted from a news release that appeared at ontario.ca

Ontario has established a new Elders Council that will provide advice to the Attorney General to improve the justice systems responsiveness to the needs of Indigenous people and support the reclamation of Indigenous legal systems.

The new Council reflects a commitment made by the province in *The Journey Together: Ontario’s Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples (the Journey Together)* and will incorporate the advice of Elders into government decision-making on matters related to Indigenous peoples in the justice system.

The Council is made up of 13 respected Indigenous Elders from diverse communities across the province and includes Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle. “I am honoured and

very grateful to have been invited by the office of the Attorney General to be on the Council and to bring a Métis perspective to its deliberations,” she said.

“The Elders Council will help guide Ontario in its mission to support the reclamation of Indigenous legal systems and strengthen justice for Indigenous peoples in the province,” said the Honourable Yasir Naqvi, Attorney General. “I am grateful to the 13 Elders who answered this call, and I look forward to working with them.”

From November 28-30, 2016, the provincial government hosted a three-day Gladue Summit (the Summit) in Thunder Bay. Senator Porter-Brunelle and Kelly Campagnola, MNO Senior Policy Advisor, both attended the Summit.

On the final day, Senator Porter-Brunelle led representatives in an opening prayer. She said that one of the most heartwarming moments of the Summit was seeing the youth not only attend the meeting but

actually be active participants. “They sat at the table with us and gave their opinions and suggestions – and really good ones,” she said.

The Summit is another commitment in *The Journey Together* and is designed to gather input from Indigenous leaders, organizations and communities, along with justice sector representatives, to help address the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system.

Moving forward, Senator Porter-Brunelle will meet with MNO President Margaret Froh, PCMNO and some of the MNO Community Councils for some guidance on what they would like to see at future Elders Council meetings.

The next Elders Council meeting is scheduled for this January in Sault Ste. Marie. Although the Summit meeting was a great experience, Senator Porter-Brunelle is looking forward to a more intimate meeting in the Sault with just the Elders Council. ∞

Taking care of business

Métis Infinity Investments is off to a strong start

According to Scott Patles-Richardson, Chief Executive Officer of Métis Infinity Investments (MII) the goal of MII is to provide quality services to its business partners and to generate meaningful revenue for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) that will ultimately create sustainable jobs for Métis people. In the last two years, MNO's start-up economic development agency has made some progress towards that objective and has even higher hopes for the future.

MII was created in 2015 and Scott Patles-Richardson hired as CEO shortly after to operationalize the MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law that was passed at the MNO Annual General Assembly in 2013. The Law established the mechanism that permits the MNO to establish for-profit ventures in the most tax-efficient manner while protecting itself from liability by holding its shares in the MNO Infinity Trust. The Law also provides a formula for how the profits generated by MII will be used to advance the goals and objectives of the MNO. "MII essentially works like a crown corporation for the MNO," explained Patles-Richardson, "we generate funds that the MNO can then use to provide services to MNO citizens and further its overall agenda."

MII is governed by professional Board of Directors with specialized experience and expertise in board and corporate governance, business, economics, banking, energy and resource development and human resources. The first quarterly Board meeting was held in March 2016. The Board of Directors are: Dr. Fred Lazar (Chair) Associate Professor, York University, Department of Economics Schulich School of Business; Lindsay Boyd (Vice-Chair) and Director of Aboriginal and Municipal Affairs, Union Gas Limited; and Brenda LaRose, Managing Partner, Leaders International and Founder of Higgins Aboriginal Executive Search.

Before MII could provide any funds for services, it needed to become part of viable business ventures. This was no small order, as MII was created without any capital funding. It was solely up to Patles-Richardson to get out and literally develop some business out of nothing. It was a task that he was well-suited for with his over 20 years experience in business and corporate development, finance and leadership roles gained in corporate banking and executive positions in

companies such as RBC Royal Bank, Ishkonigan Consulting and Mediation and the Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba Ltd and Scotiabank.

Armed only with his skills and experience, Patles-Richardson set out on his own to essentially build MII. Fortunately for the future of MNO and its citizens, this set the MII on the road to success. MII's first major projects centred around the resource development sector with mines. Two were in the Rainy River District and another was in the Timmins-Cochrane District.

At Rainy River, MII partnered with Proco, a company specializing in the construction of industrial, commercial and institutional buildings. Together MII and Proco, won a multi-million dollar contract in an open bid process to build temporary buildings for the New Gold mining site. Five buildings were constructed including a truck shop and a maintenance shop. The project was delivered on-time, on-budget and turned a profit for MII. MII put out a call for Métis trades people to work on the project and a number of citizens worked on the buildings.

New Gold also required transportation for its workers to travel between Fort Frances and the mine site and around the mine site itself. MII partnered with Iron Range Bus Lines and together won the contract to provide this service. With Iron Ridge, MII provides eight buses to New Gold to move its workers on the mine site. Currently there are Métis drivers working on this project and a training program has been initiated to train more Métis drivers. Like the building project, the bus contract is proving to be profitable. "Iron Range Bus Lines Inc. is pleased to partner with MII in the development of Métis Infinity Transportation," said Eric Lehto, General Manager of Iron Range, "the joint venture has been a successful effort benefiting both parties along with the local Community in training and hiring Métis individuals. We look forward to continuing the relationship and helping to build on the foundation we have started."

MII also recently won an open bid contract with Detour Gold, partnering with ASAP Security. At the location of Detour Gold's Timmins/Cochrane mine site, MII with ASAP provides full security for the mine. Through this contract 40 people are employed including Site Manager, Daryn DesGrosseilliers, a Métis from the area. "Working with Scot and



▲ On September 16, 2016, Executive Senator Joe Poitras offered the opening prayer at an Infinity Investments Board of Directors meeting. Senator Poitras is seen above with the Board members. (Left to right) Lindsay Boyd, Senator Poitras, Brenda LaRose, Scott Patles-Richardson and Fred Lazare (Board Chair).



▲ One of the buildings contracted through Infinity Investments under construction at the Rainy River New Gold mining site.

Infinity has been an amazing experience," said DesGrosseilliers, "being Métis, it is very important for me to have the opportunity to provide sustainable employment opportunities for Métis and First Nations people. Our partnership with Infinity, ASAP Secured and Detour Gold has not only provided these opportunities but has also given us recognition as one of the premier suppliers of security to the mining industry."

In addition to these contracts, MII has also taken over management of the MNO Solar. Through MNO Solar, MNO owns 50.1% of over 50 Solar projects across Ontario. With its partner Brightroof Solar, MII has been re-structuring MNO Solar's debt in order to improve profitability and has recently been awarded contracts for 23 additional solar projects it plans on financing and building this coming year.

"In all our projects, we actively attract, recruit and retain Métis employees," stated Patles-Richardson. "In the future, we will need a larger Métis work force and want to provide good quality jobs requiring

specialized training. Equally important, MII also wants to generate funding for the MNO. To make an analogy, we are the crown corporation for MNO that is mandated to provide funding to support Métis self-determination," he added.

"While MII's first two years have been fruitful, it will still take time before the MNO sees any significant dividends from MII projects. We are taking care of business to establish a strong and stable economic base for a sustainable revenue

stream for growth and our shareholder. With patience, we will have a strong foundation of business lines that will generate profit for us to augment the MNO's agenda," stated Patles-Richardson.

"Looking forward though," he concluded, "there are many meaningful projects on the horizon in all the MNO regions in Ontario. MNO citizens can be assured that MII will be working hard for them to make sure Métis benefit from these new opportunities." ∞


Infinity
INVESTMENTS

MNO Veterans' Council



▲ (L-R) Joseph Paquette (MNO Veterans' Council President), the Honourable Kent Hehr (Minister of Veterans Affairs), and Todd Ross (Chair of the MNO Toronto & York Region Métis Council).



▲ MNO Veteran Paul Pirie (left) and MNO Sunset Country Métis Council President Clint Calder (right).

MNO representatives attend Heroes of Our Time event

submitted by
Todd Ross, MNO Toronto & York
Region Métis Council Chair

On November 24, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette and Todd Ross, Chair of MNO Toronto York Region Métis Council were invited to attend a special event coordinated by Toronto Council Fire. The event entitled, In Recognition and Memory of Heroes of our Time, was an opportunity for the Honourable Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans Affairs, to meet with Indigenous veterans and Residential School heroes from Toronto.

Prior to the start of the event, Minister Hehr mingled with a few

of the assembled guests. President Paquette used this opportunity to speak with the Minister on the importance of remembering who we are and presented him with a copy of the MNO Veteran' Council book entitled, *Fighting For Canada Before There Was A Canada: Ontario Métis Veterans Pass the Torch*.

President Paquette was invited to say a few words during the event where he emphasized the wrongs that have occurred to Indigenous veterans, including Métis veterans, and reminded Minister Hehr of the strong mandate letter from the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada, where he states:

No relationship is more important to me and to Canada than the one with Indigenous Peoples. It is time for a

renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership.

The next speaker was Minister Hehr who thanked the previous speakers and reconfirmed his commitment to achieve the tasks given to him by the Prime Minister, which include a renewed relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

The event also included an Honour song as well as a speech by Gordon Byce, the founding President of Council Fire and the brother of the late Charles Byce—Canada's most highly decorated Aboriginal soldier in World War II. Once the speeches were complete, veterans were treated to a moose stew lunch and a strawberry drink. ∞

MNO veteran in Fort Frances receives the Louis Riel medal

submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans' Council President

In November, Paul Pirie, who is a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and a proud member of the MNO Veterans' Council, was awarded the Louis Riel medal by Clint Calder, MNO Sunset Country Métis Council President. Pirie describes being awarded the medal as "a great moment for me!"

Paul served with the Royal

Canadian Artillery and the Canadian Provost Corps (Canadian Army Primary Reserve) from 1968 until 1978. At that time, he was the last Officer to command the Rainy River District Detachment of the 116th Field Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery, prior to the Detachment's closure.

Ex-Lieutenant Pirie is also a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, the Canadian Police Exemplary Service Medal, and is a Commander of the Order of Saint Stanislaus (Poland). ∞

MNO Sgt-at-Arms participates in Addictions and Mental Health Week in Moosonee



▲ MNO Veterans' Council Sgt-at-Arms Rob Baskey (back row, third from left) joined the Ontario Provincial Police in a charity hockey game against the Moosonee Fire Department.

submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans' Council President

As a Sergeant with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council Sergeant-at-Arms Rob Baskey has always been very involved in the northern community of Moosonee. His work continues to bring awareness to Métis people and help promote the MNO Veterans' Council.

Last November, the Aboriginal Peoples Alliance of Northern Ontario (APANO)—a non-profit charitable organization that provide services for Indigenous peoples, sponsored a week of events to bring awareness to addictions and mental health in the Moosonee area.

One of these events was a charity hockey game between the Moosonee Fire Department and the OPP, which included Baskey on their roster. The

event took place on November 13, 2016 and began with a community breakfast. As admission to the hockey game, the OPP collected non-perishable food items, which were then donated to the Moosonee Native Friendship Centre Christmas Food Drive. Moosonee Deputy Mayor John Moore opened the hockey game with a ceremonial puck drop.

The OPP also assisted with some of the other special events for the week including: a Walk for Awareness, a screening of Gord Downie's *The Secret Path* album, and running an information booth at Northern College. They hope that their presence at events such as these will help outline their community mobilization efforts and bring awareness to residential schools, addictions and mental health issues. ∞



MNO Veterans' Council



▲ (Left-right) MNO PDWMC President Andy Dufrane, MNO citizen and veteran Fred Crawford, MNO citizen Cora Bunn and MNO PDWMC Senator Terry Bloom.

MNO Louis Riel Medal presentation

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

On December 15, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Louis Riel Medal and certificate was presented to Fred Crawford from Peterborough. Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) President Andy Dufrane and MNO PDWMC Senator Terry Bloom presented the Louis Riel Medal and certificate to Fred for his services.

Fred's wife and niece Cora Bunn were both present during the presentation of his medal. President Dufrane mentioned that they had a wonderful visit and shared great stories!

Fred thanked the MNO and the MNO Veterans' Council for this special recognition. ∞

MNO representatives take part in CAMA conference

submitted by
Joanne Meyer, MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations

On November 7, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh was among MNO representatives who attended the 24th Annual Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association (CAMA) conference in Ottawa. Also in attendance was Theresa Stenlund, PCMNO Region 1 Councilor; Ernie Gatien, PCMNO Region 4 Councilor; Joanne Meyer, MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations; and Jason Madden, MNO legal counsel.

CAMA was founded in 1991 with the help of Aboriginal communities, mining industry and several financial, consulting and legal groups throughout Canada. One of their key objectives is to bring Aboriginal communities together so that they can learn from each other. The focus of this year's conference was: *Embracing the Past. Mining the Present. A Rewarding Future*, where they aimed to help the youth, inform industry and governments, and bring the past forward to teach future generations and ensure their futures.

President Froh was invited to participate in an Aboriginal Leadership Armchair Panel in which they discussed the direction,

community needs and Aboriginal laws that should be understood when managing mineral exploration and discoveries on Aboriginal lands. The Panel also discussed how to proceed with projects regardless of the Mining Act and other legislation, and how the mining industry gets involved and complies with Indigenous laws.

MNO youth were also represented at the conference by MNO citizen Maria Vandenbrand, who works as a driller for the New Gold mining

company, moderated a Youth Panel in which MNO citizen Eric Gosselin served as a Métis representative. Gosselin works for Detour Gold as a Mechanics Helper.

MNO legal counsel Jason Madden led a session on *Understanding the Supreme Court of Canada's Decision in the Daniels Case*, as well as a session on the *Ministerial Special Representative Report on Métis Rights: Implications for the Resource Development Industry*. ∞



▲ (L-R) Bernie Hughes, Director of Aboriginal Affairs Branch, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines; Joanne Meyer, MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations; Maria Vandenbrand, MNO Citizen, Métis Youth Panel Moderator and Driller at New Gold; Chris Reeves, Business Development Manager at New Gold; Theresa Stenlund, PCMNO Region 1 Councilor; and, James Comegan, Big Grassy First Nation Councilor.



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COMMUNITY

Passing on the Métis trapping tradition

By MNO Staff with files from Ontario.ca

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Nelson Montreuil is a shining example of someone who lives and breathes his Métis culture.

He is an active citizen and currently serves as the MNO Mattawa Métis Council President and is a Commissioner on the new MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government. He is also an avid Métis harvester and is proud to continue the tradition of Métis trapping within his own family – a way of life that has been passed down to him from his ancestors.

Nelson has been trapping in the Mattawa area since 1980 on the same waterways used by his family since the 1870s. Nelson's grandfather was a Métis trapper and a canoe builder. Although he never got the chance to trap with them, he grew up hearing stories of his grandfather and great great grandfather's trapping adventures. He is happy to be carrying on this Métis tradition and that he is able to pass it on to his son and grandchildren.

"I carry out the same traditions in hunting, guiding, canoeing and trapping that my Métis ancestors used many generations ago," said Nelson. "To be able to say that I am Métis and am continuing on the tradition of harvesting that goes back to the mid-1700s, is pretty special."

Nelson's registered trap line in Ontario is approximately 100 square miles and runs along the Antoine Creek and is between the historic Mattawa and Ottawa River watershed near Mattawa. Nelson traps beaver, muskrat, mink, otter, fisher, martin, weasel and fox. He also hunts deer and moose.

Trappers are only allowed to trap during open seasons. Nelson says that trapping has three distinct seasons: the fall season; the transition from rain to snow; and the solidification of ice. A skilled trapper will know how to modify the way in which they trap during each season in order to be successful in their efforts.

At the beginning of the trapping season, Nelson says it takes him close to two weeks to lay out all of his traps. Trapping requires dedication and physical traps must be checked often so that

the animals do not spoil or get taken by other animals. Nelson says he checks his trap every two to three days depending on outside temperature – covering nearly 120 km to complete his route!

Trapping also requires expert knowledge of the land as you need to be able to study your territory to know the best spot to lay traps. Nelson says that "once you learn the land, you know where you should be looking. The beaver will give you signs that he is there. You learn that with experience." He also adds that, "most of your time is spent alone in the elements—no cell or help—safety is extremely important."

When asked if he uses GPS coordinates to remember the exact location of his traps, Nelson laughed and said that he simply uses his memory. He explained that "you learn to have that type of memory or you're going to be a poor trapper. It's either in you or it's not."

Harvesting and trapping for Nelson is more than just catching animals. Through harvesting, Nelson says that he is able to find a spiritual connection with the land and his Métis ancestors in a way unlike anything else.

"For our Métis ancestors, harvesting meat was the only means of survival during the winter months," he says. "Our ancestors did not have the luxury of being able to go to the grocery store to purchase meat. Instead, Métis people had to learn how to survive in the bush and harvest meat in order to feed themselves and their families."

Nelson says that the passing on of these traditions that were so essential to Métis people is sadly not that common. He points out that there is the need to pass on "not just the knowledge of harvesting meat but the traditions and knowledge of harvesting as well."

Nelson continues to work very hard

◀ MNO Citizen Nelson Montreuil on a trap-checking expedition near Mattawa.

“To be able to say that I am Métis and am continuing on the tradition of harvesting that goes back to the mid-1700s, is pretty special.”

– Nelson Montreuil

President, MNO Mattawa Métis Council

Continued on Page 18



▲ Nelson Montreuil checks one of his beaver traps near Mattawa, and is rewarded with the successful harvest of a beaver.



▲ Nelson checks one of his traps for mink.



▲ Nelson sets a beaver trap.

Continued from Page 17

to ensure that he is doing his part to pass on this vital Métis tradition and knowledge to his own family. Some of the fondest memories he has of trapping includes moments he has shared with his family such as when his son shot his first partridge, moose and deer.

He has also enjoyed bringing his grandchildren out into the bush with him. Even though his grandson is only five years old, he says that he is able to help him hunt animals and drag them out of the bush. As he likes to put it, “when they are old enough to walk, they are old enough to carry a muskrat!” All harvesting activities are done as a family unit and include jobs such as wood cutting for heat, trapping, or meat for the winter, guiding, canoeing and repair work. Through activities such as these, Nelson says that children learn not to fear the bush and are instead taught to respect nature.

Nelson says that it is so vital for his grandchildren and the youth of today to witness first-hand this circle-of-life as “they learn that food doesn’t just come from a grocery store, it comes from the forest. Most importantly, they learn that it’s not about the kill, but it’s about the animal giving its life for us to survive.” Nelson says that he has also taught his grandchildren how to

prepare the meat, ensuring that the highest amount of respect is always given to the animal.

In addition to trapping, Nelson and his wife are also the proud owners of Algonquin North Wilderness Outfitter—a tour company that runs guided canoe tours and canoe rentals in the Mattawa/Algonquin Park area. The family owned-and-operated business opened their doors in 1997 to fulfill the need for an outfitting company in the Mattawa area. Nelson knew that with his knowledge of canoeing and wife’s knowledge of Algonquin Park, they were sure to succeed.

Twenty years later and their business is still going strong! Nelson is thrilled that his son Logan Montreuil has shown an interest in carrying on the business. Logan currently manages the day-to-day business and also refinishes the older canoes. ∞



For more information, please visit the Algonquin North Wilderness Outfitter website at algonquinnorth.com.

Every trapper that harvests fur must have a trapping licence, which helps ensure that tracking is regulated. Trapping in Ontario is governed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). At this time, the MNO does not have a trapping agreement with the MNR. For more information, please visit the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry website at ontario.ca/page/ministry-natural-resources-and-forestry.



▲ (L-R) Jean Camirand (MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council President), Wendy Landry (former MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council President), Cameron Burgess (PCMNO Region 2 Councilor), and Robert Graham (MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council Chair).

MNO representatives recognize the work of Wendy Landry

submitted by
Jean Camirand, MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council President

The grand opening of a special room at the Union Gas office in Thunder-Bay was the occasion for a presentation by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) representatives to Wendy Landry, Union Gas First Nations, Métis and Municipal Affairs Manager and former President of the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council (TBMC). On September 7, 2016, Union Gas held a special ceremony to unveil a new room dedicated to Indigenous peoples. The room boasts remarkable artwork and artefacts from a variety of talented Indigenous artists. The grand opening included a cleansing ceremony and a prayer. In attendance were MNO TBMC Jean Camirand and Chair Robert Graham, as well as PCMNO Region 2 Councilor Cameron Burgess.

The close ties between Union Gas and many Indigenous communities are the direct result of Wendy's incredible work. As a way to recognize her hard work, at the culmination of the ceremony Councilor Burgess and President Camirand presented Wendy with the MNO Honouring Métis Women is Part of our Culture shawl. Wendy is a most deserving recipient of this great honour. She advocated for the MNO to ensure that it is included and consulted by the City of Thunder Bay on relevant issues. Through her diligence, the City of Thunder Bay has completely accepted the rights of the Métis and acknowledges Thunder Bay as part of the Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Métis traditional territory. Wendy has also taken it upon herself to ensure that every city committee meeting includes a seat for a member of the MNO TBMC – a position she held until another MNO citizen was able to take it

over. Wendy's efforts have helped the MNO achieve a presence in Thunder Bay as local politicians now automatically include the MNO when any of their addresses include the local Fort William First Nations. While MNO TBMC President, Wendy maintained a full time job at Lakehead University where she was involved in several women's organizations, raised a family of six, and was elected as the Mayor of the township of Shuniah! When Union Gas hired Wendy to fill their Aboriginal Liaison position, the MNO was happy to gain a strong Métis voice within the company. President Camirand says that Wendy is a most remarkable Métis lady and a most deserving recipient of the MNO's Honouring Métis Women is Part of our Culture Métis shawl. He says it was an incredible honour to be involved in the presentation. ∞



▲ Kristin Randall, MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council President, appears in a screenshot from the Our Oshawa video.

MNO Council takes centre stage in Our Oshawa video

submitted by
Kristin Randall
MNO Oshawa & Durham Region Métis Council President
Edited from an original article that appeared at oshawa.ca

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council (ODRMC) was recently featured in a video produced by *Our Oshawa* – an annual newspaper published by the City of Oshawa that highlights the achievements of groups within the city. The video features Kristin Randall, MNO ODRMC President, discussing the Council's goal of raising Métis cultural awareness, uniting Métis across the region, and providing ways for Métis to explore their culture. She explains how the MNO ODRMC stand committed to enhancing community development and the academic success of our Métis youth, promoting Métis artistic and cultural

achievements, as well as exercising their treaty rights under the constitution. The MNO ODRMC provide a number of events and workshops for the community to experience Métis culture and get involved. One event featured in the video, is the Council's 10th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration, which showcased Métis culture at its finest. The event featured Métis cultural demonstrations including the Gravel Road Fiddlers and the All Our Relations Métis Drum Circle. The event also featured a variety of artisans, exhibits and interactive activities, including crafts, fiddle and spoons. "Congratulations to the Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council on this milestone, raising awareness and providing support in our community," says Councilor Amy McQuaid-England, Chair of the Corporate Services Committee. "I encourage everyone to explore the cultural diversity that Oshawa has to offer." ∞

To learn more about Métis heritage and how to get involved, please visit oshawadurhamMétis.com

MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council unveil new Métis sash

submitted by
The MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council

On Louis Riel Day, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) unveiled a new Métis sash that they have been working on for over a year! Several designs were considered with the final design being selected through feedback from a community meeting as well as from some amazing Métis youth during their Weaving the Sash project. The sash is described as follows: **Green** runs through the sash—like our connection to the land, and represents the gardens, ravines and forests throughout Toronto and York and represents the future through Métis youth. **Blue** represents the sky, water, and the Métis flag. Three blue stripes represent the rivers that connect Toronto and York—the Humber, Don and

Rouge. Yellow, Red, Black and White represent the four directions, the diversity of the region and the acknowledgement of the traditional territory in the region including the Wendat, Anishinabek, Haudenosaunee, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. **Yellow** represents honour. We honour those committed to ending violence and abuse and we honour Métis women. **Red** represents our heritage and our blood and honours Métis veterans. **Black** reminds us of the dark times in our past. White represents the wisdom of our elders and the infinity symbol—that our culture will live on. Grey represents the concrete—the urban city we call home. ∞



▲ MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) President Tera Beaulieu (far left) presents the new Métis sash to MNO TYRMC Youth Committee members (L-R) Elise St. Germain, Alicia Blore and Christine Skura.

These new Métis sashes are available for purchase. If you are interested in buying one, please contact the MNO TYRMC at council@tyrmc.org.

Project underway to collect and preserve Métis traditional knowledge

by
Craig Bakay, Frontenacnews.ca

It's a huge project, but Candace Lloyd, Secretary-Treasurer of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) High Land Waters Métis Council is optimistic that a project to map and preserve Traditional Knowledge and Land Use as it pertains to the Métis way of life is doable and worthwhile.

The Métis way of life represents all aspects of "being Métis," including a tightly woven relationship with the environment for food, spiritual and cultural fulfillment, medicine and ceremony.

The idea of the project is to interview members of the Métis community about all aspects of traditional knowledge and land use and then preserve that knowledge with map overlays and videos, for use by future generations.

The MNO High Land Waters Council is responsible for an area that stretches from Cardiff in the northwest, down to Trenton and Prince Edward County, over to Kingston (including Frontenac

Islands) and up to Smiths Falls in the northeast.

Last Saturday, Lloyd, along with her Council, grant proposal writer Darlene Loft, interviewer/videographer Ashley Lloyd and MNO Traditional Knowledge coordinator Markus Tuolimaa and MNO GIS specialist Steve Gautreau held a workshop in Flinton to collect information and get the word out.

Lloyd said there are many benefits to such a project. Not only will knowledge be preserved, it will also serve as reference and educational material.

"We will be able to say 'you're not going to find ginseng there' and suggest that a potential wind or solar project be moved slightly because it's on a moose trail or blueberry patch," Lloyd said.

Tuolimaa said this is how they use the lands and waters.

"There has always been an oral history tradition," said Gautreau. "Now we're doing actual mapping of things like where the stories took place, where and what animals were hunted and where and what plants were gathered."

He said they try to maintain a



▲ MNO High Land Waters Métis Council Secretary-Treasurer Candace Lloyd (third from left, front row) was pleased with the turnout for the Traditional Knowledge and Land Use workshop January 21 in Flinton.

certain amount of confidentiality but generally they're interested in game harvesting, fishing, trapping line, plants and natural medicines, access points and cultural sites.

"It's not a free-for-all knowledge thing," Lloyd said. "But we would

like to know things like this-is-a-moose trail or this-is-a-rabbit swamp. If it flies, swims, walks or you can pick it, that's the information we want."

Lloyd said they're also hopeful this will lead to jobs for Métis

people. "Who better to work on solar projects or mines than someone who knows the land?" she concluded. ∞



▲ Métis youth complete First Aid training. (Front row L-R) Carl Ferris, Jocelyn Howe, Dalton Latondress. (Back row L-R) MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chair Larry J. Ferris, Even Logue, Brandon Howe, Jacob Martin, Devin Latondress, Alexa Martin.

MNO Council youth learn First Aid

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

Eight youth from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) can now provide First Aid to their fellow citizens, following a training event on December 29, 2016.

The young people who attended the event are now certified First Aiders. The First Aid certification attendees received is recognized by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. The event was funded by a grant from New Path Youth and Family Services of Simcoe County—the lead agency in Simcoe County for Moving on Mental Health.

All of the MNO GBMC youth passed with high marks. "It is inspiring to see our future Métis citizens in action. We are in very good hands and we all should be proud of them," says MNO GBMC Chair Larry J. Ferris.

The training included CPR, injury identification, patient care and how to help people who are choking, having a stroke or having a heart attack. Attendees also learned how to use automatic defibrillators.

The event was an excellent opportunity for Métis youth to learn a skill that looks great on a résumé. It also means that the MNO GBMC is safer with eight more people trained to provide First Aid. ∞

Young Métis helps with school presentation

submitted by
Jennifer Parkinson, President, MNO Grand River Métis Council

On November 10, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) President Jennifer Parkinson was invited into to Brigadoon Public School in Kitchener to talk to two grade five classes about Métis Culture and history. When the second class entered the library, President Parkinson was delighted to see her friend, Hunter Bellinger, a Métis youth.

Hunter was proudly wearing his Métis sash. When asked if he wanted to tell his class about the Métis sash, he got up and explained what the Métis sash colours meant and the many uses of the sash. At the end of the presentation, Hunter used his sash to demonstrate the Métis tug-of-war to his classmates. President Parkinson was delighted to have Hunter be part of the presentation. ∞



▲ MNO Grand River Métis Council President Jennifer Parkinson (L) and Métis Youth Hunter Bellinger (R) at Brigadoon Public School in Kitchener.

MNO youth attends We Belong conference

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

On November 17-19, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) youth Mattingly Turgeon and Wendy Stewart, MNO Manager of Mental Health and Addictions, attended the We Belong conference held in Vancouver along with other Métis National Council (MNC) delegates and Indigenous youth. This international conference focused on life promotion to address Indigenous suicide.

“My fire to keep driving for answers about my culture and history is recharged as I come out of this conference,” said Turgeon. “Culture is so important when it comes to mental health and wellness.”

Among an impressive delegation of Indigenous community members from across the globe, the conference highlighted how culture is at the foundation for making a difference in social equity, life promotion and for shifting the way we think about supporting Indigenous families across a lifespan.

Two days prior to the



conference, Turgeon, along with other youth from across the country, attended a retreat on current mental health issues within communities and future directions on their roles in facilitating wellness and life promotion. Much of these discussions were subsequently tabled at the We Belong conference, driving change in how

Indigenous youth want to be engaged in leading initiatives for the wellness of their communities.

In addition to being a fruitful opportunity to network and share knowledge, Stewart says that the Conference left both her and Turgeon with renewed energy and ideas to promote and support Métis community wellness. Stewart

plans on sharing this knowledge with leaders within the MNO community.

Turgeon resides in MNO Region 5 and is involved in MNO Youth programming. She is currently studying Indigenous Social Work at Laurentian University.

▲ Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) youth Mattingly Turgeon at the “We Belong” conference in Vancouver.

MNO Council donates \$10,000 towards new Métis bursary at Canadore College

submitted by
Melanie Rose, MNO Mattawa
Métis Council Secretary/Treasurer
Adapted from a story that
appeared in the Mattawa
Recorder

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Mattawa Métis Council (MMC) held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) this past October, which included a very special item on their agenda. During the meeting, the Council was pleased to present Shawn Chorney, Vice-President of Student Services, Recruitment, Enrolment Management and Marketing at Canadore College, with a cheque for \$10,000, which will go towards the newly established Mattawa Métis Endowed Bursary. The bursary will be available at Canadore College this fall.

The scholarship is open to MNO citizens or self-identified Métis students who have recently graduated (within the last five years) from one of two high schools in Mattawa—either École secondaire catholique Elisabeth-Bruyère or F.J. McElligott Secondary School, and are enrolled at Canadore College in North Bay. The scholarship amount issued will be dependent on academic performance and financial need. Students enrolled in any year level are eligible to receive the scholarship.

“Canadore was invited out here today to the AGM to receive a generous contribution towards the establishment of a scholarship for our students,” said Chorney. “We’re

The college has a centre ... which shows students jobs that are in demand for the Métis workforce. If they take these certain courses, it is going to help guarantee them a job in the next couple years.”

- **Melanie Rose**,
Secretary/Treasurer, MNO
Mattawa Métis council

going to be setting up a scholarship fund and an endowed fund that creates interest so we can invest in programming and invest in scholarships to assist members of the Métis Nation and their families for the secondary programming at Canadore.”

MNO MMC Secretary/Treasurer Melanie Rose explains that Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations, a Glencore Company, which has an existing partnership with the MNO, gave \$10,000 to the Council last year in order to help the community provide different support and resources. She explained that the Council decided to establish the Mattawa Métis Endowed Bursary in order to help Métis students in the community throughout their college years.

Rose explained that the Council decided to donate the money to Canadore College in particular as “the college has a centre that will provide information and resources,



▲ The Canadore College campus, located in North Bay, Ontario.

which shows students jobs that are in demand for the Métis workforce. If they take these certain courses, it is going to help guarantee them a job in the next couple years. So that is what we are trying to encourage—people from the Mattawa area to stay within the community and not be far from home. We’re hoping to be able to donate at least \$5,000 a year and our end goal being \$100,000.”

“It is a very great time for the Mattawa Métis citizens to be able to give a long lasting education fund for the students,” said Nelson Montreuil, MNO MMC President. “When I’m gone and the Council

is gone, that money will always be there.”

MNO MMC Chair Roddy Rose said that he is proud of what the Council “has achieved in the past four years. Our elections are coming up next April and we would like to have four or five more people on the board to help us out with different ideas and projects.”

Romeo Sarrazin, MNO MMC Senator, explained that the Council

would like to encourage local Métis youth to get more involved. “One of us will be going to high schools and talking to the kids to try and encourage them to come to these meetings so we can find out what they want, what ideas they have, and to show them the support that they can get for things like education, for example.”

If you have any questions about the MNO MMC, please contact President Montreuil at 705-218-0944 or nelsoncanoe@hotmail.com or Chair Rose at 705-845-6337 or roddy.rose@yahoo.ca.



▲ (Left to right) John Peevers (Bruce Power), Region 7 Captain of the Hunt Greg Garratt, PCMNO Region 7 Councillor Pauline Richardson, Senator Larry Duval, MNO President Margaret Froh, Bruce Power President Mike Rencheck, Emily Johnston (Bruce Power), MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council President Dave Dusome, MNO Great Lakes Métis Council President Peter Coture, James Scongack (Bruce Power) and Francis Chua (Bruce Power).

Meeting of MNO and Bruce Power Presidents in Owen Sound

submitted by
Greg Garratt, Captain of the Hunt for Region 7 and member of the Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Committee

On January 12, 2017 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh and Bruce Power President Mike Rencheck met for a first ever Presidents meeting hosted through the MNO Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Committee (GBTCC) in Owen Sound. The MNO GBTCC consists of

PCMNO Region 7 Councillor Pauline Richardson, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council President Dave Dusome, MNO Great Lakes Métis Council President Peter Coture, MNO Moon River Métis Council Senator Larry Duval and Region 7 Captain of the Hunt Greg Garratt. This meeting had been a long time in the making and was possible when the Bruce Power Board of Directors made the appointment of its new President in 2016. The evening included a dinner and gift presentations. President Froh presented a gift bag to President Rencheck including a copy of the first

ever MNO Veterans' Council book, which was made possible by sponsorship from Bruce Power. The dinner proved to be an excellent relationship building opportunity where everyone got to socialize and build a foundation for undertaking future work on the vast amount of consultation that must take place over the coming years. In the great tradition that is part of being Métis, humorous stories and anecdotes were told that left both parties in a positive frame of mind for the many meetings ahead.∞



▲ (L- R) Métis Nation of Ontario Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council Senator Cecile Wagar (second from left) and Women's Representative Claire Kearns (third from left) with members of the Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School staff.

MNO Council performs smudging ceremonies at local schools

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

Like other school boards across the province, the Durham Catholic District School Board's (DCDSB) focus this year is to incorporate more Indigenous ways of learning at all grade levels and in all subjects. In keeping with this mandate, the DCDSB have sought the knowledge of Métis Nation

of Ontario (MNO) Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council (ODRMC) Senator Cecile Wagar and Women's Representative Claire Kearns who have been active members on local Indigenous Education Advisory Circles for over six years. At the beginning of the school year, Senator Wagar was invited to smudge DCDSB school administrators and members of the school board. Senator Wagar and Kearns were also invited to smudge the staff at Notre Dame Catholic

Secondary School (NDCSS) in Ajax to end their November Professional Development Day. 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.∞



▲ Students participating in Métis Voyageur games at the Waterloo Regional Museum during the First Peoples Festival

MNO GRMC attend First Peoples Festival

submitted by
Rebecca Leitch, MNO GRMC Youth Representative

On September 27-29, 2016, The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) took part in the First Peoples Festival at the Waterloo Regional Museum. Twelve hundred students ranging from grades six to twelve engaged in presentations on dance, music, games and crafts. Elder Lois MacDonald and MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson spoke at the opening ceremonies. The festival was a partnership with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities to engage students in traditional Indigenous cultural teachings and activities. MNO GRMC Councillors Leslie Muma, Colleen Brunelle, Rebecca Leitch, Alicia Hamilton and Sandy O'Brien encouraged students to try their hand at the dot art workshop. Students

learned that dot art is inspired by traditional beading, which earned Métis the name "flower beadwork people." Students created beautiful multi-coloured pictures featuring the Métis flag, flowers, buffalo and turtles. In addition, students participated in a Trapping Workshop led by MNO citizen Jim Tolles, Métis Voyageur games led by MNO Community Relations Manager Hank Rowlinson and Region 9 Education and Training Coordinator Scott France. President Jennifer Parkinson joined First Nations representatives in the 'First Peoples 101' panel discussions. Students were encouraged to ask any questions about First Nation, Métis and Inuit culture and heritage and they very much enjoyed the day.∞

MNO Timmins Métis Council hosts successful Annual General Meeting potluck

submitted by
Ryah Heavens, MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Timmins Métis Council (TMC), held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) followed by the Annual Christmas Potluck for the citizens and community members in Timmins and area on December 10, 2016. The event took place at St. Dominique Hall and was a huge success seeing the highest participant turnout yet for the AGM and many new faces for the Christmas Potluck. The MNO TMC AGM included updates from the Region 3 Captain of the Hunt, MNO Employment and Training staff, the MNO Family Wellbeing Coordinator as well as new business and financial updates from the MNO TMC. The community was fortunate to also have France Picotte, the Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario

Provisional Council in attendance to provide insight on the Daniels Case and an update on the Kenogamissi Lake Burial Site. The Annual Christmas Potluck was a great opportunity for families to engage and connect with one another as well as with the staff and council members in Timmins. This event included games, prizes, and a community potluck. The children got the opportunity to meet Santa and receive an early gift! The night filled with great food, great people, and great laughter! The MNO staff and Council members cannot wait to hold the event again in 2017. The MNO staff in Timmins wishes each citizen and community member the very best during 2017. Whether the goals you seek to accomplish be cultural, personal or family oriented they are available and eager to provide encouragement and support. Visit The MNO website to find the nearest office and services available to you.∞

NOVEMBER 16 Louis Riel Day



1) Community raising the Métis flag outside Toronto City Hall. 2) Musicians Alicia Blore and Liam Blore discussing Métis Music. 3) Weaving the Sash Organizers (from left to right), Faith Chaput, Tera Beaulieu, Alicia Blore, Christine Skura, Dalton Latondress, Elise St. Germain, (missing: Lindsay DuPre) 4) Finger Weaving. 5) Spoon Playing.

Louis Riel Day in Toronto

submitted by
Tera Beaulieu, President, MNO
Toronto & York Region Métis
Council

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

Toronto City Hall Celebration

On Wednesday November 16, 2016, the MNO TYRMC hosted a Louis Riel Day Celebration in collaboration with the City of Toronto. This year approximately 60 individuals joined in on the celebration, including MNO TYRMC Councilors, members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), Toronto City Councilors Mike Layton and Kristyn Wong-Tam and several

media sources. The morning began outside of Toronto City Hall at the flag podium, with MNO TYRMC President Beaulieu welcoming all those in attendance. President Beaulieu, Youth Representative Christine Skura and Councillor Mike Layton raised the Métis Nation flag together to mark Louis Riel Day in the City of Toronto. This was followed by a reception in City Hall, which was hosted by Councillor Layton. PCMNO Executive Senator Joseph Poitras provided an opening prayer for the celebration and words of welcome. Councillor Mike Layton offered greetings from the City of Toronto and reflected on the significance of Louis Riel in Canadian history and to the Métis Nation. Councillor Layton also presented the proclamation declaring November 16 Louis Riel Day in the City of Toronto. Youth Representative Christine Skura and MNO Chair France

Chair Picotte offered words of greeting on behalf of the PCMNO and reflected on the incredible strength of the Métis Nation and its communities.

Picotte. Chair Picotte offered words of greeting on behalf of the PCMNO and reflected on the incredible strength of the Métis Nation and its communities. Following Councillor Layton, President Beaulieu shared some words of reflection on Louis Riel and the leadership he provided for the Métis Nation. Beaulieu also highlighted the work of the MNO TYRMC Youth Committee, congratulating them on their highly successful youth initiative, Weaving the Sash. The final speaker was MNO TYRMC Youth Representative Christine Skura, who reflected on the incredible Métis youth community of Toronto and York Region and the Weaving the Sash Métis youth initiative. Elise St. Germain, MNO TYRMC Youth Committee member, then introduced the Weaving the Sash documentary, a short film that documents the work of the project and reflections from the youth

participants and Métis Knowledge Keepers who supported the initiative throughout the year. The documentary was incredibly powerful as the audience was able to listen to and reflect on the words of the Métis youth community today. In honour of their dedication to this initiative, MNO TYRMC Youth Committee members Christine Skura, Elise St. Germain and Alicia Blore were the first recipients of the newly designed Toronto and York Region Métis Council Sash, presented by President Beaulieu. (See story on page 19). Following this presentation, President Beaulieu also presented Councillor Layton with the new sash for this work with Indigenous communities in Toronto and his ongoing support of the MNO TYRMC. Following the speeches, those in attendance enjoyed the musical talents of Alicia Blore on the fiddle, accompanied by Christine Skura and Elise St. Germain who

NOVEMBER 16 Louis Riel Day



led the group in jigging. Highlights from the celebration included audience members learning how to jig and playing the spoons! The MNO TYRMC would like to thank all of those who joined the Council and the City of Toronto in celebrating Louis Riel Day in Toronto!

MNO TYRMC celebration

On Saturday November 19, 2016, the MNO TYRMC hosted its fourth annual Louis Riel Day celebration in collaboration with the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto.

Upon arrival, MNO citizens and Métis community members met and mingled. MNO TYRMC Youth Committee member Elise St. Germain opened the gathering by providing a prayer, followed by President Beaulieu sharing words of welcome. Everyone was then invited to join in on a delicious feast, which included three sisters soup, bannock and pumpkin pie!

As everyone was enjoying their lunch, President Beaulieu provided an update on the activities of the MNO TYRMC since April 2016. Highlights shared included the launch of the Council's new Métis jigging group, the Toronto Métis Jiggers, several new grant application submissions for cultural programming, including a Métis community garden, and new relationships with proponents, such as the Toronto Region Conservation Authority. President Beaulieu also reflected on the significance of the community coming together to mark Louis Riel Day and

expressed the Council's delight in having so many citizens and community members attend to celebrate the history and culture of the Métis Nation. President Beaulieu ended her remarks by personally thanking and acknowledging all of the Council members in attendance, commenting on the hard work, dedication, and commitment they have demonstrated for their community.

A special presentation was made by the MNO TYRMC Youth Committee (Christine Skura, Elise St. Germain, and Alicia Blore) about the Weaving the Sash, a year-long project focused on connecting youth in Toronto, York Region and Midland with each other, Knowledge Keepers and Métis culture. The community feast was made feasible through funding from the Laidlaw as a thank you to the community for its support of the Youth. MNO TYRMC Youth Representative Christine Skura and the Youth Committee spoke about the success of the project and thanked everyone in attendance who had participated in the project by presenting them with the newly designed Toronto and York Region Métis Council sashes. The Youth Committee then screened the Weaving the Sash documentary, a short film that documents the work of the project and reflections from the youth participants and Knowledge Keepers. In recognition of all the work that they had done, President Beaulieu presented each of the Youth Committee members - Christine Skura, Elise St. Germain

and Alicia Blore – with an eagle feather, one of the highest honours an individual can receive from the community.

Following the presentations, the youth shared some of the cultural skills they learned through the Weaving the Sash project by teaching finger-weaving and dot-art, as well as teachings on fiddling and jigging facilitated by MNO citizens Alicia Blore, Liam Blore and Brad LaFortune. The talented Alicia, Liam and Brad had everyone up and on their feet dancing and laughing with some joining in on the spoons! Various informational booths and vendors were also on display, including tables from Ryerson University, Métis artist Jerry Thistle and First Nations artist Marleen Murphy. The MNO TYRMC also had a table where Métis specific merchandise, including sashes, fire bags, spoons, pins, were sold.

President Beaulieu offered closing remarks to the gathering, thanking the approximately 75 – 100 people for their attendance and for joining the MNO TYRMC for the afternoon to celebrate Louis Riel Day!

The Youth Committee would like to thank everyone who made the Weaving the Sash project possible. The Laidlaw Foundation; MNO TYRMC councilors, Tera Beaulieu, Todd Ross, Marilyn Hew, Justin Kogler, and Christine Skura; the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council; the Elders and Knowledge Keepers who kindly shared their knowledge; MNO TYRMC Senator



▲ MNO TYRMC President, Tera Beaulieu, Toronto City Councillor Mike Layton and MNO TYRMC Youth Representative Christine Skura raising the Métis flag.

Constance Simmonds; co-organizers Lindsay DuPre and Faith Chapput; and finally, all of the youth from Toronto, York Region and

Midland who participated. Thank you for sharing so much of yourselves. ∞

Back By Popular Demand!



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO CANOE EXPEDITION MAY - AUGUST 2017

As part of the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) contribution to the **commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Confederation**, the MNO is staging another exciting MNO Canoe Expedition. This summer a group of modern Voyageurs, following historic fur trade routes, will travel the length of Ontario to educate Ontarians and Canadians about Métis contributions to Canada and the continued role of Métis people and communities in the contemporary social, cultural and political realities of Ontario and Canada.

The 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition is both an once-in-a-lifetime adventure and the best summer job ever! While immersed in the great outdoors, Métis youth selected for the Expedition will learn about their

culture and heritage and share their amazing journey both with communities along their route and with MNO citizens everywhere through social media. Within a few months the MNO will be looking for proud Métis youth who are ready to challenge themselves in an epic canoe trek; ready to connect Métis communities with their past and future; and ready to learn skills that will help them secure future jobs and advance their careers.

Summer jobs as part of the MNO Canoe Expedition will be posted on the MNO website in the coming months. We will be looking for one experienced Expedition Guide as well as a communications member, a crew of paddlers/presenters and two ground support personnel.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION
Scott Carpenter, MNO Manager of Education, Way of Life and Special Projects:

scottc@metisnation.org



NOVEMBER 16 Louis Riel Day



▲ Volunteers take part in a jigging demonstration at the Louis Riel Day potluck in Orangeville.

MNO Credit River Métis Council hosts Riel Day in Orangeville

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

As most Métis people know, Louis Riel Day marks an important moment in Métis history. While November 16 is the anniversary of the execution of Louis Riel in 1885, the Métis people have embraced this day as a time to celebrate the contributions of Louis Riel to the Métis as a rights-bearing Indigenous people. On November 19, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) hosted its annual Louis Riel Day gathering at St. John's Anglican Church in Orangeville. This was the first time the celebration had been held outside of Mississauga because the Council wanted to acknowledge the citizens and friends who live in the more northern part of the Council's catchment area. Despite some of the first snowy weather of the season, the gathering was well attended and Council members met many new citizens and friends.

Louis Riel Day is a time when Métis people celebrate their history and share with the community. Accordingly, the MNO CRMC's gathering included a pot luck meal as sharing food is a cornerstones of Métis culture. There were many traditional foods shared at the meal, including bison sliders and freshly harvested moose meat, which was generously donated by Joe Paquette. The display of food

Louis Riel Day is a time when Métis people celebrate their history and share with the community.

was truly impressive (not to mention delicious!) and would not have been possible without the contributions of the partygoers and the time volunteers tirelessly worked in the kitchen. A special dinner blessing was offered by MNO citizen Reverend Riscylla Shaw, the daughter of MNO Senator Ruth Wagner. (See story about Reverend Shaw on page 31). Although many people were just meeting each other for the first time, it felt as though the meal was being shared among family.

It would not be a true Métis gathering without music and dancing! A number of excellent musicians helped to create a festive atmosphere with musical performances. These included Silver and Gold Minstrels, flautist Peggy Wharrick and a fiddling performance by Kim and Rajan Anderson, who were later accompanied by Métis jigger Sterling Laverne, whose engaging performance got the crowd moving!

There was a real sense of community at the gathering. Heather Hope and Jane Bell facilitated crafts for a busy children's activity room and there were vendors

selling traditional foods and crafts. Traditional knowledge was shared by Tauni Sheldon who gave a presentation about Inuit culture and drumming. Information tables were provided by the Peel District School Board, Local Health Integration Network and the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council. A special presentation was made on behalf of MNO CRMC to MNO Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette to provide support for the 2017 MNO Veterans' Council Youth-Veterans Vimy Ridge Commemorations project. Senator Bill Morrison provided a special "Senator's thanks" to MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent for her exceptional work and commitment to the Council.

This event would not have been possible without the support of MNO CRMC's community partners, including the Local Health Integration Network, the Métis Nation of Ontario staff, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Peel District School Board. Special thanks to Heather Hope and Jane Bell, St. John's Anglican Church and all the volunteers. It could not have done it without you! ∞

Métis flag raising ceremony for Louis Riel Day in Fort Frances

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

MNO citizens and civic officials gathered at Fort Frances Civic Centre for a Métis flag raising ceremony on Louis Riel Day. The Town of Fort Frances officially declared the week of November 16th as Louis

Riel Week in the community. The ceremony was followed by a light meal at the Sunset Country Métis Hall - where attendees also celebrated the tenth anniversary of the community's Healthy Living Food Box Program. ∞



▲ Friends gather for a Métis flag raising ceremony at the Fort Frances Civic Centre on Louis Riel Day.



▲ The Town of Fort Frances officially declared the week of November 16th as Louis Riel Week in the community. The ceremony was followed by a light meal at the Sunset Country Métis Hall - where attendees also celebrated the 10th anniversary of the community's Healthy Living Food Box Program.



▲ MNO citizens and staff watch the Métis flag raising ceremony.

NOVEMBER 16 Louis Riel Day

MNO Grand River Métis Council marks Louis Riel Day in four communities

submitted by
Jennifer Parkinson, *President, MNO Grand River Métis Council*
Leslie-Anne Muma, *Secretary/Treasurer, MNO Grand River Métis Council*

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) organized Louis Riel Day programs from November 14-16, 2016 in four different communities.

School program at the Waterloo Region Museum

On November 16, the MNO GRMC partnered with the Waterloo Region Museum for its first Louis Riel Day. One hundred and sixteen students from Waterloo region schools arrived at the Museum at 9:15 am where MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson opened the event with a beautiful speech of Louis Riel's life. Senator Carol Lévis then told the students about the

200 year old history of the Métis Infinity flag beginning at the Battle of the Seven Oaks in 1816.

Following these presentations everyone went outside for a Métis flag raising ceremony. The MNO GRMC had provided the flag that was raised to the students as a gift. There were a lot of hoorays and cheering as the flag was raised with pride by President Jennifer Parkinson, Dave Neufeld, Education Coordinator for Waterloo Region Museum, and the students.

The remainder of the day was taken up with educational workshops. Among these included Senator Lévis presenting APTN's Warrior Games episode featuring the Métis Voyageur games; and a Métis jigging workshop hosted by Barbra Lair and MNO GRMC Secretary-Treasurer Leslie Anne Muma.

Métis games as led by MNO GRMC Chair Dave Skene and Councillor Alicia Hamilton, were very popular. In fact the students had so much fun with Poison Circle and the Ring toss game that it

seemed they might bring down the roof with the help from the laughter in Métis Jigging room of course. After this President Parkinson had a challenge calming the students down so she could teach the students Métis Finger weaving. Students enjoyed the day so much that the Waterloo Region Museum has asked the MNO GRMC back to celebrate Louis Riel Day again at the museum in 2017.

Flag raising ceremony in Cambridge

On November 15, 2016, the MNO GRMC raised the Métis flag at Cambridge City Hall. Mayor Doug Craig, City of Cambridge Councillors and staff joined in the flag raising celebration. Mayor Craig talked about the contributions of Louis Riel. Secretary-Treasurer Muma spoke about the 200 year old history of the Métis flag and President Parkinson spoke of Louis Riel's contribution to Canada and the Métis people.

Flag raising ceremony in Guelph

On November 14, 2016, the MNO GRMC raised the Métis flag in Guelph. This was the seventh consecutive year the flag was at Guelph City Hall. Guelph's Mayor Cameron Guthrie and Councillor James Gordon joined the MNO GRMC for the ceremony. Mayor Guthrie talked about how proud he is to have the Métis flag raised every year in Guelph. Forty-seven grade 7-8 students joined with members from the community at the ceremony including, past MNO GRMC Senator Ed Hass, MNO Credit River Métis Council Senator Bill Morrison, First Nations Elder Bruce Weaver and many MNO citizens. MNO citizen Paul Smith told the students and visitors about our Métis flag, its 200 year old history and the Battle of Seven Oaks. President Parkinson spoke about Louis Riel's life and his sacrifice for the Métis and for Canada. After the flag raising, the students joined a

celebration and learned how to do Métis Jigging. The youngest jigger as William Hamilton (1 ½ years old) helped teach the students how to jig. William is Councillor Alicia Hamilton's son and President Parkinson's grandson.

Flag raising ceremony in Kitchener

In the afternoon of November 15, 2016, MNO GRMC citizens travelled to the City of Kitchener to raise the Métis flag at Kitchener City Hall. The MNO GRMC was joined by 30 grade six students. Secretary-Treasurer Muma, taught the students about our Métis flag and its history. President Parkinson taught the students about Louis Riel and why November 16 is an important day. After raising the flag the students learned how to do some Métis jigging to finish off the celebration. ∞



▲ Cambridge, ON Mayor Doug Craig (L) and MNO Grand River Métis Council President Jennifer Parkinson (R) raise the Métis flag on Louis Riel Day, 2016.



▲ Students cheer as the Métis flag is raised at the Waterloo Region Museum.



▲ Raising the Métis flag in Kitchener.



▲ MNO Citizen Barb Lair teaching Métis Jigging.

Angel Ornament workshops held in Sudbury and Thorold

submitted by
Nancy Martel, MNO Community Support Services Coordinator

TerryLynn Longpre, NO Community Wellness Worker

On November 29, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Support Services (CSS) brought together community members in Sudbury to create Guardian / Earth Angel Ornaments while discussing loss and grief. This workshop identified ways in which individuals can cope with grief and loss. This allowed the participants to better understand the grief and loss process in order to facilitate healing.

Nancy Martel, the MNO CSS Coordinator spoke about loss and grief during the workshop and while the participants were creating their own ornaments they had the time to share their own personal stories with the group. It gave them the opportunity to share their experiences with loss and grief. One helpful thing that came out of this workshop was that many of the participants mentioned that they found it helpful to join groups such as knitting groups, exercise clubs or become involved with community events in order to

prevent social isolation. To take part in the workshop participants were asked to bring a small picture of a loved one or bring in a small item that has special meaning to them. The MNO provided a Christmas ball that could be taken apart and angel trinkets. Other materials such as fake snow and branches were also provided. Glue guns were required so the person could create their ornament. The main idea was for the participants to put the picture inside half of the Christmas bulb. They could glue the snow in and add branches or the trinkets then add the other half of the bulb creating the Guardian/Earth Angel Christmas bulb ornament. The workshop was well received by the twelve women that participated.

A similar activity was held on Friday, December 9, 2016, at the MNO Thorold office. This Métis Earth Angel Ornaments workshop was initiated by the MNO Victim Services Program and involved creating Christmas ornaments as a symbol for honouring and remembering a loved one.

As the participants creatively worked on their ornaments, MNO staff spoke about our spirits and how this treasured keepsake can be used as a physical reminder that the spirits of our loved ones

As the participants creatively worked on their ornaments, MNO staff spoke about our spirits and how this treasured keepsake can be used as a physical reminder that the spirits of our loved ones are ever present in our lives.

are ever present in our lives. One of the highlights of the workshop was the peace and harmony felt in the room and of course the finished Métis Earth Angel ornaments! ∞



▲ (L-R) Workshop participants Carrie Hosinger and Mignon Lacroix Hagar with their completed ornaments in Thorold.



▲ Workshop participants in Sudbury decorate their Métis earth angel ornaments with a variety of craft supplies.



Photo by MNO citizen Morgan Baillargeon

▲ MNO staff in the Windsor office with citizens from the MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council (left to right) Audrey Bayliss, Jannatul Mawa, Terry Desjardins, Senator Jim Turner, Gary Lovell, Caila McGregor, Donna Grayer, October Fostey, Sharlene Lance, Jon Rochon, Robert Desjardins, Shelly Claus and Katie Baltzer.

MNO Council ends 2016 with a potluck dinner

submitted by
Donna Grayer, MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council

On Dec 13, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council (WEKMC) ended the year on a good note with a potluck community dinner meeting. In addition to the Council, also in attendance were a few MNO staff and other MNO citizens.

The menu included a great selection complete with traditional wild game stew, soup, bannock, healthy dips and salads and MNO WEKMC Councillor Robert Desjardins' cabbage rolls, which became an instant favourite that night!

During the meeting, MNO staff provided guests with information

on various MNO programs and also introduced a few of the newly hired Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinators. A good conversation pursued and the Council hopes to be able to promote and support their hard work within the community.

MNO WEKMC President Donna Grayer gifted members of the Council and guests with her version of beaded ornaments to thank them. The surprise of the evening came when MNO WEKMC Senator Jim Turner gifted fellow Council members—Interim Chair Terry Dejardins and Secretary/Treasurer Jon Rochon, with beautifully designed and hand carved hatchets and pipes that he made for them. They had a conversation in the past about making them together, but Senator Turner

decided to surprise them with the finished gifts. We are hoping this conversations about moccasins brings future surprises as well, as he is a very talented artist.

It was a night of good food, sharing of the varied histories while finding our connections. There were of course many laughs.

A decision had also been made that we use this time to collect donations for the local mission. As suggested by Women's Representative Sharlene, socks, gloves and hats, and enough money to pay for 19 meals at Christmas were collected. A donation was also made to the Standing Rock defence fund.

MNO WEKMCC looks forward to the New Year, knowing that moving ahead there will be many good opportunities to grow, learn, and most importantly build good



▲ (Left to right) Jon Rochon, Senator Jim Turner and Terry Desjardins pose with gifts carved by the very talented Senator Turner.

foundations for the future. The MNO WEKMCC are grateful for the hard work of all involved, from the Executive level to the behind the scenes shakers and movers. Enjoy 2017! The

Council hopes to host a larger celebration early in 2017, which will include as many MNO citizens as possible. ∞

Spreading some Christmas Cheer

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

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) helped out this Christmas with the annual Christmas Cheer. Two volunteer elves from the MNO GBMC (Danielle and Joanne) put together wonderful packages again this year. The MNO GBMC Christmas elves always try to improve the Christmas spirit. This year six families with 14 children were identified to the Christmas elves.

The elves provided gift certificates as well as toys and wrapping paper for the children to insure a Merry Christmas. Larry Ferris was “voluntold” to deliver one family’s Christmas Package. “I was amazed at the reaction of the parents. The Christmas stress seem to run off of them and was replaced by happiness. I cannot imagine how hard it must be for some parents to try and give their children a good Christmas with the challenges some people are facing,” said Larry.

These ladies did their best and lifted a lot of people’s Christmas spirit. For the ladies they said it was an absolute joy and look forward to doing it next year

Well done ladies . . . and thanks for the coal! ∞

MNO Council offers Hunter Safety Course

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

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) Harvesters Committee held another Hunter Safety Course on the weekend of the January 14-15, 2017. A good mixture of Métis youth and women participated in the course. Out of nine students, four were female. All participants did well and passed the course with excellent marks. There were students as young as 14 participating and they all did very well.

The students took the Federal Firearms Safety course for the safe handling and storage of firearms and the laws regarding firearms. It will allow them to apply for their Possession and Acquisition (PAL) licence.

The students also took the Hunter Safety Provincial course that covered shot placement, First Aid and survival, ecology and hunting techniques. Passing this course qualified for a Provincial Hunting Licence that they can be used to hunt in non-traditional areas.

It was nice to hear one of the young women were looking forward to getting one of her grandfather’s guns so she could go hunting with her father and carry on the family tradition.

Good Luck to all our new hunters! ∞

MOCC WALK raises awareness about diabetes

submitted by
Louise Cloutier, MNO Community Support Services Coordinator

Over the last four years, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Support Services program clients, co-workers and community participants in Timmins have participated in a walking program called MOCC WALK. The MOCC WALK takes place during the months of May and June. This challenge encourages everyone to be active and have fun while promoting awareness about diabetes. In 2016, 15 teams of four made up of women, men and children participated in the MOCC WALK.

This challenge is tracked through a points system, tracked on a calendar that is provided to each participant. One point is given for each ten minutes of walking and the more points you gain the better the chance participants have to win prizes from the Ontario Native Women’s Association’s

(ONWA) Aboriginal Diabetes Program in Thunder Bay. This year some of the great prizes include; a Spirit Walking Pole; a Fit Bit; a bicycle; as well as \$25.00 and \$15.00 gift cards. Every year participants from Timmins have been awarded a prize. Participants can enter by themselves or in teams and can walk anywhere; on a treadmill, outside, at the mall or any other location. Each year MOCC WALK has been a great success.

If you would like to participate in the MOCC WALK this year please contact Louise Cloutier at the MNO office in Timmins. She can be reached at 1-705-264-3939 extension 227. Advance registration is required. If you want to make a difference or show examples gather your families, your co-workers or friends and get moving! ∞

Fraud and scam awareness workshop hosted by North Bay MNO staff

submitted by
Julie Bamford-LeBlanc, MNO Community Support Services Coordinator

Identify theft, e-mail phishing and mass marketing frauds are just a few of the many scams that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) warns people about on a regular basis. The elderly population is among those who are targeted regularly with all forms of scams and frauds especially those done over e-mail and by phone. On November 15, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) hosted a workshop on the many the forms of scams and frauds at the MNO office in North Bay. The session was led by Corporal Cheryle Hayden, the RCMP Métis Liaison.

Corporal Hayden provided a great deal of useful advice on how to avoid scams and fraud. These included:


- Create strong passwords for all on-line accounts especially those related to banking and credit cards. Strong passwords include capital letters, numbers and symbols.
- When creating a password do not include a birthday, family or pet name or phone number. These things are easy to find out especially in the world of social media.
- Never provide the three numbers on the back of a credit card to anyone and remember that you have the right to say no and hang up the phone.
- Before providing money to any agency research the agency and their activities in make sure it is legitimate and the funds are going somewhere you support.
- Be suspicious of e-mails that come from addresses you are not familiar with especially when they are asking for

money. Legitimate charities do not solicit funds through e-mail unless there is an existing relationship with the charity.

- Never send credit card or banking information to anyone via e-mail.
- The number one fraud crime to date is identity theft. If you are concerned your identity may have been compromised contact the RCMP or your local police department.

During the workshop there were many lively discussions about scams that had knocked on the doors of community members or close relatives. The number one thing learned during the gathering was that fraudsters are in every community and it is important to be careful in order to make sure one does not become a victim. ∞


To find out information on how to avoid scams and what to look for visit the RCMP website at: rcmp-grc.gc.ca/scams-fraudes/index-eng.htm




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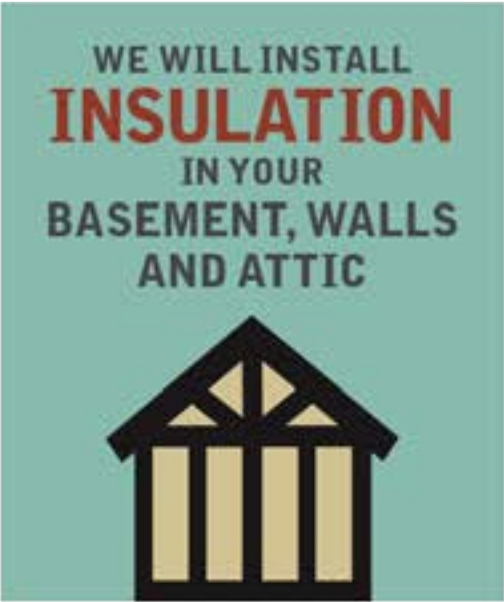
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ACHIEVEMENTS



◀ The Right Reverend Riscylla Shaw, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, (Trent Durham area) during her installation at St. John the Evangelist Church in Peterborough on January 21, 2017. (Picture courtesy of Anglican Diocese of Toronto)

MNO citizen becomes a Bishop of the Anglican Church

by
MNO Staff

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and daughter of Honourary MNO Senator Ruth Wagner Riscylla Shaw was recently installed as a Bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada. Bishop Shaw is one of the first Métis to achieve this high position in any Christian Church in Canada. Bishop Shaw was among three Anglican clergy who were consecrated as bishops in a ceremony at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Toronto on January 7,

2017. MNO President Froh and MNO Executive Senator Joseph Poitras and their spouses attended the consecration. Bishop Shaw was installed as a Bishop within the Diocese of Toronto responsible for the Trent Durham area in a ceremony at St. John the Evangelist Church in Peterborough on January 21, 2017.

Bishop Shaw grew up with her three siblings on a farm in a small community north of Bracebridge, Ontario. "As farmers, we were connected to the land in dynamic and life-bringing ways, developing valuable knowledge in methods of caring for the earth, learning about crops and animals, and our natural cycles in relationship to abundance, scarcity and resource allocation," she recalled.

After completing high school in Bracebridge, Bishop Shaw attended the University of Toronto where she completed undergraduate studies in French and the Humanities. She then received three years of intensive and comprehensive ministry training at Wycliffe College in Toronto in 1999.

Following a few years of youth ministry, she was ordained a priest in 2001 and lived and served in the Parishes of Maple, Minden-Kinmount and most recently the Parish of Bolton, all in the Diocese of Toronto.

When asked about the importance of her Métis heritage, Bishop Shaw commented: "I am so proud to be the daughter of MNO

Honourary Senator Ruth Wagner. She, along with my late Métis Grandfather, Oliver Chick, taught me to wear my faith out loud – as a strong believer in equal opportunities and equal treatment of each and all. As a result, I bring with me deep respect and humility in working to build bridges between diverse cultures and communities."

"Being Métis, I have a built-in cross-cultural perspective. Now, as a newly ordained Bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada, I am attuned to looking for the mysterious beauty and reconciling love of our Creator, as revealed in the mundane and in the miraculous of every day," she continued.

"As Métis, as a Bishop my goals are intertwined. I am motivated to advocate for, be present to, and work with the marginalized – the Indigenous, the LGBTQ, the down-trodden, the poor, the lonely, the oppressed, the broken. My life's work is about networking, broadening relationships and community building. Being Métis informs my worldview, in building inter-cultural bridges, valuing diversity and practising radical inclusion," she added.

Over the past six years Bishop Shaw has served as a witness and an Ambassador for the Anglican Church for Canada's National Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

"It was very important for me to be there [at the TRC Commission] both personally and professionally - for my Métis and Canadian heritage, to understand the history of my church, my country and my people. I am proud to be



▲ Bishop Shaw (far right) during the Consecration Ceremony on January 21, 2017.

in a church that makes reconciliation and justice for marginalized peoples a priority. Inspired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa's TRC, I am working to interpret the findings of the TRC to the church and the broader community by building bridges," she explained.

"That is part of carrying the weight of the clergy collar, walking in two worlds - when sometimes, the institution and the Gospel have not been in harmony with one another. Now it is my responsibility and my joy to help bring forward Reconciliation in the church, in our families, in our communities, in my work with national church officials and with our First Nations, Inuit and Métis sisters and brothers. Making connections from coast to coast to coast and teaching others to look at and deal with the hard stuff with respect and courage," she concluded. ∞

“Being Métis informs my worldview, in building inter-cultural bridges, valuing diversity and practising radical inclusion.”

- Bishop Riscylla Shaw



▲ MNO Citizen
Bishop Riscylla Shaw

MNO youth to take a seat in Parliament on International Women’s Day

submitted by
Alan Playne, Métis Nation of Ontario citizen
with files from
daughtersofthevote.ca

On International Women’s Day—March 7-8, 2017, 338 young women will take a seat in Parliament as part of the Daughters of the Vote initiative. Chosen out of more than 1,500 applicants, each delegate will represent a federal riding in Canada and will communicate their vision for Canada.

Among the impressive list of talented candidates are Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) youth Joanna Burt, Jordyn Playne, and Katie Baltzer. MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator Joanna will represent the riding of Toronto – St. Paul’s, while MNO Youth Council Region 7 Youth Representative Jordyn will represent Simcoe North, and MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council Youth Representative Katie will rep-

resent the riding of Essex. Jordyn and Katie are also both MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators.

The Daughters of the Vote initiative is organized by Equal Voice—a national, bilingual, multi-partisan organization dedicated to electing more women to all levels of political office in Canada. The objective of this initiative is to ensure that these 338 emerging young women leaders become familiar with Canada’s political institutions and those women and men serving in them. The hope is that initiatives such as this will help ensure that women are dynamic and equal participants in every political decision made in the country.

In advancing the goals of reconciliation and honouring Nation-to-Nation relationships, Daughters of the Vote is working in partnership with Indigenous organizations and communities. This historic national initiative also helps to mark Canada’s 150th birthday in 2017. ∞



▲ The MNO youth selected as delegates for the Daughters of the Vote initiative. (L-R) Joanna Burt (MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator), Jordyn Playne (MNO Youth Council Region 7 Youth Representative and MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator) and Katie Baltzer (MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council Youth Representative and MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator).

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.

Stand up if you are Métis: No, not you!

submitted by
Senator Bill Morrison, MNO Credit River Métis Council

I find we, as a community, are going through some very difficult times as people. The issues which we had fought with for years, as children, seem to be rearing their heads once more. Identity was always a problem for me personally. I lived in a rather extended family household of mixed blood ancestors. Most of the members were Cree but we had some nationalities of Scots, Irish and American; with religious commitments of Anglican, Jewish, United, Pentecostal and Catholic. As adults they seemed to get along just fine. But, towards the children there was always a line of disdain and segregation by the parents to the children. The grandparents, great aunts and uncles all supported and cared for the children but the parents were in a different position, with issues of trying to fit in with society and the stigma of not being European enough.

These pressures were often introduced to the household on almost a daily occurrence. I witnessed these problems not only in our home and

community but also the homes of my closest friends. There was widespread substance abuse (we called it drunkenness), domestic violence (wife beating and child beating), sexual assault (rape), and questionable moral conduct (numerous children out of different relationships). But, those were the times.

I have always hoped my history was different and hoped that other children did not need to live the horrors of the mixed blood (Métis) life. This was our community and as children we were severely punished for the lives our parents were living. Yes, the men were held up by the community as heroes, role models, and icons of the festivals. They were trappers, men of the land and bush. They were full of spirit, which so many have talked about recently, but at home or next door and certainly at the homes of relatives there was a violent insecure man who would beat his spouse and children. Many of these “heroes” were on restricted visiting privileges from time to time and of course did spend time in the local jail for their mischief (nothing serious to this community).

The witnessing of battered women; bruised, battered and scared children did not generate a romantic image of my Métis men. Rather, it was the women (young and elderly) in our lives who gave us the grounding to be better people. We often told us that “he is a good man when he is not drinking”; but we rarely saw that man. His absence and her strength helped us to maintain the faith in family and spirit of community for this mixed blood (Métis) way of life. It was through these women that we were taught how to trap, skin, cook, harvest, make toques and sew up shirts out of sugar bags.

It was not until later in life, maybe my 50’s, when I started to forgive those who had produced all this hatred, abuse and destruction. Do I embrace these men now? Most definitely. Are they loved by me? As best as I can. But, they will never be my romantic Métis.

So, where does this take me? Well, today I try to share the positives of life with as many people as possible. And, as a consequence my community is getting larger and we are working to include as many mixed bloods, as wish to be in the part of the Métis way of life. Inclusion, contribution, compassion and attentive seem to be the working way for us. Our eagerness to listen to others and try to understand their journey allows us the opportunity to be open and welcoming. We probably do judge but we try not to let that get in the way of our inclusion. Up until recent times I have always felt this atmosphere with the Métis community. But, now I am afraid of misinterpreting the words being printed which suggest that there are criteria to be met for inclusion. Our (the Métis) government now uses phrases like “grandfathered,” “no longer identified with a community,” “not substantial records,” as well as some other phrases.

I have been rejected by society, outside community and even family (the Cree side) for most of my life, as a person. And it is this experience that I bring to the table for the Métis community to appreciate as I say you have had a welcoming mat at your door previously. Hopefully this government will maintain that philosophy and not exclude mixed blood ancestry because they do not meet some criteria. ∞

The Jake Gaudaur Bridge does exist

submitted by
Micheline Marchand, MNO Citizen

The Jake Gaudaur Memorial Bridge does exist according to Orillian and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Frank Kehoe—a descendant of Antoine Gaudaur and great-nephew of Métis Jake Gaudaur. He should know. He was there in 1965 when Ontario Premier John Robarts officially opened the bridge. He wasn’t alone. Many descendants of Jake Gaudaur, as well as ex-premier Leslie Frost among the dignitaries, and hundreds of other people attended the celebration. According to an article that appeared in the August 25th 1965 edition of the Orillia Daily Packet and Times, the Ontario Department of Highways recognized structures by numbers, so it took much convincing to name the bridge Jake Gaudaur to commemorate the world champion sculler. It must have been a proud moment for Orillia and the Gaudaur family.

In response to the publication of my article *Does the Jake Gaudaur Bridge really exist?* on the MNO website and in The Métis Voya-

geur newspaper (October 2016, no. 92, pp. C22-C23), Mr. Kehoe contacted me to tell me this story. He said that the picture of the well-attended ribbon cutting event made it to the front page of the August 25th 1965 edition of the Daily Packet and Times. Mr. Kehoe dug into the archives and sent me the written proof—a copy of the first page of the paper and of an article entitled: Traffic Piles Up As Bridge Becomes Gaudaur Memorial. Here’s how it starts: “It’s finally official. The new bridge across the Narrows is named the Jake Gaudaur Memorial Bridge. Ontario Premier John Robarts Tuesday opened the \$800,000 structure in the presence of the world sculling champion’s sons and daughters, officials and several hundred spectators. As the ceremony was under way, traffic piled up on each side of the bridge, causing what may be the last traffic jam on the bridge.”

Thanks to the memory of Mr. Frank Kehoe, I now know that the Jake Gaudaur Bridge does exist. However, even though Orillians call the bridge by its name, the province doesn’t seem to. Thus, Jake Gaudaur Bridge should be clearly and categorically acknowledged if it is to be remembered for many other generations. ∞

To submit a letter to the editor, please contact:
mikef@Métisnation.org



▲ MNO citizen Dr. Darrell Menard.

MNO citizen voted the 2016 Community Sport and Exercise Medicine Physician of the Year

submitted by
Rebecca Menard, Administration Coordinator for Canadian Academy of Sport & Exercise Medicine (CASEM)

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and veteran Dr. Darrell Menard was recently voted the 2016 Community Sport and Exercise Medicine Physician of the Year by the Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine (CASEM). This annual

award recognizes a physician who provides outstanding service to their sport and exercise community, grass roots recreational athletes, competitive athletes, local sport organizations or promoting physical activity for all.

Dr. Menard was one of four Team Canada volunteer physicians who took place at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. He also has worked at over 20 major games including the 2015 Parapan Am Games, the 2014 North American Indigenous Games, the 2013 Mil-

itary World Football Cup and the 2012 Olympic Games.

Dawn Haworth the CASEM's Executive Director, wrote a letter to Dr. Menard stating, "Your commitment to sport medicine at all levels is exceptional and you exemplify why this award was created by CASEM some years ago. Your leadership in sport medicine beginning at the community level speaks for itself and you have been an educator, a mentor, a team physician and leader and hence we feel a much deserved recipient of this award." ∞

MNO citizen achieves recognition across Canada and the Globe

submitted by
Grant Lecky, with files from curityinfowatch.com and professionalsecurity.co.uk

MNO citizen Bonnie Butlin continues to enjoy outstanding success in the security sector. She is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Security Partners' Forum (SPF) and International Coordinator of the Women in Security and Resilience Alliance (WISECRA). In 2015, she won the prestigious Professional Security Magazine's Women in Security Award. Since then, Bonnie has received honours beyond the security and defence industry, which has included being a speaker in March 2016 at an International Women's Day event in Winnipeg.

In addition to these accomplishments, Bonnie was most recently inducted into the "Canadian Who's Who" – a reference publication published and distributed annually by Grey House Publishing Canada. It contains concise biographical information about 13,000 notable Canadians. The individuals listed are selected because of the positions they hold in Canadian society, or because of the contributions they make to life in Canada. It in-



▲ MNO citizen Bonnie Butlin

cludes outstanding Canadians from business, academia, politics, sports, the arts and sciences.

The website Securityinfowatch.com states "In an industry dominated by her male counterparts, Canadian security professional Bonnie Butlin has emerged onto the international scene over the last five

years as a trendsetter and respected thought leader."

Bonnie also won CSO Magazine's Compass Award and was announced as a finalist for the 2015 Executive Women's Forum Women of Influence Award in the category of Private Solutions Provider. ∞

MNO citizen to compete at 2017 World Police and Fire Games

submitted by
Reta Gordon, MNO Honourary Senator

Every time he steps into the Ring Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Perry William Kelly feels he embodies the warrior traditions of Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont. The son of the late MNO Senator Donald P. Kelly and nephew of Honourary Senator Reta Gordon, Kelly is on a mission to capture gold at the upcoming 2017 World Police and Fire Games in August in Los Angeles.

The former MNO representative to the City of Gloucester (now part of Ottawa) is also a lawyer, author, former criminology professor and instructor in five forms of martial arts. He recently retired from the Department of Public Safety and over the course of his 30 year career received five executive departmental commendations for his contributions in the fields of Law Enforcement Training and Use of Force from: the Correctional Service of Canada; the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; and the Deputy Minister of Public Safety.



Photo from perrywkelly.com

▲ MNO citizen Perry William Kelly.

Since retiring, he has filled up his free time by writing his fourth book and winning gold medals at the Montreal Open Invitational Karate Tournament and the North American Police and Fire Games in Drummond Quebec. Most recently, he has been featured on CTV's Interesting People with Joel Haslam where he discussed using his profile as an internationally successful athlete to raise awareness about Law Enforcement Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Mr. Kelly feels that his "never quit" attitude in the ring has been passed down from his Métis bloodlines. ∞



▲ Back Row: MNO GBMC Youth Representative Dalton Latondress; MNO GBMC Secretary Danielle Callander; MNO GBMC Chair Larry Ferris; MNO GBMC Senator Ken Fraser; Region 7 PCMNO Councillor Pauline Richardson; MNO Councillor Jo-Anne Secord Front Row: PCMNO Youth Representative Katelyn Lacroix; Emily King and Rachel Gerow

MNO Council presents MNO youth with the 2016 Helen Bradley Memorial Bursaries

submitted by
Danielle Callander, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Secretary

On Friday, December 23, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) handed out the 2016 Helen Bradley Memorial Bursaries. Funds for the bursaries were provided by Bruce Power. This year's recipients were Emily King in third Place receiving \$1000; Rachel Gerow in second place receiving \$1500; and Katelyn Lacroix in first place receiving \$2000. The MNO GBMC congratulates these three students and wishes them continued success in their education and future careers.

Bruce Power has been generous in providing contributions to support MNO projects and initiatives. In February 25, 2016, Bruce Power donated funds towards buying child-sized snowshoes to go with previously obtained adult-sized snowshoes so parents and their children can both borrow snowshoes for fun winter activities by going to the MNO's Midland office.

MNO GBMC is proud of its youth and thanks Bruce Power for providing the funds to support the youth and their future endeavours. ∞

FAMILY & MILESTONES

Allan & Audrey Vallee celebrate 65th Wedding Anniversary

submitted by
Nedra Vallee Devenyi

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens Allan and Audrey Vallee celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary December 29, 2016. Allan is a former President of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council and Audrey is an Honourary MNO Senator.

Allan and Audrey raised 5 children: Nedra Vallee Devenyi; Fran Vallee Paudler; James Vallee; Tim Vallee; and the late Patrick (Rick) Vallee. They lived in Victoria Harbour, Ontario for many years until moving a few years ago to Midland Ontario.

The Vales have three grandchildren: Vincent Vallee; Gabriel Devenyi; and Cynthia Devenyi Beaver.

Congratulations Allan and Audrey from all your friends in the MNO! ∞



◀ Allan and Audrey Vallee today (below), and on their wedding day in 1951 (left).



Obituaries

John Robert Jenkins



I am writing on behalf of my father, Métis Nation of Ontario citizen, John R. Jenkins. My father passed away on December 29, 2016. He was a proud Albertan of Métis ancestry.

JOHN ROBERT JENKINS (JACK) BSc. PENG May 20, 1931 – December 29, 2016 Enveloped by the love of his family, a gentleman, a gentle man and a man of integrity, John passed away

peacefully. Jack was born in Medicine Hat, a proud Albertan of Métis heritage. He was the loving and beloved husband of Mary (Lavelle) for 56 years, the devoted and proud father of Mary Ann (Adje van de Sande) and Robert (Andrea Sharpe), the best Poppa to Amy (Theo Stiller), Taylor Ann and Janna, and thrilled Great-Poppa to Luca, the late Liliana, Maia, Matthias and Marley Stiller Jenkins. Predeceased by his parents Constance (Bell) and John Jenkins, his twin sisters Joan Ambrose (late George) and June Schramm (Randy), he leaves sisters Helen Park (late Alan) and Myrna (David McNally), brother-in-law Gerard Lavelle (Paul Schaub) and former grandson-in-law, William Mack. He was the solid foundation of his cherished family.

Jack graduated from University of Alberta in 1953. He started his lengthy career in the oil and gas regulatory field at the Alberta Oil and Gas Conservation Board. In 1959 the Chairman of the new National Energy Board invited Jack to Ottawa, where he became its first employee. After thirty years of dedicated service he retired as Board Member with an outstanding corporate memory. He then acted as consultant to TransCanada Pipelines and the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association. He was a long-time member of the Rideau Club and the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club where he served as Curling Captain, championed the inaugural Sweetheart Bonspiel and had the thrill of a hole-in-one. He served as President of the Gloucester Lacrosse Association

and the Y's Friday Luncheon Discussion Club. In retirement he found a new addictive interest, genealogy, leaving behind ten years of research.

His family gives heartfelt thanks to Orquidea Levesque, whose devotion fulfilled Jack's wish to remain at home over the past year. In honour of her Poppa's fifteen years of living with Parkinson's, Amy will run two half marathons in Honolulu to raise funds for the Michael J. Fox Foundation. If you wish to make a donation, please visit fundraise.michaeljfox.org/johnjenkins A Life Celebration for Jack was held at the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club on Sunday, January 15, 2017. ∞
- submitted by Mary Ann Jenkins

Patricia Thibeault



Patricia Thibault, one of the first citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) passed away on January 25, 2017. Born on January 19, 1950, Patricia received her MNO citizenship in 1993, the year the MNO was founded. She served from 1999 to 2005 as the Region 6 Councilor on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and was one of the original Captains of the Hunt serving as the Region 6 Captain until her passing.

Patricia passed peacefully at the Pine Meadow Nursing Home, Northbrook

last Wednesday, at the age of 67. She was the loving wife to Reg for 47 years and was a cherished mother, grandmother, sister and friend of many.

MNO President and Chief Captain of the Hunt, Margaret Froh and former President Gary Lipinski have both commented on what a loss this is for the MNO.

President Froh stated: "Patricia was one of the courageous people who stepped forward when the MNO was in its early days. She had the vision to see what the MNO could become and achieve. I know all MNO citizens are truly grateful her contributions and leadership."

Lipinski described Patricia as an early contributor and pioneer in the development of the MNO and the advancement of Métis rights. He stated: "Pat was a strong outspoken Métis woman with a strong connection to the

land, A hunter and markswoman in her day; trapping with her partner Reg and her always loving the grandchildren; she brought these grassroots issues and concerns into the provincial dialogue; truly an amazing Métis woman and leader."

As one of the original Captains of the Hunt, Patricia helped craft and develop MNO's Harvesting Policy, which was one of the first laws the MNO ever ratified at an MNO Annual General Assembly. She also contributed to the discussions and work that moved the historic Powley case through the courts and ultimately to the Supreme Court of Canada. The Powley case was the first successful Métis rights case in Canadian history and Patricia was part of the team that helped move it forward.

President Froh added that, "As one of the founding citizens and Regional Councilor for Region 6, Patricia helped

to advance the important work of governing the MNO in our early days. She has left a legacy that all MNO citizens are benefiting from today."

Both President Froh and former President Lipinski join all MNO citizens today in expressing their condolences to Pat's partner, Reg and family. "Our thoughts and prayers are with you, but I hope you will take some solace in our deepest appreciation of the contributions and difference Pat has made in the lives of so many," concluded former President Lipinski.

Following cremation, the family will receive friends at the Milestone Funeral Centre, Northbrook on Saturday, February 4, 2017 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. A Graveside Service will take place in the spring.

Friends desiring to do so may contribute in her memory to the charity of their choice. ∞



▲ Back row (left to right): Gloria McKay, Dave Koski, Tim Pile. Middle row: Bob McKay. Front row (left to right): Lena Gray, Ashley Moreau, Jem Metcalfe

Fun with Bob McKay

submitted by
Tim Pile, MNO Secretary-Treasurer

On December 12, 2016, a number of friends of former MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council Senator Bob McKay and his wife Gloria stopped by their home in Thunder Bay to spread some Christmas cheer. Special thanks to Ashley, Jem, Lena and Dave for the great music and entertainment they provided Bob and Gloria. There were some great toe tapping tunes with some additional spoon percussion provided by Tim. Tim, Bob and Gloria expressed their appreciation and thanks for a great evening of entertainment from these very talented musicians. Bob (aka Brad Pitt) also recently received the large get well card that was signed by everyone at the MNO Annual General Assembly in North Bay this August. Bob was very grateful to receive everyone's well wishes. ∞

...Birth Announcement.....



grace marie KELLY

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Sara Kelly and husband Colter Kelly are excited to announce the arrival of their baby girl, Grace Marie Kelly, born on January 25, 2017 at 9:05 p.m. Big brother Desmond Kelly, who is also an MNO citizen, is very excited to have a baby sister! Next on the agenda, is to apply for Grace's MNO citizenship! ∞

Submitted by Sara Kelly, MNO citizen and MNO Communications Assistant (on maternity leave)

COUNCIL CORNER ∞

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

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

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

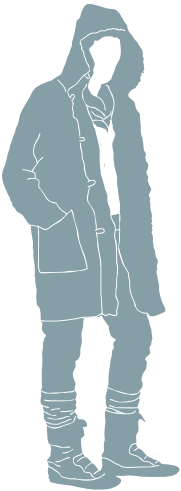
- MNO Temiskaming Métis Council**
- President - **Lilane Ethier**
Chair - **Carole Cloutier**
Senator - **Christina Acton**
Secretary-Treasurer - **Lorette McKnight**
Councilor - **Claude Dupuis**
Councilor - **Joey Ethier**

Happy 100th Birthday to a Beautiful Centenarian!

March 2, 2017



Albertine Roussin, our Mémère.
Love from your family.



submitted by
Anne Huguenin

I'll make you feel uneasy to the groove,
You'll watch each step, your every move
Unbalanced, slow pace you must proceed
Unsteady task for you to heed
I am clear but sometimes black
Wise to purchase a salt sack
I sometimes come without warning
A skating rink type of morning
Get up early to sand those walks
On my window something knocks
Wakey wakey I am here
Like headlights to a deer
I will make you feel a little rocky
Underfoot like blades and hockey
Diamond covered branches wear a frown
I weigh the limbs till they bend down
Brace yourself, a fall brings pain
I weigh the limbs till they bow down

Correction notice

On page eight of the December 2016 edition of Métis Voyageur (No. 93) the caption for the picture below incorrectly identified the MNO Sudbury Métis Council as the location when the correct identification was the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council. The Métis Voyageur staff regrets this error and apologizes for any inconvenience it may have caused.



▲ Mayor Christian Provenzano (fifth from right) assists the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council and Métis youth in raising the Métis flag on Louis Riel Day.

Building the MNO Team

JACOB MAY
Communications Assistant
Ottawa



The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Jacob May to the position of Communications Assistant. He will be working out of the MNO Ottawa office.

Jacob self identifies as Métis and is originally from Thunder Bay. He received a Business Marketing Advanced Diploma from Confederation College in Thunder Bay. He brings a background in marketing, sales, administration and finance to the MNO. He received a co-op field placement as a business development analyst within the Wasaya Airways “Aiming High The Sky is The Limit” training program, supported by the MNO Education and Training program.

Jacob looks forward to being of service to the MNO and using his knowledge and experience to benefit the MNO and its citizens. He loves music, wild outdoor adventures, and competitive sports. He is excited to start his journey with the MNO!

We are delighted to welcome Jacob to the MNO team and encourage you to introduce yourself and show him some of our wonderful MNO hospitality.

Submitted by Mike Fedyk, MNO Director of Communications

LISA RISEWICK
Employment Counselor
Sudbury



The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome MNO citizen Lisa Risewick to the position of Employment Counselor with the Education and Training branch. She will be working out of the MNO Sudbury office.

Lisa Risewick Lisa has obtained three Diplomas from Northern College of Applied Arts and Technology, South Porcupine Campus in Office Administration, Business Marketing and as an Electrical Engineering Technician. She is currently working towards a Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work from Laurentian University’s Envision program in Sudbury.

In early 2001, Lisa held the position of Secretary with the MNO Timmins Métis Council (TMC). She also completed a one-year contract with the MNO TMC as the Genealogy and Resource Centre Administrator. Lisa also served in the Canadian Armed Forces as an Electrical Generation Systems Technician. While serving, she received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

We are delighted to welcome Lisa to the MNO team and encourage you to introduce yourself and show her some of our wonderful MNO hospitality!

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

We are delighted to welcome Jacob and Lisa to the MNO team and encourage you to introduce yourself and show them some of our wonderful MNO hospitality!!!



CELEBRATE WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

AGA 2017



THE 24TH MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY – AUGUST 19-21, KENORA, ONTARIO



At the gateway to the
Lake of the Woods



The 2017 MNO Annual General Assembly in Kenora

Excitement is building for the 2017 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) taking place in Kenora from August 19-21. “Our council is looking forward to hosting the whole MNO,” stated MNO Kenora Métis Council President Joel Henley, “we are going to show everyone what northern hospitality is all about.”

Kenora is the gateway to the world renowned Lake of the Woods, which is best known for its pristine and rugged landscape that stretches across a number of shorelines to a vast undisturbed wilderness area. With 14,542 Islands stretching all the way down into the United States, Lake of the Woods offers vast opportunities for exploration. There are numerous parks, camping grounds and recreation sites that allow visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of the Lake of the Woods.

Kenora is the home to a thriving Métis community whose long history in the area dates back to the late 1700s and with the first fur trading post at Rat Portage, established on the

current location of Kenora in 1836. “We are very proud of our Métis history in this area,” explained Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund.

The primary AGA venue will be the impressive Kenora Recreation Centre located very near to the Lake of the Woods as well as to several nearby hotels where AGA delegates will be staying. “We are very pleased by the facilities available for this year’s AGA,” stated President Henley, “everything is close including the waterfront where the traditional canoe landing will take place and parks for our cultural events.”

The MNO Kenora Métis Council has big plans for cultural and social events during the AGA. “We have a lot of great Métis talent living in and around Kenora,” said President Henley, “and we will be highlighting it throughout the AGA.”

More information about the 2017 AGA will be featured in future Métis Voyageurs as well as on the MNO website as it becomes available. Start planning to attend today! ∞