

The Path to Métis Self-Government

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THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

DECEMBER 2017

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SUBMISSION POLICY:

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

With the exception of letters to the editor and submissions to the family section, all submissions should NOT be written in the first person.

The recommended length for a submission is between 400 and 600 words. Submissions longer than that may be edited for length.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



MARGARET FROH

This edition of the Métis Voyageur covers the fall and the early winter, which are always very busy times for Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens. While our harvesters spend many days in the forest hunting and gathering the food that our families and communities depend on over the winter, we also keep very active organizing harvest events and other community celebrations. Through all of this activity, the important work of the MNO; advancing Métis rights and self-government continues to advance at a quickening pace.

MNO Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process

On October 22, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) launched one of the most important initiatives in the nearly 25 year history of the MNO. The MNO Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (RSRP) will involve a review of all existing MNO citizenships files and is grounding in solidifying the integrity of the MNO Registry and preparing for upcoming negotiations on Métis rights and self-government. You can read more about the RSRP on page 3.

The importance of moving ahead on the RSRP is highlighted by the story on page 9 about the MNO's participation in a First Ministers meeting in October. As the MNO is actively engaging in government-to-government meetings with both the federal and provincial governments, the RSRP is an essential part of ensuring the MNO is in the strongest position to move forward on negotiations that will bring benefit for Métis in Ontario for generations to come.

Remembrance Day and MNO veterans

This issue dedicates several pages to Remembrance Day and the amazing work being done by our MNO veterans. On Remembrance Day we rightly recognize the sacrifices and contributions of our veterans through military service but what is perhaps most impressive about our veterans is that even though they have already given so much they still continue to give even more of themselves to the Métis Nation. You can learn about some of their

recent efforts on page 13.

Louis Riel Day

Louis Riel Day is always one of the most important dates on the Métis calendar right across the homeland. This year, for the first time and in accordance with the resolution at the last MNO Annual General Assembly, the provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony was not hosted at the Northwest Rebellion monument. The ceremony was moved near the Legislative Building at Queen's Park where it continued to demonstrate the MNO dedication to the legacy of Louis Riel. Stories about Louis Riel Day can be found on pages 5-7.

Métis communities: the heart of the MNO

In every issue of the Voyageur, I am always impressed by, and grateful for, the many stories about what MNO citizens are doing to advance the Métis Nation right in their own communities. This issue features stories about numerous cultural events, honouring our Métis ancestors, building relationships with local and provincial officials, taking action to reduce violence against Indigenous women and girls and working to restore the environment. Please check out the Community section from pages 14-22 to read about all of this incredible work.

Métis success stories

Another favourite section of mine is dedicated to the achievements of our MNO citizens. Starting on page 23 you can read about one of

our older citizens who continues to excel in sporting competitions even while approaching his senior years while another story talks about one of our younger citizens who is making a name for herself in synchronized swimming. We are also always very proud when one of our citizens, like Ernest Matton receives the Order of Ontario; for his outstanding work in the field of health and wellness.

Best of the season

This will be the last edition of the *Métis Voyageur* for 2017. This was another banner year for the MNO and I am grateful to be part of this dynamic nation. I want to thank my fellow members of the PCMNO, the members of the MNO chartered community councils, the MNO Youth, Women's, and Veterans' Councils and all MNO citizens who took on leadership roles or gave of themselves to make a greater Métis Nation this year.

Next year will be the 25th anniversary of the founding of the MNO in 1993. It will undoubtedly also be another landmark year on our journey towards self-government and taking our proper place within Confederation.

I want to wish all MNO citizens all the best of the season and I look forward to sharing an exciting new year with you all!

Marsee.

Margaret Froh
PRESIDENT, MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO



MÉTIS VOYAGEUR Upcoming Submission Deadlines:

January 19, 2018

March 16, 2018

May 18, 2018

September 7, 2018

November 2, 2018

January 18, 2019

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.

Since October, 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 here:

MNO NORTHWEST MÉTIS COUNCIL

President
Ron Robinson

Secretary
Nancy Hatch

Women's Representative
Julia Mitchell

Senator
Al Roussin

Treasurer
Nancy Hatch

Councillors
Paul Gouette
Allen Mireault

MNO SUNSET COUNTRY MÉTIS COUNCIL

President
Brady Hupet

Senator
John George

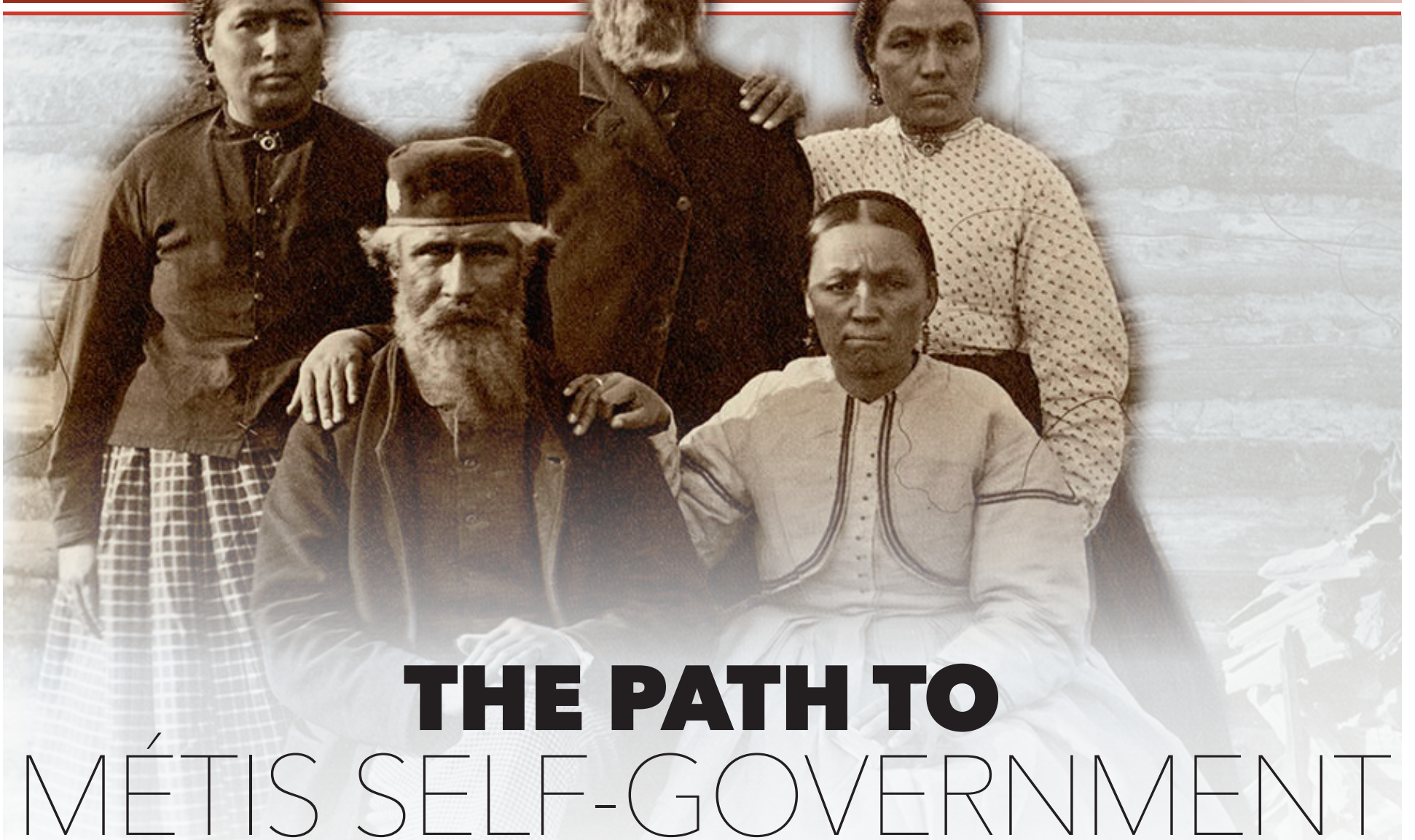
Youth Representative
Kimmy Daley

Chair
Rosalyn Calder

Women's Representative
Sarah Marusyk

Councillors
Karen Chowhan
Wade Nelson

NATION



THE PATH TO MÉTIS SELF-GOVERNMENT

MNO launches Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process

by
MNO Staff

On October 22, 2017, as an important step towards Métis self-government, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“PCMNO”) passed a resolution that has initiated a review of all MNO Registry citizenship files in order to prepare for the issuance of new MNO Citizenship Cards that will verify each new cardholder as a member of a rights-bearing Métis community and a Métis rights-holder under section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.

This review—which is being called the **MNO Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process** (the “RSRP”)—is being undertaken in anticipation of formal self-government and Métis rights negotiations beginning with Canada and Ontario in the near future. It is also being done because of the MNO’s steadfast position that all of its citizens are Métis rights-holders—not just

Harvester Card holders. However, because of changes to the MNO citizenship definition over the years and a lack of capacity for the MNO Registry prior to 2004, there are some citizenship files that are incomplete and may not currently meet the requirements.

The RSRP will involve a review of all existing MNO citizenship files to determine whether they meet the requirements for MNO citizenship as set out in the MNO Bylaws and MNO Registry Policy, which align with the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in *R. v. Powley* for the identification of Métis rights-holders. If a citizenship file is complete, that MNO citizen will automatically receive a new MNO Citizenship Card that identifies them as Métis rights-holders. For many MNO citizens, they will simply receive a new card—free of charge—in the mail.

If there is documentation missing in a

MNO citizen’s file, a letter will be sent to the citizen informing them of what is necessary to complete their file and they will be provided a reasonable amount of time to provide the necessary documentation to the

...
**the MNO’s
steadfast
position that
all of its
citizens are
Métis
rights-holders**
...

MNO Registry. In addition, the MNO will be retaining the consulting firm Know History to assist with this review, as they are widely recognized as leading researchers on Métis history in Ontario. Further, materials will be provided that will provide assistance and suggestions on how a citizen’s file could be completed, including, how to use the recently completed Ontario Métis Root Ancestors packages that are available on the

MNO website.

Through the RSRP, the MNO Registry will also be able to obtain a better understanding of exactly “who” the MNO represents for future negotiations on self-government and Métis rights. For example, as a part of the

review the MNO will know how many of its citizens ancestrally connect to one of the seven recognized rights-bearing Métis communities in Ontario¹ as well as how many ancestrally connect to the Métis Nation in western Canada, but now live in Ontario.

In order to show leadership on this issue and provide MNO citizens certainty that they are being represented by Métis rights-holders at the regional and provincial levels, the RSRP will start with the elected leadership, beginning with the PCMNO.

Over the next few months, the MNO will be developing additional communication products on the RSRP as well as create a dedicated webpage for MNO citizens to explain the process further. ∞

1) These identified Ontario Métis communities include the Georgian Bay and Environs Historic Métis Community, the Killarney and Environs Historic Métis Community, the Sault Ste. Marie and Environs Métis Community, the Northern Lake Superior Historic Métis Community, the Abitibi Inland Historic Métis Community, and the Mattawa / Ottawa River and Environs Historic Métis Community, the Rainy River / Lake of the Woods / Treaty 3 Historic Métis Community.

QUICK FACTS

- **The MNO was created in 1993** by Métis representatives from rights-bearing Métis communities across Ontario coming together to establish a province-wide, Métis-specific and democratic self-government representative body.
- **The MNO’s foundational purpose—as set out in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose—is to advance Métis rights and self-government in Ontario.** Central to this is ensuring that the MNO Registry is able to verify that MNO citizens are Métis rights-holders and the MNO knowing “who” it represents for the purposes of self-government and Métis rights negotiations.
- **Since its creation, the MNO has maintained a centralized Registry in Ottawa to identify Métis citizens,** however, since 1993, there have been significant political, legal and administrative developments, including changes to the MNO definition of Métis, which have impacted whether all existing MNO citizenship files are complete.
- **The MNO currently has over 20,000 registered citizens.** It is the MNO’s position that all of these citizens are Métis rights-holders. Through the RSRP and issuance of new MNO Citizenship Cards, MNO citizens will have certainty that their file is complete and they are a verified Métis rights-holder consistent with constitutional requirements and the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in *R. v. Powley*.
- **Individuals with complete citizenship files will automatically receive a new MNO Citizenship Card** in the mail—at no cost to them. Individuals with incomplete files will receive a letter identifying why their current citizenship file is incomplete and what they need to provide in order to receive a new MNO Citizenship Card.
- **In early 2017, the MNO and Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Reconciliation** that contemplates arriving at a Framework Agreement that will set out a formal negotiations process to address Métis rights and self-government.

THE PATH TO MÉTIS SELF-GOVERNMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Is this process meant to remove MNO citizenship from individuals?

A: No. This is about preparing the MNO for self-government negotiations, solidifying the integrity of the MNO Registry and demonstrating what MNO has always believed—that all of our citizens are Métis rights holders.

Q: Why is the MNO doing this?

A: The credibility of the MNO in future self-government and Métis rights negotiations is tied to its ability to say that it represents Métis rights-holders. This process will validate what the MNO has always believed—that all of our citizens are Métis rights holders.

Q: I thought all MNO citizens were “grandfathered”. Why is MNO doing this?

A: While it was previously decided to “grandfather” all MNO citizens who may have incomplete files (i.e. to not require them at that time to complete their files), this did not make these individuals Métis rights-holders. In Powley, the Supreme Court of Canada made it very clear that “no matter how a contemporary community defines membership, only those members with a demonstrable ancestral connection to the historic community can claim a section 35 right.” This process will verify that individuals who receive new MNO Citizenship Cards are Métis rights-holders.

Q: Will this process remove MNO citizens who do not ancestrally connect to the Red River Settlement or Métis communities in western Canada?

A: No. In order to be a MNO citizen, you can ancestrally connect to a historic Métis community in Ontario or to a historic Métis community in western Canada. In August

2017, the Ontario Government recognized with the MNO that there are, at a minimum, seven historic rights-bearing Métis communities throughout Ontario that meet the requirements of the Powley test. MNO citizens—who will be identified as Métis rights-holders—can ancestrally connect to one of those seven historic Métis communities in Ontario or to the Métis Nation in western Canada.

Q: Am I still able to use my existing MNO Citizenship Card or Harvester Card?

A: Yes. While the review is in process existing MNO Citizenship and Harvester Cards will continue to be valid until the review is complete and new cards are issued.

Q: Can I still make an application to the MNO Registry for Citizenship or a Harvester Card while this process is ongoing?

A: Yes, the MNO Registry continues to process cards in accordance with the MNO Registry Policy as well as the MNO Harvesters Card Policy. The processing of pending applications remains the utmost priority.

Q: Am I still able to access MNO programs and services during this process?

A: Yes, there will be no impact on your ability to access MNO programs and services that are available to all MNO citizens and/or self-identifying Métis (who do not have a MNO Citizenship Card) during the review process.

Q: Is there a cost to me to moving forward with getting the new MNO Citizenship Card?

A: No, there will no charge for this process. If your citizenship file is complete, you will automatically receive a new MNO Citizenship Card in the mail—at no cost

to you. If your file is incomplete in some way, you will receive a letter identifying what is needed. The MNO will provide as much assistance as possible to assist you in completing your citizenship file in order to issue a new MNO Citizenship Card.

Q: If I currently have a valid MNO Harvesters Card, will I automatically get a new MNO Citizenship Card.

A: Yes. All of the existing 1,450 MNO Harvester Card holders have already been validated as being Métis rights-holders. As soon as the new MNO Citizenship Cards are designed, these will be issued to the 1,450 valid MNO Harvesters Card holders as well as other MNO citizens who have completed files.

Q: Are there other benefits to issuing new MNO Citizenship Cards?

A: Yes, the new card is expected to include added security features to ensure it remains current, confidential and can be utilized as recognized government photo identification. Further, the card will provide a MNO citizen with the confidence that they have been verified as a Métis rights-holder. The new cards can also be produced in a manner to specify the MNO citizen's historic rights bearing Metis community, which will provide greater certainty in ongoing Crown consultation and accommodation negotiations. And, it is anticipated that through self-government negotiations new programs and services will be made available.

Q: Are other Métis governments doing this?

A: Yes. Following Powley, the Métis Nation of Alberta undertook a process where all of its existing members needed to re-register to obtain new cards. In 2013, it cancelled its old cards and only now recognizes the new cards that identify Métis rights-holders. The Manitoba Métis Federation has a membership list that includes 50,000+ individuals, but has now re-registered 22,000 individuals with new cards that identify these individuals as Métis rights-holders.





LOUIS RIEL DAY ∞ QUEEN'S PARK CEREMONY IN TORONTO

Resistance, Resilience and Remembrance

The themes of resistance, resilience and remembrance figured prominently at the Louis Riel Day provincial ceremony at Queen's Park in Toronto on November 16, 2017.

Louis Riel Day is widely recognized as a day to pay respect to the legacy of Louis Riel and celebrate Métis culture and heritage. As in the past, Métis communities across Ontario are holding Louis Riel Day events and the provincial ceremony took place in Toronto at Queen's Park. For the first time, in accordance with a resolution passed at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) in August, the provincial ceremony did not take place at the Northwest Rebellion monument at Queen's Park but rather at the flag pole near the Legislative Buildings.

Louis Riel was the great Métis leader executed by the Canadian government for leading the Northwest Resistance in defense of Métis rights and the Métis way-of-life. Every year Louis Riel Day is held to remember what Riel sacrificed and renew the commitment

to complete his work. In Ontario, the Métis struggled to protect their rights, communities and families. The MNO celebrates Louis Riel Day to recognize the many contributions of the Métis to Canada and to highlight the challenges that Métis continue to face.

The ceremony started with raising the Métis flag at the Legislative Building and a procession of all in attendance led by Métis musicians and Liam and Alicia Blore and a Legion Honour Guard. MNO Chair France Picotte served as Master of Ceremonies and the opening prayer was given by Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Senator Renee Gravelle. Following speeches and greetings from MNO leaders and invited dignitaries a wreath was placed by MNO veterans and a moment of silence was observed.

Among the dignitaries who spoke was the Honourable Dave Levac, Speaker of the Ontario Legislature. Speaker Levac said that, "there are three words that I have learned to be proud of, I am Métis." He indicated as one demonstration of his Métis pride that he wore his Métis sash when sitting for his

official portrait that will be displayed at the Legislature.

The Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. Levac represented the Government of Ontario at the ceremony. He also spoke of the growing pride that Métis feel and encouraged Métis to continue building a better future for themselves and all Ontario people. He stated: "On behalf of the province, I am honoured to be here to pay tribute to the incredible life and legacy of Louis Riel. This day is not just about the past and its mistakes, but the acknowledgement of what can be done now to recognize past wrongs, rectify them, and reconcile for a brighter future. Louis Riel will continue to be a beacon for this, and I am proud to honour him today."

In addition to Speaker Levac and Minister Zimmer, Progressive Conservative (PC) Member of the Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Huron-Bruce Lisa Thompson and New Democratic Party (NDP) MPP for Algoma-Manitoulin Michael Mantha brought greetings on behalf of PC Leader Patrick Brown and NDP



... there are three words that I have learned to be proud of, I am Métis."

– Speaker of the Ontario Legislature the Hon. Dave Levac

Leader Andrea Horwath.

MPP Thompson said: "We have the great privilege in this province to have such a vibrant Métis culture, and I am pleased that the Métis in Ontario are increasingly succeeding and playing a significant role in our province and nation's diversity, prosperity and growth. A strong partnership with the Métis is

continued on page 6



Some of the highlights from the Queen's Park Louis Riel Day Ceremony: 1) Jean Teillet, renowned Métis lawyer and great-grandniece of Louis Riel. 2) PCMNO Senator Renee Gravelle provides the opening prayer. 3) The Legion Colour Party led the procession. 4) A blustery day could not keep Jean Teillet or members of the PCMNO and their families from taking part in the ceremony. 5) MMP Michael Mantha. 6) MMP Lisa Thompson reads the official declaration of Louis Riel Day in Ontario. 7) The Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

LOUIS RIEL DAY ∞ LAW SOCIETY OF UPPER CANADA

Historic Métis communities and root ancestors focus of Law Society event

by
MNO Staff

Every year on Louis Riel Day, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) partners with the Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC) to host an event highlighting the most recent and significant developments in Métis rights. This year's event focused on the recent agreement between the MNO and Ontario recognizing six new historic Métis communities in Ontario and the release of the nearly 100 Ontario Métis root ancestor documents earlier this year.

As in the past, the event took place at the LSUC building in Toronto and included a panel of legal and historical experts that included renowned Métis lawyer and historian Jean Teillet, who moderated the panel, along with Megan Strachan of Pape, Salter Teillet LLP, Candice Telfer of Legal Services, Ministry of Indigenous



▲ **SPEAKERS AT THE LAW SOCIETY OF UPPER CANADA'S RIEL DAY PANEL:** (left to right) renowned Métis lawyer Jean Teillet; Candice Telfer, legal services at the Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; Megan Strachan, associate at Pape Salter Teillet LLP; and Ryan Shackleton, Director of Know History.

Relations and Reconciliation and Ryan Shackleton, the Director of Know History. MNO President Margaret Froh provided greetings along with Paul Schabas, LSUC Treasurer. Opening prayer was provided by Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO)

Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle and closing prayer was provided by PCMNO Senator Ray Bergie.

Strachan and Telfer provided details on the six communities that Ontario recently agreed would join the historic Sault Ste. Marie community as recognized historic Métis

communities in Ontario. Sault Ste. Marie has been recognized since the landmark Supreme Court of Canada case *R. v. Powley* in 2003. Shackleton discussed the methodology used to compile the Métis root ancestor documents. Each document focuses on a particular Métis family in a historic

Métis community and provides the complete documentation including genealogy charts and copies of key documents such as census records, birth or baptismal records that demonstrate that family's connection to a root Métis ancestor. These documents will be very useful to people applying for MNO citizenship or who are looking for genealogy documents for any reason. More information on the historic Métis communities and root ancestors are posted on the MNO website including nearly 100 root ancestor documents.

Following the panel discussion a reception was held that included great Métis cultural performances from Alicia and Liam Blore; Honourary MNO Senator Ruth Wagner; Elsa Poitras, Kyle Burton and former MNO Summer Youth Culture facilitators.

Overall it was another very successful and educational event. ∞



▲ (left) MNO President Margaret Froh. (center) Métis fiddling and jigging at the reception following the LSUC panel. (right) From left to right PCMNO Senator Joe Poitras, PCMNO Senator Ray Bergie, MNO President Margaret Froh, Know History Director Ryan Shackleton, PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle, Lawyer Megan Strachan, Ontario person and Jean Teillet at the LSUC panel event.

LOUIS RIEL DAY ∞ QUEEN'S PARK CEREMONY IN TORONTO

Resistance, Resilience & Remembrance

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crucial for the future of Ontario, and I strongly believe in an Ontario that works co-operatively with our indigenous neighbours."

MPP Mantha stated: "We're proud to celebrate Louis Riel's legacy in Ontario, where Métis people have vibrant communities. We're happy to work hand in hand with Métis people in Ontario to develop better opportunities for them and continue the important process of reconciliation. La contribution de la Nation Métis pour l'Ontario et tout le Canada est des plus importantes."

In addition to the MPPs who spoke, a number of other MPPs took the time to attend the ceremony to show their support for the MNO. These included Minister of Economic Development and Growth Brad Duguid, Minister of Finance Charles Sousa, MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt Soo Wong and MPP for Beaches-East York Arthur Potts.

The participation of these MPPs in the ceremony at the event demonstrated the positive relationship the MNO has built with Ontario through the signing of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, which was renewed in 2014; and by the all-party support for the passage of the MNO Secretariat Act in 2015.

This year MNO Region 2 MNO Youth Council Representative Paul Robitaille spoke about the fact that while relationships with Canadian governments are improving we know from history that everything will not be easy and Métis youth will need to play a role in strengthening the Métis Nation. Representative Robitaille stated: "With open arms and open hearts we welcome all who wish to paddle with us in the spirit of respect, reciprocity and collaboration. Because it is only by working together—across communities, across organizations, across governments and across generations—that we can hope to build a brighter, more prosperous Métis Nation and Ontario for us all."

Another Riel Day tradition is the address by Jean Teillet. Ms. Teillet is a renowned Métis lawyer who was lead counsel for Steve and Roddy Powley during the landmark *R. v. Powley* case. She is also the great-grandniece of Louis Riel and her direct family connection to Louis Riel always makes her remarks especially poignant. This year Ms. Teillet told the story of "Old Nick" a Métis who had proposed to ambush the soldiers coming to fight the Métis. She explained that Louis Riel had opposed the ambush on humanitarian grounds and it provides a great example of Métis taking the high moral ground.



▲ **The Legion Colour Party salutes during the laying of the wreaths.**

In her remarks near the close of the ceremony, MNO President Froh recognized that the hard work of advancing Métis rights, self-government and reconciliation is being carried out by MNO citizens in Métis communities across Ontario. She thanked and recognized the PCMNO for its dedication and leadership as well as everyone participating and attending the ceremony.

In her conclusion she drew on the themes of resistance, resilience and remembrance that had been touched on by the other speakers. She explained: "In spite of everything that has been done, in spite of every denial, and those denials unfortunately are still happening today, of who we are as Métis people, as the Métis Nation, we are still here and we are still moving forward and in fact we have made some great advances." In addition to past accomplishments, President Froh also highlighted the current discussions to sign a framework agreement with Canada and Ontario. She said: "We are to be going forward negotiating self-government for the Métis Nation in Ontario. There are many great things that we have achieved – there are many more great things in front of us."

"This is really what we are here to do today," she added in closing her formal remarks, "to remember Louis Riel, to remember Steve Powley, to remember all those Métis leaders who have gone before us and the legacy they have left for us." Then when speaking about the importance of Métis youth, she added: "While we remember – we are also always looking forward." ∞

LOUIS RIEL DAY ∞ QUEEN'S PARK CEREMONY IN TORONTO

Each year one of the highlights of the provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony is the message from a representative of Métis youth. This year the representative was Paul Robitaille, the MNO Youth Council Representative for Region 2 and a member of the Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government. Below is the complete transcript of his message:

A sense of mixed emotion

It is a great honour and privilege to offer a few words on behalf of Ontario's Métis Youth. On a day such as this, as we collectively confront and work to reconcile our shared history, one cannot help but be overcome by a strong sense of mixed emotion. And while we each must search within ourselves to discover what this important day means to us, for myself—like many of our young Métis leaders—I stand before you today filled with a resounding feeling of cautious optimism.

I am optimistic, because like many of our Métis Youth, I have been blessed to be born into a strong, loving family and community and to have the unending support many inspiring leaders, role models and mentors—a number of whom surround me today. Because of this, I know who we are. Because of this, I know our shared Métis story. And, because of this, I know our collective story in Ontario and



With open arms and open hearts we welcome all who wish to paddle with us.

— MNO Youth Council Rep for Region 2 Paul Robitaille

how that story and those relationships between Métis People and Ontario have evolved over time. And in seeing that trajectory—that evolution of those relationships—I cannot help but be optimistic for the future.

However, I also remain cautious in that optimism. I remain cautious precisely because I do understand our collective story and I do understand the history of our relationships. I am keenly aware of the follies of the past. And, through understanding, I am also keenly aware that the insidious tactics

of divisiveness, deceit and empty promises that were used in Riel's time are still sadly employed all too frequently today.

So while there is much to celebrate today, we must also remain humble in the realization that there is still much more work to be done.

Fortunately, our young Métis leaders are eager to take up that calling. They are eager to assume that burden of responsibility and to continue that paddle toward self-determination—toward recognition of our rights, of our nationhood and of our unique place within Ontario's



▲ Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council Representative for Region 2 Paul Robitaille presents a message from Métis youth at Queen's Park in Toronto.

story—that was started so long ago.

With open arms and open hearts we welcome all who wish to paddle with us in the spirit of respect, reciprocity and collaboration. Because it is only by working together—across

communities, across organizations, across governments and across generations—that we can hope to build a brighter, more prosperous Métis Nation and Ontario for us all. ∞

LOUIS RIEL DAY ∞ ACROSS THE PROVINCE



▲ (Front, left-right) MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council (HSSMMC) President Kim Powley, MNO HSSMMC Secretary Steve Gjos and MNO HSSMMC Councilor Dianne Beaudry carrying the Eagle Staff and Canadian and Métis flags to Sault Ste. Marie City Hall. (back, left-right) MNO HSSMMC Senator Brenda Powley with MNO citizens Emerson Riel, Virginia Rydal, Amber Jones and Melissa Agawa. Poulin and MNO Mattawa Métis Council Senator Joyceline Rose.

MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council participates in Riel Day flag raising

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

On November 16, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Historic Sault Ste. Marie Council (HSSMC) held a Louis Riel Day Métis flag raising ceremony at Sault

Ste. Marie City Hall. Participants included MNO HSSMC President Kim Powley, Senator Brenda Powley, Secretary Steve Gjos, Councilor Dianne Beaudry as well as other local MNO citizens and members of Batchewana, Garden River, and Michipicoten First Nations.

Acting Mayor Sandra Hollingsworth raised the flag on behalf of the City of Sault Ste. Marie. ∞

Raising the Métis flag across the Niagara Region

submitted by
Laura Burey
MNO Niagara Region Métis Council Treasurer

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC) hosted a Louis Riel Day event at the Niagara Region headquarters in Thorold on November 15, 2017. In addition to local MNO citizens, the MNO NRMC invited representatives from all twelve municipalities in the region.

The MNO NRMC citizens present raised the Métis flag together, to pay tribute to the great Métis leader Louis Riel.

The Council was honoured by the presence of Member of Parliament (MP) and MNO citizen Vance Badawey, MP Chris Bittle, Niagara Region Chair Alan Caslin, Niagara Region Mayors Frank Campion, Patrick Darte, Sandra Easton, Ted Luciani and Jim Diodati. Also in attendance was Niagara Region Councilor Paul Grenier and MNO NRMC Councilor Joyce Morocco.

The MNO NRMC gifted Métis flags to each municipality as well as the Niagara Region and asked each to raise the their flags on November 16, 2017, to honour Louis Riel and for his bravery on giving his life for the Métis people.

Following raising the flag, kind words were spoken about Louis Riel

from MNO NRMC President Derrick Pont, MNO NRMC Chair Brian Kon, MP Badaway and MP Bittle.

After the remarks, the Council invited everyone inside for refreshments, cultural music and dancing.

The following day, November 16, 2017, the Métis flag was raised by MNO NRMC Senator Gary Laframboise at Club Richelieu in Welland, MNO NRMC Chair Brian Kon at Niagara Region Native Centre in Niagara-On-the-Lake and Treasurer Laura Burey at the Niagara Military Museum.

This day not only marked a day of remembrance and education but a day of unity between the Métis people and all other citizens in the Niagara Region. ∞



▲ (Left-right) Member of Parliament Vance Badawey, MNO Niagara Region Councilor Paul Grenier, Niagara City Mayor Sandra Easton, MNO Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC) Chair Brian Kon, MNO NRMC Senator Gary Laframboise, Niagara Region Chair Alan Caslin, MNO NRMC President Derrick Pont, MP Chris Bittle and Mayor Ted Luciani. (Missing from photo) Mayor Patrick Darte, Mayor Jim Diodati and MNO NRMC Councilor Joyce Morocco.

PCMNO Senator attends Gathering of Elders

submitted by
Verna Porter-Brunelle
MNO citizen & veteran MNO Veterans' Council President

From September 11 to 14, 2017, Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle attended the first ever Gathering of Elders in Edmonton Alberta. Senator Porter-Brunelle attended the gathering as a member of the Elders Justice Committee, which was formed in 2017 by the Ministry of the Ontario Attorney General. Senator Porter-Brunelle was among 13 respected Indigenous Elders from diverse communities across Ontario appointed to the Committee. Ontario established the Elders Justice Committee to provide advice to the Attorney General on how to improve the justice systems' responsiveness to the needs of Indigenous people and support the reclamation of Indigenous legal systems. Senator Porter-Brunelle

joined approximately 4,600 elders and helpers from across the country. The Gathering allowed the Elders to collaborate on how to improve Canada's education and legal systems from an Indigenous perspective. It offered the opportunity to share knowledge with youth, which helps to bridge the generation gap and allows the younger generations to demonstrate respect, regard and honour for their Elders. At the Elders Gathering, Senator Porter-Brunelle wore her Métis sash, which became a special conversation piece that allowed her to share her Métis heritage. During the three day event, group sessions included Reconciliation, Climate Change, Revitalization of Culture and Language, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Indigenous Health. The keynote speaker for the

Language and Cultural Traditions session that Senator Porter-Brunelle attended was Member of Parliament (MP) Robert-Falcon Ouelette. MP Ouelette is an Indigenous veteran and a former university professor. There were many Indigenous entertainers including Métis jiggers and fiddlers, Inuit throat singers and First Nations dancers who performed in their traditional regalia. Attendees enjoyed traditional food such as moose and the event was a great experience. The Elders Justice Committee has already received two requests to host the next gathering in 2018. During the Gathering, Senator Porter-Brunelle and the other members of the Ontario Elders Justice Committee also travelled to Jasper to hold a ceremony. PCMNO Senator Rene Gravelle and PCMNO Region 2 Councilor Cam Burgess also attended the Gathering. Senator Porter-Brunelle had the opportunity to meet with both Senator Rene Gravelle and Councilor Burgess during the event. ∞



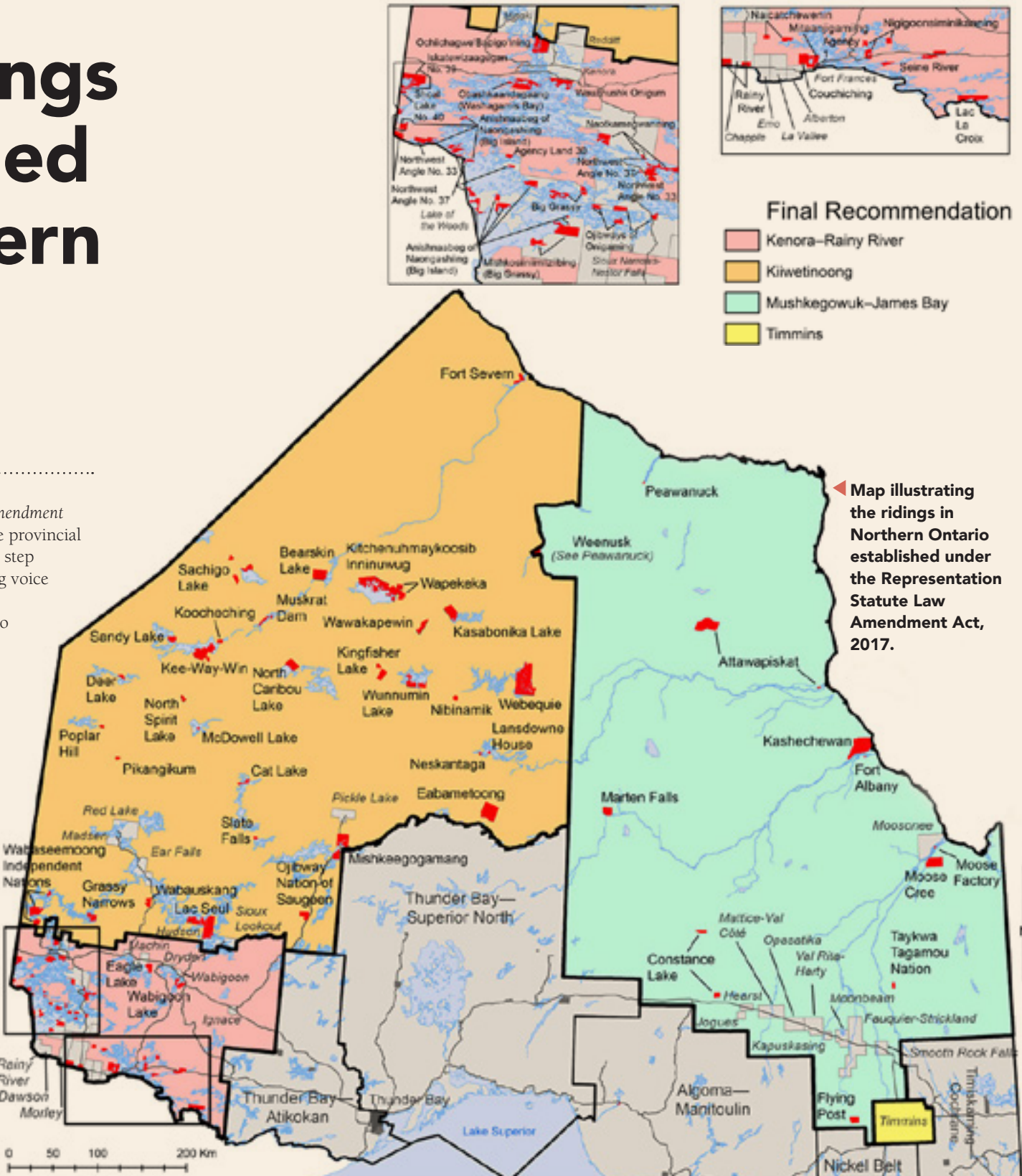
For more information on the National Gathering of Elders please visit ngekanata.com

New ridings established in Northern Ontario

submitted by
Yasir Naqvi
Ontario Attorney General

The Representation Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017 has been passed in the provincial legislature. This is an important step forward that will ensure a strong voice for Northern Ontarians at Queen's Park. This Act includes reforms to create two additional ridings in Northern Ontario for a total of four, called Kiiwetinoong, Mushkegowuk-James Bay, Kenora-Rainy River, and Timmins. These ridings will replace the current electoral districts of Timmins-James Bay and Kenora-Rainy River.

These new ridings will be in place in time for the scheduled provincial election in 2018. The government will be consulting with affected communities to determine a final name for the new riding of Mushkegowuk-James Bay. The Ontario government is committed to working closely with community leaders in northern Ontario and appreciates their continued support as work continues towards building a stronger, more representative election system. ∞



Map illustrating the ridings in Northern Ontario established under the Representation Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017.

MNO takes part in First Ministers Meeting

by
MNO Staff

On October 3, 2017 in Ottawa, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Acting President France Picotte participated in a meeting of Canada's First Ministers and Indigenous leaders. Acting President Picotte was a member of the Métis Nation delegation along with other members of the Métis National Council (MNC) Board of Governors.

Prior to the full meeting of First Ministers, Prime Minister Trudeau met with MNC President Clément Chartier, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellgarde and Tapiriit Kanatami President Natan Obed. The Indigenous leaders including Acting President Picotte were also part of a meeting that included all the First Ministers.

"As Canada and Ontario have a role to play in advancing reconciliation with the Métis it was important to have our voice heard at these meetings," explained Acting President Picotte. "We look toward to continued conversations with both levels of government on the issues that are critical to our families and communities in Ontario." ∞

▼ Minister of Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, Métis Nation British Columbia President Clara Morin Dal Col and Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras at the First Minister Meeting in Ottawa on October 3, 2017.



Access to mental health services through the MNO for children and youth expanded

by
MNO Staff

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has in the last several months expanded the mental health programming it can make available for children and youth. Through this expansion Métis children and youth now can access a broad range of interdisciplinary mental health care professionals such as psychologists, psychiatry professionals, addictions counsellors and/or other health professionals.

The MNO already has over 20 psychological assessments occurring across the province. These include assessments and follow ups with psychiatry and psychology professionals as well as parenting coaches, behavioural therapists and school advocates. These professionals support

families and schools in order to help children and youth attain optimal educational success.

Métis children and youth can obtain access to this programming through referrals from MNO Healing and Wellness staff in every MNO office across Ontario. There is no cost to participants. Depending on service and the location of the participant, services can be accessed in-person and/or through telephone and videoconferencing technology operated by the MNO.

The MNO is very excited about these new services that allow it to bring timely and accessible specialized mental health services to all MNO service areas across the province.

The Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is seeking Métis community members who are interested in volunteering

REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) & MÉTIS AWARDS COMMITTEE (MAC)

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

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

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



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

For further information feel free to contact:
Wendy Stewart
MNO Manager of Mental Health and Addictions
wendys@metisnation.org
613-798-1488 x125.

MNO VETERANS' COUNCIL



▲ MNO veterans presenting President Froh with first replica statue of "The Métis," (Left to right) Robert Desjardins, Sharlene Lance, Doug Woods, Greg Garratt, President Froh, Shelly Claus and June Smart.

MNO Veterans' Council releases replica statues of "The Métis"

submitted by
Grag Garrat Paquette
MNO Veterans' Council
Secretary/Treasurer

During the summer of 2016, a monument called "the Métis" was unveiled a statue in Penetanguishene as part the Champlain Legacy Sculpture Project. "The Métis" was one of seven sculptures created by Timothy Schmalz and it depicts the rise of Métis Nation in

Ontario. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council has developed smaller replicas of the statue and presented the first one to MNO President Margaret Froh at an MNO event this November.

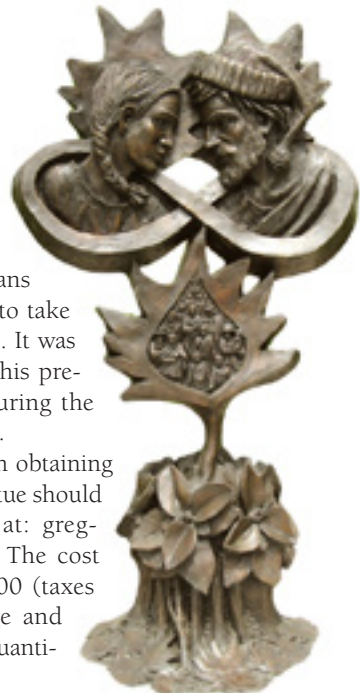
"The Métis" had received a strong positive reaction since being unveiled and this led the MNO Veterans' Council to present the original artwork for the sculpture to President Froh during the Vimy Commemoration Project in April 2017. At this time, the MNO Veterans' Council was already planning to develop

replica statues and MNO Veterans' Council Secretary/Treasurer Greg Garratt was already working the Schmalz to produce them for organizations and people too far away to see the original.

The first replica statue was presented to President Froh to recognize the MNO's ongoing support of the MNO Veterans' Council, in particular the Fighting for Canada before there was Canada, the Métis veterans history book; as well as the Vimy Commemoration Project. The presentation took place at a MNO Cultural Immersion event this November

and a number of veterans were present and able to take part in the presentation. It was very appropriate that this presentation was made during the month of remembrance.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the replica statue should contact Greg Garratt at: greg-garratt63@gmail.com. The cost of each statue is \$80.00 (taxes included) plus postage and handling. Please note quantities are limited. ∞



MNO veteran continues his winning ways

During 2015, 2016 and 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and veteran Bernie Pepin C.D. successfully competed in three provincial and three national shooting competitions.

Pepin started shooting after joining the Army Cadets in 1973 and continued to shoot competitively for several years. Although he participated in shooting during most of his military career that started when he joined the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in 1981, he stopped competing in 1985 and wouldn't until after his retirement in 2012. Pepin was able to return to competitive shooting in 2014 thanks to support from his fellow competitive shooters.

Although he is retired from the military, Pepin continues to compete in civilian competitions alongside

submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO citizen & veteran
MNO Veterans' Council President

some current and retired military shooters. In 2015, Pepin won a prestigious shooting award, receiving the Lieutenant Governor's Prize for the top target rifle shooter and receiving second place for the Mercer's Grand Aggregate. Within the same year, Pepin went on to win the Strachan Challenge Trophy for top sharpshooter in Canada. He placed twenty-second in the Canadian Target Rifle Championships and placed thirty-first in the MacDonald Stewart's Grand Aggregate.

In 2016, Pepin placed fourteenth in the provincial Mercer's Grand Aggregate, fourteenth in



the national Canadian Target Rifle Championships and forty-ninth in the national MacDonald Stewart's Grand Aggregate.

In 2017, Pepin placed forty-second in the provincial Mercer's Grand Aggregate, twenty-first in the national Canadian Target Rifle Championships and fifty-fourth in the national MacDonald Stewart's Grand Aggregate.

Pepin is not only a proud of his achievements as a competitive shooter but also proud of his Métis

background and heritage.

Pepin's mother had often spoken to him about his Métis background and heritage. At a young age, Pepin knew that both of his grandparents on his mother's side were Métis, but he never thought of it further until he participated in the unveiling of a plaque in memory of his ancestor Pierre Falcon in 1985. Furthermore, during World War II, his Métis grandfather served with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles (also known as The Little Black Devils), a regiment

▲ MNO veteran Bernie Pepin C.D. (center) with other members of the Canadian Rifle Team in 2017.

that ironically engaged the Métis at Fish Creek and Batoche during the Northwest resistance of 1885.

Today Pepin continues to enjoy competitive shooting as a veteran as he did throughout his military career. ∞



MNO VETERANS' COUNCIL



▲ MNO Veterans' Council Senator Guy Mandeville C.D.(standing) teaching students about the Métis involvement during the World War I.

MNO Veterans' Senator educates youth about Métis contributions to WWI

On October 2-3, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council Senator Guy Mandeville C.D. made presentations at the Waterloo Region Museum to over 900 students about Métis involvement in World War I (WWI).

The workshops Senator

submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO citizen & veteran
MNO Veterans' Council President

Mandeville provided were for grade 10 students from several Kitchener and Waterloo

high schools and he spoke to approximately 16-25 students in each workshop.

It was a great opportunity for the MNO Veterans' Council to meet and educate the youth about what Métis contributed to Canada's WWI effort. ∞

MNO veteran hangs significant mementoes for Georgian Bay Métis Council

submitted by
Greg Garratt
MNO Veterans' Council
Secretary-Treasurer

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council operates out of the MNO office in Midland and on October 4 the MNO Veterans' Council represented by Sgt-At-Arms Doug Woods helped the Council out by hanging several important pictures in the office.

Among the items hung in the office were pictures and gifts from

the 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition gifted to the Council when the Expedition stopped in Midland during the summer.

Sgt-At-Arms Woods also hung dot art portraying the seven grandfather teachings gifted to the Council by MNO Veterans' Council Senator Guy Mandeville, C.D. He also hung a paddle featuring artwork from veterans and youth gifted to the MNO Veterans' Council at Annual General Assembly in Sault St. Marie in 2012 as well as certificates of appreciation that have been presented to the Council. ∞



▲ MNO Veterans' Council Sgt-At-Arms Doug Woods hangs pictures at the MNO office in Midland.

MNO Veterans' Senator teaches Métis dot painting workshop

submitted by
Guy Mandeville C.D.
MNO Veterans' Council Senator

On September 21, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council Senator Guy Mandeville C.D. taught Métis Dot Painting at a workshop hosted by the Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Trenton Defense Indigenous Advisory Group (TDIAG) located at the Three Sisters Garden Cariboo Lodge in Trenton.

Twenty people from the base

including both military and non-military personnel attended the workshop. The sessions were conducted as a lunch and learn activity. Although many of the participants were first time artists in this medium they did outstanding work.

Senator Mandeville will be conducting a future session at the Military Family Resource Centre at CFB Trenton in October 2017. ∞



▲ (Standing in the left) MNO Veterans' Senator Guy Mandeville C.D. teaches Métis Dot Painting at the Three Sisters Garden Cariboo Lodge.

MNO VETERANS' COUNCIL



MNO citizen and veteran interviewed by CBC News Windsor

submitted by

Donna Grayer, MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council President
from a story written by CBC reporter *Chris Ensing*

Wilfred Rochon's face bursts in to a warm glow when he talks about leaving his small, northern Ontario town of Gogama to join the army during the Second World War.

Interviewing with CBC Windsor, Wilfred Rochon laughs as he tells the story of enlisting in the army because it didn't go so well the first time he tried in 1944. Rochon is a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and Métis veteran.

"When I was 17, they sent me to Toronto," said Wilfred. "I knew the doctor there. He's a doctor from Gogama, and he sent me back home because I was too young." That unlikely coincidence couldn't keep Rochon from his desire to serve.

"I figured they needed someone to go to war, you know, to help them out," said Rochon, who eventually made his way to Winnipeg, far from familiar doctors and managed to sign up for basic training.

Wilfred began preparing for an anticipated invasion of Japan. His training involved parachuting out of airplanes

"We had to be ready anytime, it didn't matter where we were," said

Wilfred, adding that never felt nervous of a possible deployment to the front lines.

"You don't think about that. You just keep tackling things day by day."

The United States of America dropped the world's first atomic bomb over the Japanese city of Hiroshima, effectively ending the war.

With the front-line battle won, Wilfred was transferred to Gravenhurst, Ontario to guard prisoners of war. At this point, Rochon's son, Jon Rochon takes over the story. His father's memory is starting to fade and there are some stories he'd rather not tell. But one story Jon's father did share provides a glimpse into service beyond the battlefield.

"There was a group of soldiers that he was guarding, some Germans and Italians that were officers" said Jon.

"They were called the 'Happy Gang,'" said Jon.

Jon said his father bonded with the Prisoners of war because they shared the same impulse to serve their country that had carried him across Canada to enlist.

"They were young guys and they went to war to fight for their



MNO veteran Wilfred Rochon.
Photo CBC

country, just like my dad fought for his country," explained Jon.

But not all the Prisoners were prepared to play cards with their captors.

"There's also a group of people that were still fanatical for their countries," said Jon. "It was like a war inside the Prisoner of War camps between themselves."

"The guards were like a referee of sorts, just holding them back against each other," said Jon.

Wilfred's story is part of a display honouring Métis veterans at the Chimczuk Museum in Windsor. He was also one of the founding members of the MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council which

he is still a member of today, along with his son. Jon said it's a privilege to be able to hear stories from Indigenous veterans who can share first-hand accounts of what it was like to serve.

"I'm sure there's stories that were lost that we won't know about," said Jon.

"There's stories that you know can't come back. But I'm sure there is people that are still coming back with the stories and talking about our Indigenous past, our Native members of the community that did serve."

The Rochon family has passed Wilfred's story down through three generations, with the veteran

visiting his grand-daughter Sienna Rochon's school and answering questions ahead of Remembrance Day. The eldest Rochon takes great pride in seeing the bright red poppy pinned to people they walk past.

"You know they're friends of yours," said Wilfred, with a smile.

His son notices the respect whenever he walks with his veteran father.

"Even today we went to a store and just everywhere people, including the young generation, thank my dad for his service," said Jon.

Jon stated, "It's not forgotten."

∞

Story posted at CBC website: www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/poppy-a-sign-of-friendship-says-91-year-old-métis-wwii-vet-1.4398452

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

Métis veteran lays wreath in Ottawa

Métis veteran Richard Lefebvre lays wreath at National War Memorial in Ottawa on behalf of all MNO citizens

by MNO Staff

Every year on November 11, Métis from across the homeland participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies. It is very important for Métis to be a part of these ceremonies because we have contributed to the defence of Canada as far back as the War of 1812 as well as both World Wars, the Korean Conflict, peacekeeping missions and most recently, Afghanistan.

Over the years, many Métis have served and many have made the ultimate sacrifice. By making the Métis presence felt at Remembrance Day services, we show our respect for all Veterans and we remind all Canadians of Métis service and sacrifices.

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

ceremonies. This year, MNO citizen Richard Lefebvre, C.D., who served in the military for close to 33 years and retired as a Master Warrant Officer laid the wreath on behalf of all MNO citizens. This is the second year in a row that Lefebvre has performed this duty.

Lefebvre has also been laying a wreath on behalf of the MNO for the past nine years at the National Military Cemetery at Beechwood in Ottawa during the National Memorial Ride (NMR). The NMR is an annual commemorative event that brings together motorcycle enthusiasts and supporters on the first Sunday of June to remember and commemorate Canada's Fallen Veterans. This event was started by the National Memorial Riders and was taken over by the Royal Canadian Legion. Lefebvre's group is the only motorcycle group allowed in Beechwood cemetery. ∞



Métis veteran Richard Lefebvre holding the MNO wreath that he placed on the National War Monument in Ottawa on behalf of all MNO citizens during National Remembrance Day ceremonies on November 11.



▲ MNO veteran and Clear Waters Métis Council Secretary (left) Don Kennedy and Royal Military College Cadet Sejun Park (right) on stage during the Remembrance Day wreath laying.

MNO veteran lays Clear Waters Métis Council wreath in Mount Hope

submitted by
Jerry Clarke, MNO Clear Waters Métis Council President

On November 11, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veteran and MNO Clear Waters Métis Council Secretary Don Kennedy participated in the Remembrance Day wreath laying at the Warplane Heritage Museum in Mount Hope. More than 3000 people attended the ceremony.

The MNO Clear Waters Métis Council name was on the wreath that Veteran Kennedy laid during the ceremony. Veteran Kennedy

was instrumental in ensuring that the Council name appeared on the wreath.

Many of the attendees showed respect and appreciation for Veteran Kennedy's service and his participation in the ceremony.

Veteran Kennedy also participated in the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Glanbrook Arena in Binbrook on November 5, 2017, where there were 200 people in attendance. ∞

The following was released on November 9, 2017

A message from the government of the

Métis Nation
of Ontario ∞

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2017

As we mark Remembrance Day, let us honour the veterans, especially those Métis men and women, who have served so bravely in war and in peace.

The Métis have a strong tradition of military service. Our involvement in the defense of Canada started in the War of 1812, and Métis have served in both World Wars, the Korean Conflict, in Peacekeeping missions and most recently in Afghanistan.

In 2017, we will mark the 100th anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge and the 150th anniversary of Canada, and our MNO Veterans Council will be working with our citizens, and in particular our youth, to share their knowledge and experiences. We invite all of our citizens and friends to join the MNO in supporting them in this important work.

On November 11, as you attend Remembrance Day ceremonies wherever you are, please take the time to thank our friends, neighbours and all of our relations who have served – and who continue to serve – and to show our love, our support and our gratitude for their bravery and sacrifice, not just with words but with actions throughout the year.

From the
Provisional Council
of the
Métis Nation of Ontario



▲ MNO Northern Lights Métis Council Senator Gerry Courville.

MNO Northern Lights Métis Council Senator lays wreath in Cochrane

submitted by
Jackie Courville, MNO Northern Lights Métis Council

This Remembrance Day, MNO Northern Lights Métis Council Senator Gerry Courville laid a wreath on behalf of the Council during Remembrance Day services in Cochrane. ∞

COMMUNITY

MNO joins signing of Indigenous Education Protocol

submitted by

Anne Trudel

MNO Education Officer

On June 12, 2017, The Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB) with representatives from the Métis Nation, First Nation and Inuit partners signed the Indigenous Education Protocol (IEP). This junior kindergarten to grade 12 protocol is the first IEP for any district school board in Ontario. The signing ceremony was held at West Gate Public School in Windsor.

The dignitaries were drummed in by the members of the Whitefish Junior Singers.

Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Councilor Peter Rivers signed for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). Signatory for the Inuit was Anne Marie Kadluck Garrick and Director of Education Erin Kelly signed and spoke on behalf of the GECDSB.

The ceremony included two First Nation students. The inclusion of the students displayed a focus on the school's Indigenous youth and highlighted their cultural knowledge. All of the Indigenous leaders in attendance spoke positively about the signing of the protocol as a basis for the future.

Other officiates that were present at this special occasion from the GECDSB included the District School Board Trustees Julia Burgess and Ron Leclair who self-identifies as Métis. These School Trustees were responsible for putting a motion forward requesting the IEP. The following GECDSB



Photo from GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD (PublicBoard.ca)

▲ (Left-right): **The Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB) Superintendent of Education Clara Howitt, GECDSB Trustee Julia Burgess, GECDSB Director of Education Erin Kelly, GECDSB Trustee Ron Leclair, Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 9 Councilor Peter Rivers and MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council (WEMC) President Donna Grayer.**

educators who were pivotal in the protocol work and present at the signing included Dr. Clara Howitt Superintendent of Education, Debra Laforet Principal of West Gate Public School, Tina Decastro Teacher Consultant, Stonehorse Moore of Secondary First Nation Métis Inuit Education (FNMIE) Language Instructor and FNMIE Student Support Workers Paula Hedgepeth and Jamie Kechego.

Councilor Rivers recognized the protocol as a step forward. He acknowledged his brothers and sisters from the First Nations and Inuit peoples as equals. He credited MNO

I felt that the Métis Nation needed to be part of the conversation and I am grateful for the kindness shown to me at the table as we got down to the work of getting this protocol done.”

— MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council President Donna Grayer

WEMC President Donna Grayer for her representation of the Métis in the development of the principles and ongoing participation in Métis education. Councilor Rivers also thanked Anne Trudel MNO Education Officer for the educational resources she was able to provide through the MNO.

In 2015, President Grayer had been involved in writing the IEP for St. Clair College and she brought this experience to the process of writing the GECDSB IEP; a process that took an entire year. President Grayer identified the relationship building takes time. She states, “I

got involved to show that we are a recognized Indigenous people with historic, ancestral ties in order to clear up misunderstandings associated with the Métis. I felt that the Métis Nation needed to be part of the conversation and I am grateful for the kindness shown to me at the table as we got down to the work of getting this protocol done.”

The diversity of the area and schools means its students represent a few Indigenous Nations. It is historically recognized as three Fires Confederacy, with a five Nation Treaty Coalition presently in place. The process was complicated. President Grayer explained that, “It was hard at times, but worth the tears and frustration to address the concerns brought forward and to make sure there was no exclusion within such a diverse student population, each distinction acknowledged while respecting the territory on which it was being done.”

The protocol has seven principles to guide the next actions of the GECDSB and the First Nation, Métis and Inuit partners. The first principle of the protocol is to make First Nation Métis, Inuit education a priority at every level. Another principle is to support students and employees to increase understanding and reciprocity among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

“Now the work will continue with curriculum changes, job opportunities and coming to the leaderships at the table for who should represent or teach or speak for us within classrooms and so forth, even within the Elder role,” stated President Grayer. ∞

MNO hosts Service Provider Gathering in Mattawa

submitted by

Lisa Poulin

MNO Métis Healthy Babies and Healthy Children Coordinator

On September 25, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff hosted a Service Provider Gathering in Mattawa. MNO programs that participated included the Métis Family Wellbeing, the Métis Healthy Babies/Healthy Children, Community Wellness Worker and Community Support Services programs as well as Employment and Education program staff.

The Service Provider Gathering brought together MNO staff with other agencies in the Mattawa area that provide services to the same clientele. It provided an opportunity for all involved to network and learn from each other.

The MNO staff members acted as a team to promote the MNO



▲ (Left-right) **MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator Christy Lewin, MNO Employment Coordinator Mark Burns, MNO Community Support Services Mary-Kelly McCormick, MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Mattingly Turgeon and MNO Métis Healthy Babies and Healthy Children Coordinator Lisa Poulin and MNO Mattawa Métis Council Senator Joyceline Rose.**

programs to the service providers who attended. The objective was to raise awareness of what the MNO has to offer to the community and to the local service providers.

By collaborating with other service providers in the area, MNO staff are strengthening relationships between the providers and their organizations

in the Mattawa area. The MNO staff provided workshops at the Gathering to give an idea of the kinds of services the MNO offers.

The first activity was a Faceless Dolls Workshop that addressed the critical issue of violence against Indigenous women and girls.

The second activity was creating

a banner titled “These Hands Don't Create Violence.” All participants painted their hands and placed them on the banner. They then wrote their names under their hand print.

During the event, each provider shared what services their organization or program offers. By knowing what providers offered in

the community, the MNO encouraged and promoted cooperation and cultural understanding between providers.

Knowing who is who in the community is significant when it comes to referrals and social support systems. The Service Provider Gathering allowed MNO staff to connect to other providers and who they could potentially refer their clients to in the future.

The banner and Faceless Dolls was donated to the Mattawa Hospital to bring awareness of MNO programming to those who may not know who offers what in the community.

The Gathering helped identify service gaps that exist in some instances and were able to fill those gaps by networking amongst their peers.

The Service Provider Gathering proved to be very valuable for both the MNO staff and other service providers in the Mattawa area. ∞



▲ Women and children march on Queen Street South in Mississauga during Take Back the Night event.

Take Back the Night in Mississauga

submitted by
Catherine Corbett, MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

On September 21, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens and staff participated in the second annual Take Back the Night event and rally that took place at the beautiful Streetsville Square in Mississauga.

The event was hosted by the Peel Committee Against Woman Abuse (PCAWA). The MNO is a proud member of PCAWA through its Brampton office.

Take Back the Night is an anti-violence vigil to increase awareness and support every woman's right to live without fear. Over 150 people attended the event and supported the PCAWA by speaking out against violence against women. Some honoured guests who came to support the event were Member of Parliament (MP) Sven Spengemann and City of Mississauga Councilors Sue McFadden, Matt Mahoney and George Carlson.

Take Back the Night included displays by community organizations and began with a delicious Boston Pizza and samosa dinner. The emcees came from the Newcomer Centre of Peel and the United Food and Commercial Workers of Canada. The opening included a prayer from an elder and the acknowledgement that Mississauga sits on Indigenous lands.

Survivors who spoke included poet Renee McPhee, Sylvie Noutie and singers Adri Noronha and Lukshana Sathyanathan. Those who attended were moved and found strength as these amazing women opened up about their experiences.

In the evening, the group of women and children gathered

together on Queen Street with a police escort. The group marched to Britannia Park and then came back to the square where they had started. The women and children were decorated with yellow glow sticks provided by MNO staff members and Catherine Corbett and Rose Colacci-Fines. Corbett acted as a safety marshal during the event keeping the marchers safe and directing them away from the traffic. Corbett also helped march leaders with chanting. The volume level of the chanting was very powerful and received great attention from people who were not part of the march. Rally chants included: "Hey hey! ho ho! Patriarchy has got to go!" and "However we dress, wherever we go yes means yes and no means no!"

At the end of the evening the crowd's voices were raspy but everyone was full of positive energy.

The MNO staff of Brampton had a great time partnering with the PCAWA on this event and look forward to the next event to end violence against women. ∞

If you or someone you know is living with abuse in the Credit River area, please contact the MNO staff in Brampton:
Catherine Corbett
905-450-444 Ext. 304
Rose Colacci-Fines
905-450-444 Ext. 305

MNO Mattawa Métis Council contributes to Splashpad Project

submitted by
Melanie Rose, MNO Mattawa Métis Council Secretary Treasurer

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Mattawa Métis Council (MMC) contributed \$1000 towards the Mattawa Splash Pad project on June 20, 2017.

The Splash Pad is a Canada 150 project that when complete will build a \$200,000 facility in Timmins Park in Mattawa. Approximately half the funding is coming

from the town of Mattawa but fundraising for the project is also being carried out by a group of volunteers who have solicited funds from local businesses, interest groups, associations and Mattawa residents and former residents. The MNO MMC was very happy to support this worthy project. ∞



▲ (Left-right) MNO Mattawa Métis Council Chair Roger Rose, MNO Mattawa Métis Council Women's Representative Joycelin Rose, MNO Mattawa Métis Council President Nelson Montreuil, Splashpad Organizer Dexter Sarrazin and MNO Mattawa Métis Council Secretary Treasurer Melanie Rose.

Honourary MNO Senator Reta Gordon takes part in Covenant Chain Link Gathering

submitted by
Devora Cascante
MNO Toronto and York Region Kairos Canada Administrative Associate

On October 19 and 20, 2017, Honourary Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Reta Gordon participated in the opening and closing ceremonies at the Eighth Annual Covenant Chain Link Gathering, which took place at the Confederation Education Centre in Ottawa.

Covenant Chain Link Gathering is an annual, Ottawa-based event that brings together First Nations, Inuit, and Métis governments, agencies and individuals with teachers, students, church groups, education consultants and members of the general public to share ideas and learn from each other about the evolving relationship between

Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

This event gets its name from the Covenant Chain, which was an alliance between the Iroquois Confederacy and the British colonies of North America. Embodied in the Two Row Wampum treaty, the Covenant Chain respected the dignity and integrity of the two peoples involved in this agreement, stresses non-interference and was based on the principles of peace, friendship and mutual respect.

The theme of this year's event was Empowered and Empowering Youth. Participants were treated to a number of youth-led workshops on cultural appropriation, proper ally



▲ (Left-right) Elder Victoria (Vicki) Grant Boucher, Sally Webster and Senator Reta Gordon open the eighth annual Covenant Chain Link Gathering in Ottawa.

etiquette, storytelling and sharing circles. The opening keynote presentation was by author and educator Dr. Jenny Kay Dupuis, a proud member of Nipissing First Nation.

MNO Senator Reta Gordon kindly participated in the opening and closing ceremonies. She was joined by Elders Sally Webster and Victoria (Vicki) Grant Boucher. Senator Gordon welcomed participants

to the gathering with her beautiful prayers and inspiring words of wisdom.

Senator Gordon also attended the workshops and took the time to chat with all the youth presenters. Her presence throughout the day helped create a safe and open environment where participants were able to explore our common history and exchange ideas while getting to

know each other.

"Every year I so enjoy and learn so much from these meetings," said Senator Gordon.

Upon closing, she shared thoughtful memories of her past in connection with the youth leaders in the room. ∞



Another successful MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council tree planting project

submitted by
Larry J. Ferris

MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council
Chairperson

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) has completed another successful tree planting project, this time at the Orillia campus of Lakehead University.

The University has property set aside for Indigenous students and staff and part of the property is a garden zone that includes Indigenous plants used for food, medicine and ceremony.

This property already includes a Three Sisters Garden planted by the Orillia Native Women's Group and another local group Ambe Tigadaw, which brings attention to food security issues for Indigenous people. There are also allotment-based community gardens in Orillia operated by the city.

The MNO GBMC was asked to help out with the trees planting. The Council carefully prepared a list of trees that Métis historically used, including Cedar (a traditional medicinal plant), Saskatoon Berry (used to make pemmican), Spruce (used in spruce tip tea) and Sugar Maple (used for maple syrup).

Planting the trees was a

community effort. Planters included faculty and students, representatives from the Orillia Native Women's Group and MNO GBMC volunteers.

MNO GBMC Senator Ken "Two Dogs" Fraser started the event with a smudging and a prayer. For some of the participants it was their first smudging. Pat Taylor, the MNO GBMC's Women Representative, drummed and sang a song. As always, she was a strong voice for the women.

Greg and Heather Garratt were fantastic ambassadors of the MNO GBMC and members of the community believe Greg deserves the Aboriginal name "Many Hats."

After the openings and introductions, MNO GBMC volunteers planted the trees. It was very nice to have the young students helping out. Not only were they able to do the jobs quickly, they brought great enthusiasm.

Council members were able to talk to other planters and answer some questions. There were great discussions with the Lakehead University staff about further partnerships. Allysha Wassegijig, the Aboriginal Initiatives Coordinator for the Orillia Campus, has been partnering with Provisional Council of Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Post-Secondary Representative Kaitlyn LaCroix.

▲ **Volunteers with the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council and students and faculty of Lakehead University, Orillia Campus**

A big thank you goes out to the MNO GBMC volunteers for their hard work and to Lakehead University for so warmly receiving the Council, especially with Wassegijig and Dr. Linda Rodenburg.

The MNO GBMC recognizes and thanks the Central Canada Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee for their generous grant that allowed the MNO GBMC to undertake this project. ∞

MNO citizen and her daughters participate in Red Dress Project

submitted by
Colleen Brunel

MNO Grand River Métis Council Women's Representative

Recently, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) Women's Representative Colleen Brunelle and her daughters Avaline and Stella participated in a photo shoot with photographer Carly Hunt on the grounds of Marianne's Park in the City of Guelph.

Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis partnered with Hunt to take photographs of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women and children as part of a social media campaign

called the Red Dress Project, which will raise awareness for Canada's missing and murdered Indigenous women.

The Red Dress Project started as an art installation created in 2010 by Winnipeg Métis artist Jaime Black. It has grown all across Canada as a haunting reminder of the more than 1000 missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. It serves to both mark their absence and remind us all that they will not be forgotten.

On October 4, 2017, Colleen,



her daughters and over 100 community members attended the Sisters in Spirit Vigil held at the Boat-house and Maryanne's Park on the Speed River. Event staff from Women in Crisis streamed an APTN Taken episode outlining the case of Cheyenne Fox. At the end, those in attendance were encouraged to share one word which described how they felt about the episode. Emotions of sorrow, anger, regret and shame were shared. Participants then proceeded across the river, candle in hand, to Maryanne's

Park where the candlelight vigil was held.

Many Women in Crisis staff, thanked Colleen and her daughters for contributing to the Red Dress project and were very interested in understanding the meanings behind the Brunelle's Métis sash. It was a great conversation starter that attracted the media who requested interviews and photos. Guelph Today, Conestoga College's media program and University of Guelph students all took photos. ∞

▲ **Part of the Red Dress Project social media campaign that raises awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous women. (Left to right): Avaline Brunelle, Stella Brunelle and MNO Grand River Métis Council Women's Representative Colleen Brunelle.**

MNO North Bay Métis Council hosts annual Harvest Gathering

submitted by
Amanda Farrell
*MNO Métis Family Wellbeing
Program Coordinator*
.....

On September 23, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Bay Métis Council (NBMC) welcomed 120 participants to its annual Harvest Gathering at the Callander Community Centre in Callander just outside of North Bay. The MNO NBMC takes pride in maintaining connections with its citizens, families and community members. The Council works collectively to provide cultural experiences to the communities they work with and to protect and practice the Métis Way of Life. The MNO NBMC with the MNO staff from the MNO North Bay office embraced a team-work approach to provide an exceptional community gathering. One of the highlights of the Harvest Gathering was a presentation by MNO NBMC Youth Representative

Sophie Larocque. She shared her experiences growing up within the Métis community and talked about her present role as a leader within the MNO NBMC. Sophie said, “The Harvest Gathering was a great success this year. As the Youth Representative for the North Bay Métis Council it was my honour to greet everyone at the registration table. Citizens from all over Northern Ontario came to celebrate our Harvest Gathering. It was a beautiful day to have a sacred fire to connect with spiritually and receive knowledge... The Harvest Gathering brought back many memories of when I was a little girl and my father first started to bring me to gatherings and how excited and proud I would get to wear my sash even though I did not fully understand our culture or our heritage. As I am always expanding my knowledge, I feel more confident and able to share with the youth of my region. I am looking forward to many more of these events being hosted and connecting with

the youth, the elders as well as new people interested in the culture and help them connect with this amazing heritage I can share with them.” To promote an inclusive environment, the MNO NBMC provided an allergy-friendly diet with of traditional food selections for lunch and dinner. The Council had indoor and outdoor activities that promoted a harvest theme available to everyone that included: archery, Métis Voyageur Games, basket weaving, dot art, sacred fire, storytelling, live bilingual music, Clydesdale horse wagon rides, cultural displays and vendors. The MNO NBMC with MNO staff from the North Bay MNO office look forward to sharing more cultural programming to promote the Métis Way of Life within their community. ∞

Please contact the office at **705-474-2767** for more information of upcoming programs.



▲ (Left-right) MNO Community Support Services Coordinator Mary-Kelly McCormick, Girl Guides of Canada 2nd year Brownie Charlotte and MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Mattingly Turgeon at the MNO North Bay Métis Council Harvest Gathering.



▲ Métis youth and canoeist André Nault carries the Métis flag during the Waterloo Pow Wow.

MNO Grand River Métis Council participates in Waterloo Pow Wow

submitted by
Diane Kilby, MNO Grand River Métis Council Councilor
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On September 23, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) participated in St. Paul's University College's 14th Annual Traditional Pow Wow at the Waterloo Aboriginal Education Centre. This year marks the fourth consecutive year that the MNO GRMC participated in the event. André Nault who was a member of the 2017 MNO Canoe

Expedition proudly carried the Métis flag during the grand entrance and the closing ceremony. The MNO GRMC did its absolute best to ensure that there was a visible Métis presence at the Pow Wow, using the opportunity to answer the many questions posed by others about the Métis Nation and its people. Participation in the Pow Wow was also an excellent fundraising

opportunity for the Council. It allowed the Council to raise funds to pursue even more educational ventures. Despite temperatures well over 30° Celsius, there was vigorous dancing, drumming, crafts and delicious traditional food. It was so hot that some people stayed as close as possible to the shade provided by the MNO GRMC's tent, while others wore cooling head bands to prevent heat exhaustion. This Pow Wow was a treasure and the Council hopes to be part of the event again in 2018. ∞

MNO participates in Sisters in Spirit Walk in Midland

submitted by
Tracy Bald
*MNO Community Wellness
Coordinator*
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On October 4, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens and staff participated in the Sisters in Spirit Walk in Midland. Sisters in Spirit Walk is a day where people honour the lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). The violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls in Canada is a national tragedy. Family members, Indigenous community members and concerned citizens gather for a march every October 4 to

honour the memory of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Marches take place in many communities across Canada as well as internationally. These gatherings serve to raise awareness and to provide support to families who have lost a loved one. The Sisters in Spirit Walk started at the office of the Georgian Bay Native Women's Association and over 100 people participated from numerous community organizations. Participants carried signs, banners and flags honouring the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The Walk concluded at Neezhoday Park where a candle light vigil was held. ∞



▲ (Left-right): Savannah Duhamel and Sophie Keen sharing the flame during the Sisters in Spirit Walk in Midland.

MNO citizens and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry restore cemetery

submitted by
Yvonne Jensen
MNO North Channel Métis Council President

On September 14, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Channel Métis Council President Yvonne Jensen and a crew from her Council, the MNO Historic Sault St. Marie Métis Council (HSSMC) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) met at the Mississauga Delta Cemetery.

The crew included HSSMC President Kim Powley, Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Youth Representative Mitch Case, MNO HSSMC Secretary Steve Gjos and Roxanne McCoy and Tammy Morningstar who are President Jensen's cousins and Tamara Flanigan from the MNRF and two of her co-workers.

Several of President Jensen's ancestors are in the cemetery, which was in quite a state of disrepair. Restoring the cemetery was very important to President Jensen who has been working with Flanigan for four years to try to get permission to have the cemetery

cleared up. Flanigan recently received the ok to proceed with the clean up.

To reach the cemetery, Flanigan and her co-workers paddled in by canoe and the rest of the workers went by boat.

Throughout the cemetery there were fallen branches from trees and overgrown of weeds and bushings that covered most of the tombstones. Flanigan's team went in and did a lot of the heavy work including chain sawing and cutting a lot of tree debris.

Secretary Gjos and Representative Case performed a smudging ceremony for the area and also performed a pipe ceremony. Afterwards, the workers placed red roses on all of the tombstones.

There are 14 people buried at the cemetery that the workers clearly identified.

A big thank you to the MNRF, Flanigan and her team for helping the MNO get this cemetery restored. ∞



▲ (Left-right) Tammy Morningstar, Roxanne McCoy, MNO North Channel Métis Council President Yvonne Jensen, MNO Historic Sault St. Marie Métis Council Secretary Steve Gjos, MNO Historic Sault St. Marie Métis Council President Kim Powley and PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case.



▲ (Left-right) MNO Great Lakes Métis Council Office Coordinator Susan Staves-Schank and MNO Great Lakes Métis Council Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle meeting Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell at a Billy Bishop event in Owen Sound.

MNO Senator meets Lieutenant Governor in Owen Sound

submitted by
Susan Staves-Schank
MNO Great Lakes Métis Council Office Coordinator

On June 9, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Great Lakes Métis Council (GLMC) Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle and MNO GLMC Office Coordinator Susan Staves-Schank met the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. They met her Honour at an event marking for the 100th anniversary of when Billy Bishop received the Victoria Cross for a dawn raid on a German aerodrome on June 2, 1917.

Senator Thistle and Ms. Staves-Schank provided a gift of sage and sweet grass to Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell during the meet and greet at the event. The sweet grass

was grown from the MNO GLMC community garden.

In her remarks at the event, Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell noted the country's efforts at reconciliation with First Nations and Métis peoples who've been in Canada for millennia, she said "so it's not simply a celebration of 150 years, it's much more than that."

Her Honour also hopes Canadians would look ahead at "what it is that we're going to need for this country to move forward even in the next 50 years and what it is we need to protect and safeguard about the way in which we live." ∞



▲ (Left-right) **Rajan Anderson** fiddles as **MNO Clear Waters Métis Council Councilor Josh Clarke** and **MNO citizen Jennifer Cain** jig at fall picnic feast.

MNO Clear Waters Métis Council host a fall picnic feast

submitted by
Jerry Clarke
MNO Clear Waters Métis Council President

On September 9, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Clear Waters Métis Council (CWMC) hosted a fantastic fall picnic feast event at Mohawk Park in Brantford Ontario.

The event was organized by MNO CWMC Senator Maryjane Buttenham and proved to be a great success.

The Council supplied a wonderful feast for the approximately

65 citizens in attendance. The local Tim Hortons sponsored all the coffee for the event.

There was a variety of entertainers including the astonishing Métis music of the Anderson Family along with the excitement of the MNO Voyageur Games. Citizens and other attendees had the opportunity to learn jigging and try axe throwing as well as target practice with rifles and sling shots.

A large trappers tent on site featured an array of cultural displays, as well as MNO program materials.

The event was well received and the Council is planning on making it an annual event. ∞



▲ (Front row, left-right) **Roger Laurin, Brenda Laurin, Lorraine Mountney, Carl Ferris, Heather Garratt, Sophie, Drew, Tracey Bald.** (Back row, left-right) **MNO GBMC Senator Ken “Two Dogs” Fraser, MNO GBMC Chairperson Larry J. Ferris, Debbie Ferris Giammatto, Terra-Lynn Moreau-Vivian.**

MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council venture into Beausoleil Island National Park

submitted by
Larry J. Ferris
MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chairperson

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) made another trip to Beausoleil Island National Park with staff from the MNO office in Midland as well as some great volunteers on September 21, 2017. Back in August 2016, the MNO GBMC visited Beausoleil Island to celebrate some of the achievements and work they had completed at the Cemetery of the Oaks as reported in past issues of the *Métis Voyageur*.

The MNO GBMC, MNO staff and volunteers participated in a guided walk with the park staff and enjoyed a wonderful barbeque lunch hosted by Brian Charles of Parks Canada.

The group also saw the trees they had previously planted on the Island and how well they were doing. To recognize the council's hard work, Parks Canada erected a sign acknowledging MNO GBMC. During the guided walk, the park interpreters told other groups about MNO GBMC's contributions to the Island.

The MNO GBMC also toured the Cemetery of the Oaks, which is one of the first cemeteries where First Nations and Métis people have been laid to rest. Signage at the Cemetery is written in Anishinaabe, English, French and Michif. This cemetery is special to MNO staff member Lorraine Mountney as some of her close relatives rest there. Mountney came back glowing and said, “I found some of my relatives here and I would never had known this if I hadn't come.” This was Mountney's first trip to the Island and it won't be her last. ∞



▲ (Left-right) **Museum Curator Kim Reid, Museum Director Susan Neal, MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council Chair Christa Lemelin** and **Museum Curatorial Assistant Allison Hayes.**

The story of Louis Riel's accordion

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

On October 5, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) Chair Christa Lemelin was invited to the Peterborough Museum and Archives to learn about a very important artifact in their collection. The artifact was an accordion that once belonged to Louis Riel.

Museum staff gave her a behind-the-scenes tour and explained where the artifact was from and how it came to be a part of their collection.

A close examination of the accordion reveals that Louis Riel's initials “L.D.R” inscribed on it.

According to the information on file, the accordion was found in the belongings of Louis Riel in Batoche and was taken by Canadian soldier Walter Stewart after the 1885

Resistance in which many Peterborough men served.

Walter Stewart was the first person into the Batoche and the accordion was taken as a trophy of souvenir (this is reportedly the same group that brought the Bell of Batoche to Peterborough). Stewart then sent the accordion to George Stewart, who's family donated it to the original Peterborough Museum over 100 years ago.

In 2002, the Peterborough Museum contacted the Saint-Boniface Museum suggesting that the accordion should be repatriated back to the Métis people so that it could be placed where it belonged. At that time, Saint-Boniface said they would be happy to discuss this option, but told the Peterborough Museum to keep it safe in the meantime. ∞



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▲ Bishop Douglas Crosby from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton (left) exchanging gifts with MNO Great Lakes Métis Council Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle (right) at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Walkerton Ontario.

MNO Senator speaks to Bishop about advancing truth and reconciliation

submitted by
Susan Schank
MNO Great Lakes Métis Council Office Coordinator

On September 21, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Great Lakes Métis Council Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle spoke with Bishop Douglas Crosby of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton about current developments between Métis Nation and Canada around truth and reconciliation. Senator Thistle and Bishop Crosby met in Walkerton Ontario at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. During the meeting there was an exchange of gifts and expressions of respect and recognition. After the service, Senator Thistle met with many members of the congregation and had positive conversations on how the Church and Métis can move forward to make Canada a better place by advancing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. ∞

Bishop presented with MNO Women’s Shawl

submitted by
Pearl Gabona, MNO Women’s Council Representative

On September 26, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Women’s Council Representative Pearl Gabona had the honour of presenting Bishop Riscylla Shaw with a MNO Women’s Council Shawl while she was

the guest speaker at the Anglican Church Women’s 50th Anniversary Lunch at St George’s Anglican Church in Newcastle. Bishop Shaw is an MNO citizen and daughter of Honourary MNO Senator Ruth Wagner. She was recently installed as a Bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada and is one of the first Métis to achieve this high position in any Christian Church in Canada. ∞



▲ MNO Women’s Council Representative Pearl Gabona (right) presents a MNO Women’s Council Shawl to Parish Bishop Riscylla Shaw (left) at the Anglican Church Women’s 50th Anniversary Lunch at St. George’s in Newcastle.



Members of the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) with the Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers (Left-right): MNO TYRMC Women's Representative Shirley Debassige, MNO TYRMC Councilor John Budarick, MNO TYRMC Secretary Treasurer Marilyn Hews, MNO TYRMC Councilor Kezia Picard, Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers Jacob Harris, Cieanna Harris, MNO TYRMC Citizen Mike Berg, MNO TYRMC Citizen Michael Harris, MNO TYRM Senator Constance Simmonds, MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu, MNO TYRMC Youth Representative Christine Skura and MNO TYRMC Chair Todd Ross.



Celebrating Métis

MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council hosts first Rendezvous

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

On October 14, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) hosted its first ever Rendezvous at Black Creek Pioneer Village on the border of the MNO TYRMC's jurisdiction.

The MNO TYRMC Rendezvous was a celebration of Métis culture and provided an opportunity for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people alike to gather together to learn about and celebrate the Métis Nation in the Toronto and York areas.

The event featured entertainers, children's activities, Métis Voyageur Games, traditional teachings, vendors, beading, jigging lessons, historical and cultural displays.

The space at Black Creek Pioneer Village was divided into several zones including a main stage. At the main stage, MNO Youth Council President Mitch Case was the host. He introduced and bridged each performance with education about

Métis history and culture.

The day featured some of the best musicians and fiddlers around including: Amy Pinkus and Nathan Rideout who played folk-indie fiddle and guitar duets; the Métis Fiddler Quartet members Conlin and Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk, who were joined by double bassist Scott Kemp; the country band Southbound, all the students in the Humber College Bachelor of Music program; and Alicia and Liam Blore who played fiddle and guitar while the Toronto Métis jiggers demonstrated traditional jigs. The final act was the Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers who travelled from Winnipeg and practically lit the stage on fire with their high energy traditional dances mixed with modern and hip hop jigs.

At the center of the grounds was a fire pit where MNO TYRMC Senator Constance Simmonds and Virginia Barter provided traditional teachings and storytelling. Virginia and MNO Credit River Métis Council

Traditional Knowledge Keeper Jim Tolles also set up historical and cultural displays where they were on hand to educate the guests about Métis culture and heritage.

Other areas included vendors and tents for learning and fun: Métis dot art painting, colouring and finger weaving was facilitated by Elani Pappas and MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator Justin Dufour; Kyle Burton and Megan Southwell led a jigging workshop for participants; MNO Community Relations Manager Hank Rowlinson facilitated raffle shooting and hatchet throwing; and Brittany Matthews and Connor McNamara facilitated Métis beadwork workshops throughout the day. They were assisted by a number of York University students who participated as part of a course credit offered through a collaboration with York University.

The day took an incredible amount of planning which began in the fall of 2016. The Council put a tremendous amount of effort into planning and was incredibly fortunate for all of the support numerous volunteers who came forward to

assist with the planning as well as the help throughout the day.

All of this was made possible by some very generous donations.

The Toronto Foundation Canada 150 Community Foundations of Canada provided a grant for the Rendezvous. It was with careful consideration that the Council applied to a grant tied to "Canada 150," however, the Council agreed the opportunity to offer MNO citizens the Council's own grand scale celebration to honour the Métis stories and history outweighed those concerns and the Council's was incredibly grateful to the Toronto Foundation for providing funding for their precedent setting Rendezvous.

The Council was also received support from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Canada (CIBC), Printing House, York University, the Bank of Montreal Sharing Circle, ScotiaBank, JobReady CPR, Taking IT Global and Gangster Cheese.

The Council was very pleased that so many people were able to join them throughout the day and engaged with their Senator, artists and Knowledge Keepers to learn about Métis life and traditions.

After an opening prayer by Senator Simmonds, President Beaulieu offered a welcome to all participants.

Special guests at the Rendezvous included members and/or representatives from the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario, the MNO Youth Council, the MNO Veterans' Council, the MNO Women's Council, the MNO Oshawa Durham Métis Council, the MNO Credit River Métis Council, the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council, Mississauga's of New Credit First Nation, Regional Municipality of York, Toronto City Council and the Toronto Foundation. Greetings were also sent from the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation David Zimmer, who was unable to attend.

This precedent-setting event would not have been possible without the Council's dedicated volunteers, planning committee, partners, generous sponsors and a lot of work from the Council.

The Council thanks all who made this event very successful. ∞

Five Councils participate in Governance and Finance Training

submitted by
Glen Lipinski, MNO Community Relations Coordinator

In the last few months, five Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) community councils participated in MNO Governance and Finance Training. On September 23-24, 2017, the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council (TBMC), MNO Greenstone Métis Council (GMC) and the MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council (SNSMC) received training together in Thunder Bay. On October 14-16, 2017, the MNO Northern Lights Métis Council (NLMC) participated in a Governance and Finance Training that was held in Cochrane and on November 4-5, 2017, MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) received their training in Toronto.

Each of these training workshops were facilitated by the MNO Community Relations Coordinator Glen Lipinski.

The 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.

Through funding provided by the New Relationship Fund, the

MNO has been able to continually develop and deliver Governance and Finance Training that helps improve community councils perform their work.

Since the MNO has offered this training, the following community councils have participated: the MNO Moon River, Sunset Country, Kenora, Northwest, Windsor, Clear Waters, High Land Waters, North Bay, Temiskaming, Northern Lights, Thunder Bay, Atikokan and Area, Niagara Region, Peterborough and District Wapiti, Grand River, Credit River, Toronto and York Region, Sudbury, Ottawa Region, North Channel, Great Lakes and Georgian Bay Métis Councils.

The course is a two-day seminar held locally that explains the role of community councils as the MNO's local governments, whose structure and purpose is coordinated through each council's charter agreement with the MNO. The course covers everything from how to run effective meetings and engage citizens in council activities to budgeting and the various financial practices, regulations and legislation that community councils follow. ∞



▲ (Front row, left-right) Deanna Cooper, MNO Greenstone Métis Council President William Gordon, Kelly Camacho and Senator Patricia Dryden. (Left-right) middle row: MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council President Jean Camirand, Senator Ken Simard, Allan Gordon, Mike Reneaud and Tim Sinclair. (Back row, left-right) Madeline Dennhardt, Brian Prairie, Trudy Bellamy, Raymond Dufault, Lori LaForme, Wendy Houston and MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council President Trent Desaulniers.



▲ MNO Northern Lights Métis Council members: (Left-right) Dennis Beaulne, Jackie Courville, Aurel Courville Gerry Courville, Chris Lalonde and MNO Northern Lights Métis Council President Doug Hull.



▲ MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council: (Front, left-right) Shirley Debassige, Kezia Picard, Senator Constance Simmonds, Chair Todd Ross. (Back, left-right) Marilyn Hew, Tera Beaulieu, Mike Berg, John Budarick.

EDITORIAL

All opinions represent the views of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the positions and policies of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

The Sac-a-Toutmet is used for many purposes, one of which is to hold precious and useful items. It varies in size depending on the individual's needs.

The one that I use to teach students and how to make their own is worn around the neck. It is the same as the medicine pouch our First Nations cousins sometimes wear.

In my teachings to students and at times for adults, I will relate the contents of my Sac-a-Toutmet in order to promote lessons for peace of mind, focus, respect for self, for others, and for nature and the environment.

After the teachings, participants make their own with the deer hide and other materials provided. They may later choose some articles that I gift to them to add to the ones they have yet to find.

I begin by telling participants the contents of the Sac-a-Toutmet are personal and kept to one-self unless the person wearing it chooses to share why certain items are enclosed.

I always share and explain the meaning behind each item collected in mine and how the whole is used to help me in times of challenges.

Taking one item out at a time and telling the story behind them captures the students attention to what is said and a lesson hopefully learned from them.

The following are the items in my Sac-a-Toutmet. I begin with the four sacred plants that are in small packets. These are cedar, sage, sweet grass and tobacco. I explain in general how most First Nations people and many Métis people use them. They can be used for prayer time, medicines and therapeutic practice.

I also show them a wolf's fang or tooth and tell the students we need respect for wildlife. I admire the wolf for its family unity with the pack and the determination with which it will fight to protect itself and others in its pack. One day I found a dead wolf on the side of the highway. From respect I picked it up and took it to a stream I found and laid it to rest there.

Returning with time passed I collected a tooth and two claws for myself in order to use it for teaching purposes.



Sac-a-Toutmet

By Richard Aubin

You take something you leave something....I left tobacco in respect for the wolf life force.

I mention to participants have respect towards the animals, the environment, self and others.

I then show my audience a small packet containing pebbles collected from Louis Riel's resting place. If participants are not aware who Louis was, I normally will give a bit of a talk on his history. Then I explain because he was our leader and fought with the ferocity of a wolf for our rights, I left one of the wolf claws in the ground where the pebbles were taken. I believe if you take something then you should leave something behind out of respect.

Another packet is shown containing sediment collected

from the Red River bank. I say it reminds me of the travel routes taken by my ancestors along the waterways. How the Métis harvested off the land and travelled to explore new land and remain connected to family relations as well as other Indigenous communities.

A silver cross is enclosed to keep my faith healthy with the creator and asking for guidance and protection during my travels.

Inside the pouch I have a pinch of tobacco wrapped in cloth for an offering when the need is encountered.

A .22 calibre bullet is the last item to remind me of harvesting food off the land for my family, extended family and myself. I always offer tobacco to the Creator when I have been successful in harvesting a moose. I thank creator and the animal spirit for the food it will provide.

Showing these items to the students always generate thoughts and conversations. I then explain how the Tac-a-Toutmet helps me in times of need. I say to the students when challenged you need to make good choices in life and it is not always an easy task.

When stressed stop I encourage them to take their Sac-a-Toutmet in hand and close their eyes. I tell them to think of the first item - see it in their mind - remember the good things it means to you and let the good from it come to you in your thoughts. I tell them to breath in slowly, hear their

breath and remember when they found this object and how happy it made you feel to receive it from the land or from someone they care about. I encourage them to think about the person that gave them the item.

I instruct the audience to repeat the actions until they have visualized all of the contents and finish their meditation with a prayer to the Creator.

In doing this practice they will have taken a moment to breath. They will have reduced their frustrations, anger or fear of what may be challenging them at the time.

Now they are ready to think of a good choice of words or actions to use to address the challenge they have encountered. Be kind to others and yourself. ∞

ACHIEVEMENTS

2017 PETRO CANADA FUELLING ATHLETE
AND COACHING EXCELLENCE GRANT (FACE)

MNO citizen receives grant for athletic excellence

submitted by
Kristin McCoy
*Manager, Regional Training Centre
Synchronized Swimming in Ontario*

On September 18, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and synchronized swimmer Maura McLean was awarded the Petro-Canada Fuelling Athlete 2017 Grant.

Every year, Petro-Canada selects 55 promising athletes from across Canada to receive these grants as part of their Fueling Athletes and Coaching Excellence (FACE) Program. These athletes and their coaches are awarded a \$10,000 FACE grant to help them along their journey, with \$5,000 going directly to the athlete and \$5,000 going to their coach. FACE grants are often used for training, equipment, coach education and travel expenses for competitions.

Maura and her synchronize swimming coach Jennifer Koptie both received the FACE grant.

Maura started synchronized swimming when she was six years old. She quickly fell in love with the sport and moved from a recreational program to the provincial-level, and then the national-level program at Variety Village in Scarborough, Ontario. Three years ago Maura was selected to train at the Regional

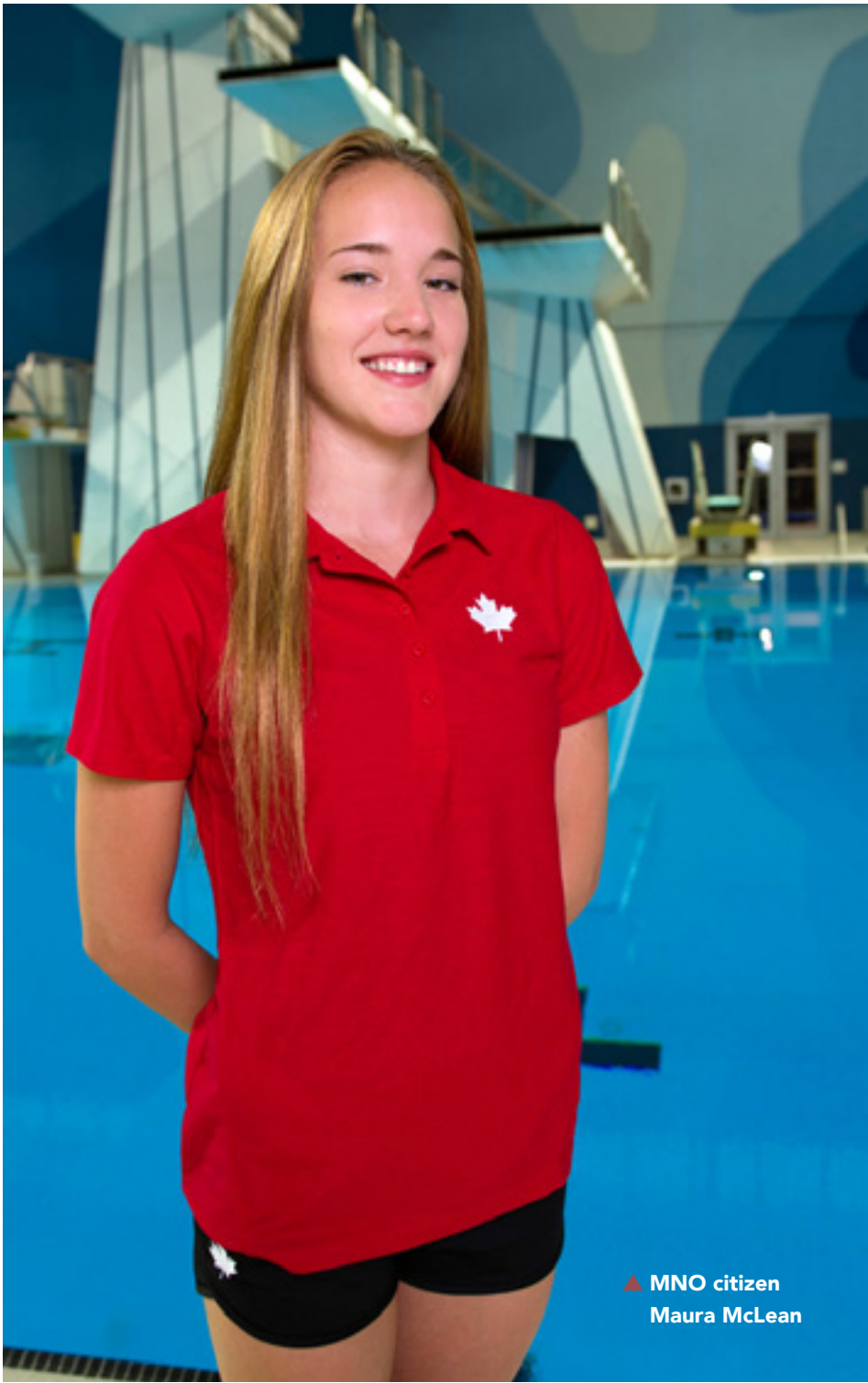
Training Centre in Ontario as a national-level high performance athlete.

Maura is a three-time Canadian national team member and has won several awards, including placing first in Canada in the 13-15 year old duet category, as well as receiving gold in the 12 and under solo category.

Her favourite part of the sport is the team event and she has been fortunate to swim with excellent teams under the direction of great coaches. Maura's various teams have won many gold and silver medals in several different age categories at various Canadian competitions throughout the years.

Now at the 15-18 years old or junior level, Maura especially loves combining her overall athleticism with the artistic elements of the sport, making it both extremely difficult and rewarding. She trains 30 hours a week at Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre and works hard at juggling a full-time high school schedule with the high demands of synchronized swimming, a sport which requires many hours of land training in strength and flexibility as well as countless hours of water training.

Showing her well-rounded approach to life, Maura said: "my dream is to be a good person who is kind to others and who always does her best at everything she tries, both as an athlete and in life." ∞



▲ MNO citizen
Maura McLean

MNO citizen wins karate gold at World Police and Fire Games

submitted by
Reta Gordon
*MNO Honourary Senator
with files from **MASUCCESS Martial Arts News***

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Perry William Kelly won a gold medal for the Karate during the 2017 World Police and Fire Games in Los Angeles on August 14, 2017. Kelly won in the over 50 years of age and under 75 kilograms (165 pounds) division.

Fifty-nine year old Kelly proved that participation in martial arts can last a lifetime. Having returned to Karate in 2016 after a 45-year hiatus, he ran up a string of gold-medal performances at various competitions such as the North American Police and Fire Games and the Montreal Open Invitionals. Kelly's success led to his 2017 championship victory in Karate at the World Games, which

attracted 7,000 participants from all over the world to compete in 70 sports.

Kelly is also a multi-martial arts instructor who uses his success in competitive Karate as a platform to raise awareness of the problem of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in law enforcement, military and first responders.

Kelly is a former MNO representative to the City of Gloucester (now part of Ottawa) and is also a lawyer, author and former criminology professor. 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.

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 PTSD.

MNO citizens have recognized Kelly's past accomplishments and he has been previously featured on the MNO website. Kelly will turn 60 in November of this year and he intends to fight in the 60 plus division of major martial arts tournaments in 2018. ∞



▲ MNO citizen Perry William Kelly receives gold at the 2017 World Police and Fire Games.

MNO citizen receives Order of Ontario

submitted by
Debbie Ferris-Gianmattolla
MNO Health and Wellness Community
Support Services Coordinator

On June 28, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen “Little Brown Bear” Ernest Matton was one of 28 people invested into the Order of Ontario. The Order of Ontario is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding qualities of individual excellence and achievement.

Matton was selected to receive the Order because of his work with the Michael Garron Toronto East-Health Network family. There, he manages and facilitates the newly accredited Aboriginal Healing Program, a program he has spent the past six years developing.

Matton blends Indigenous teachings with Western information to provide holistic healing approaches for Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of the community. According to Matton: “being Aboriginal is not a life style it is a way of life.

Matton is an expert in the areas of trauma, addiction and mental health, and he is both a sought-after speaker and effective group facilitator.

Matton wears the yellow Métis Sash with pride to signify that he honours missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and that he speaks to the commitment to breaking the cycle of violence and abuse.

Matton’s guiding philosophy is simple: “People don’t care how much you know. They want to know how much you care.” ∞



▲ MNO citizen Ernest Matton (left) with Ontario Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell following his investiture into the Order of Ontario.

Obituary



Celebrating the life of MNO citizen Alphonse Joseph Breland

On September 5, 2017, a celebration of life was held for Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Alphonse Joseph Breland at the Branch 123 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Waterford. Alphonse passed away on September 1, 2017. The celebration was organized by his daughter, MNO citizen Angele Watson.

Alphonse was one of 15 children born to Wilfred Alfred Breland and Ida Robinson in northern Alberta. Ida was Wilfred’s second wife. They lived in St. Xavier, St. Paul and then moved to Peace River. He was sent to live with other families sporadically from the time he was five until he set out on his own when he was around 14.

He was proud to have driven teams of five horses on various farms. He also drove the horses moving trees from the forest to the mill in various lumber camps and was part of the team that cleared the land for the Cold Lake Air Force Base.

Once retired, Alphonse moved south to Waterford and was thrilled to join the Métis community there. He loved going to the occasional gatherings that Métis and Six Nations hosted and also enjoyed making moccasins and joining the potluck dinners.

Alphonse’s roots trace back to Egg Lake in northern Manitoba where we found his grandfather’s family listed in the 1906 Census. Pascal Breland, who is famous for his association with Louis Riel, was the brother of Alphonse’s great grandfather Alexander Breland. ∞

Submitted by
MNO citizen Angele Watson

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