



AN UPDATE ON MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO FINANCES

# Turning the Corner - Together

By MNO President GARY LIPINSKI

Pages 13-16

Issue No. 68, **WINTER 2011**

# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR



## Louis Riel Day

**L**ouis Riel Day takes place on the anniversary of a great tragedy, the execution of Louis Riel on November 16, 1885. Riel's only crime was that he defended the rights of his people--our people--the Métis. Although he fought for Métis rights in the west, his resistance had repercussions for Métis in Ontario as well. We were labelled "traitors" and for generations our culture was forced underground. We became the "forgotten people."

Over the years however, we began to assert ourselves and take up the mantle of Louis Riel. We founded the Métis Nation of Ontario, and with Steve Powley, we asserted our Métis rights. Every day that we work together as MNO citizens, we are seeking the same rights that Louis Riel defended.

Louis Riel's battle did not end on November 16, 1885, because we are fighting it today. It is for that reason that Louis Riel Day, November 16, 2011, is a day that celebrates our resilience as a people. It is the day we remember what we have achieved so far, and it is a day we steel our resolve, so Louis Riel's dream can be a reality for our children.

Riel Day stories and photos begins on page 28.

▲ The Todmorden Colour Guard leads a march from the steps of the Legislative Building at Queen's Park to the Northwest Rebellion Monument on Louis Riel Day, November 16, 2011.



## YOUTH COUNCIL

The MNO Youth Council has been rejuvenated and wants to hear from you!

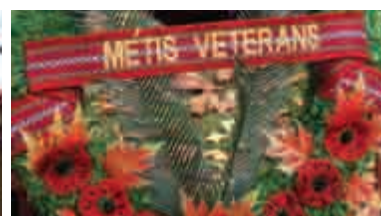
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## MÉTIS COUNCILS

News from MNO Community Councils all across the province.

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## LEST WE FORGET

Métis Veterans participate in Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

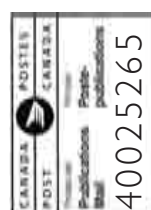
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## NEW MÉTIS BOOKS

Reviews of new books by Métis writers -- something for everyone.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## New Arrival



## Ten little fingers

**T**en little fingers, and a cute little nose, everything's perfect from his head to his toes! Tracy Bald (Community Wellness Coordinator, Midland) and Brad Sinclair are excited to introduce their son, **Drew David Sinclair**. Drew was born on September 4, 2011.

Proud grandparents are Yvonne and Andre Bald of Penetanguishene and Dave and Betty Sinclair of Copper Cliff.



## Ciara the alien

Kathleen Lannigan's granddaughter, Ciara, age 11 years dressed as a Na'vi from the movie *Avatar* for Halloween in Kincardine. Kathleen Lannigan is the Employment and Training Coordinator in Region 9.

## Congratulations

## Métis youth competes at Miss Teen Ontario pageant

By **Jeanette Laurin**

**M**y name is Jeanette Laurin and I'm writing about my daughter winning titles at the Miss Teen Ontario North Canada Pageant 2011.

My daughter Angelica Laurin is a Métis from West Nipissing Ontario. Her dad, Marc Laurin is the President of the North Bay Métis Council.

Angelica attended the Miss Teen Ontario North Canada Pageant as "Miss Cache Bay" on October 14 and 15th, 2011. All the pageant contestants had to give a speech, be interviewed by the judges, write a test consisting of Canadian history, geography and some questions pertaining just to northern Ontario. They also had to answer a spontaneous on stage question and learn and perform a dance for the audience. The best part for Angelica was meeting all the girls from other northern communities and making new friends.

Angelica was honoured winning the titles of "1st Lady In Waiting" (equivalent to 1st runner up). She also won the talent award for best talent. She sang "Coat of Many Colors" by Dolly Parton. She also won "Miss Photogenic".

Angelica would like to thank everyone who helped her on her journey to the Miss Teen Ontario North Canada Pageant especially her sponsors, Mike Candeloro (RBC Dominion Securities) North Bay, Ontario, Savage Ford (Stur-



▲ **Angelica Laurin, "Miss Cache Bay", after winning all her titles in the Miss Teen Ontario North Canada Pageant.**

geon Falls) and Dr. Lorrie-Ann Megesi (Action Potential) Sturgeon Falls, Ontario. She would also like to thank Kim Kruithof, President of the Miss Teen Ontario North Canada Pageant, and the committee for all the hard work they did to put on such a wonderful event for all the girls and for making them all feel like princesses! If you have any questions just email me or call me at 705-805-0994.

## New Arrival

## A poet and proud Grandpa

**A**nother Métis baby was born to my son, Eric Tremblay and his wife, Erin Merry. Baby **Sébastien Daniel Thomas Tremblay** weighed 8 lbs and 1 ounce upon delivery and is enjoying excellent health. The day before his birth, I was moved to write him a poem. Needless to say, his four year old brother, Maxime, is also very excited about his birth.



### A Miracle of Life

By *Raymond D. Tremblay*  
(Grandpapa Ho Ho)  
for Sébastien born October 19, 2011

As I waited for your arrival, I bowed my head and prayed.  
My heart was pounding at an alarming rate.  
I felt totally elated.  
I could not wait to see and touch your brand new sweet tiny body.  
Really, since your conception, you have always been a ray of beauty.  
As I pondered upon your future on Mother Earth, I only saw happiness.  
Challenges will often cross your path but you will be brave and relentless.  
Loving others unconditionally as Jesus taught us will be one of your strengths.  
Eager to fulfill your mission in life, you will bring much joyfulness to your parents.

One day, you will fully realize how much your parents loved you with all their hearts.  
Faith and hope again filled their entire beings - they had created two sweethearts!

Love, only pure love could bear such wonderful fruits. Count yourself lucky!  
I know your parents very well. For me, they're sacred gifts of the Divinity.  
Forever faithful to each other, they wanted to share their life with you.  
Eh, it is no wonder that you are a miracle of life! This is so true!

GEORGIAN BAY MÉTIS COUNCIL

## Councillor serving in new role

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council has lost its council secretary, but a new MNO Healing and Wellness Coordinator has started to work in the office. The council would like to wish **Lorraine Mounthey** the best of luck in her new position. She was a valuable member of the council and will be truly missed--but that doesn't mean she still can't volunteer. Don't forget us Lorraine.

## Letters to the editor

*Opinions expressed in the following commentary are solely those of the writer and do not reflect the policies of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) or the viewpoints of MNO officials or staff.*

## A Voyageur reader weighs in on province's Green Energy plans

By **Jacques Pilon**

**W**ith provincial elections now a fading memory for some, others may not have noticed the election at all based on the poor election turnout. I thought it would be timely to review one of the province's green energy initiatives, specifically the "Feed-in Tariff" or FIT. However, just before hitting the send button on Oct 31st, this article became old news and needed a quick edit when the province announced a review of the FIT program that same day. The current FIT program contains opportunities for Ontario's Métis and other aboriginal people, but there are important changes that could come out of the review. I'll get to that below.

Many of you may know the program, since it is responsible for most of the solar panels that you see

on rooftops and in farmers' fields. You may have noticed a few wind turbines as well. Ontarians were offered attractive contract rates for generating electricity from biomass, biogas, waterpower, landfill gas, solar PV, and wind. Métis communities have been offered a further "Price Adder" to produce electricity from any of these green sources as well as other incentives. Just search the words "power authority" for more details.

The program has been controversial, primarily for the high rates offered to solar producers and the province's review will focus on these rates. The Conservative Party, lead by Mr. Hudak, tried with some success, to make an election issue out of these prices which are far more than market rate, but the issues are more complicated than a simple price comparison. All Ontarians

need to get informed regarding power generation in their province. Métis citizens stand to benefit long term because of incentives that are being offered by the province and our close connection to our environment from which all of this green energy originates. Briefly, and with apologies to those working in the power generation and transmission industry for any of my misuse of terminology, here are some of the issues and concepts.

Everything is priced in kilowatt (kwatt) hours and one kwatt is enough energy to run a hair dryer for one hour. The FIT program has offered up to 80 cents per kwatt to the tiniest of solar producers while the going rate for power is about 5 cents per kwatt for the largest producers such as nuclear generators--a

*continued page 24*

THE  
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ONTARIO ELECTION | LIBERAL GOVERNMENT RE-ELECTED



President Lipinski  
congratulates  
Premier McGuinty  
on re-election of  
Liberal government

On October 7th, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, extended the heartiest of congratulations to Dalton McGuinty, Tim Hudak and Andrea Horvath for their hard fought campaigns and for the success achieved by each of their parties. “We are looking forward to building on our relationships with all parties represented in the Provincial Parliament but we are particularly delighted to be continuing the positive momentum, which has been the hallmark of MNO’s relationship with the Liberal government over the last few years,” said President Lipinski.

Lipinski also stated: “In the next several years the MNO expects to move forward with the McGuinty government, building on our historic framework agreement, which sets out our mutual goals of enhancing the well-being of Métis individuals, families and communities, promoting economic development and facilitating the full and proper recognition of Métis in Ontario. We are proud of our contributions to the building of this province, and look forward to an inclusive Ontario that going forward has a place for everyone.”



MNO  
congratulates  
Michael Gravelle  
on re-election in  
Thunder Bay

On October 7th the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) extended congratulations to all the candidates that contested the provincial election, but was especially pleased by the re-election of Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry, Michael Gravelle, in the Thunder Bay-Superior North riding. “We are looking forward to building on our relationships with all Members of the Provincial Parliament and we are delighted to continue the positive momentum between the MNO and Minister Gravelle. On behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario and MNO President Gary Lipinski, MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile has congratulated Minister Gravelle on his re-election. “Minister Gravelle is anxious to get back at it,” indicated Secretary-Treasurer Pile.

Lipinski also stated: “In the next several years the MNO expects to move forward with the McGuinty government on our mutual goals of strengthening the MNO; recognizing and promoting Métis history and culture; enhancing the well-being of Métis individuals, families and communities; and facilitating the recognition of Métis rights in Ontario.”

PROVINCIAL ELECTION | 2011

Métis MPP becomes  
Speaker of Ontario  
Legislature

On November 21, Métis Member of the Provincial Parliament (MPP) Dave Levac was elected “Speaker” by his fellow parliamentarians. It is believed to be the first time that a Métis has served in that position. After his election, Speaker Levac stated: “I’m very moved; this is a glorious place,” and, mindful of the fact he would be serving in a minority parliament, also commented: “We can make this work.”

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, welcomed Speaker Levac’s election saying: “Dave’s election over four other MPPs demonstrates that he is held in high regard by his colleagues in all parties represented in the house. This is a crucial position in a minority parliament.” Lipinski pointed out that the new Speaker’s Métis heritage will be an asset in his new position. “Traditionally, Métis have worked for consensus and reaching common ground,” added President Lipinski, “and Dave is very suited for that kind of work. He will help facilitate partnerships and lower the temperature of contentious issues whenever and wherever they may present themselves”.

Speaker Levac has served as MPP for Brant since 1999 and his parliamentary career has included the introduction of several successful private members bills. He has also served at various times as Parliamentary Assistant for Community Safety and Correctional Services, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure and prior to becoming Speaker was serving as Chair for the Economic, Environmental and Resources Policy



▲ MNO President Gary Lipinski (left) with Speaker of the Ontario Legislature Dave Levac at Louis Riel Day Ceremonies.

“  
He is a great role model  
for our Métis youth, who  
can now see a Métis person  
rise to one of the most  
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positions in Ontario.  
”

(EERP) Committee of Cabinet and a member of the Standing Committee on General Government.

Before entering politics, Speaker Levac had taught elementary and

secondary school for 12 years, becoming a principal in 1989. In his capacity as principal, Speaker Levac developed Peace Park and conflict resolution programs, for which, among other accomplishments, he received the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association’s (OECTA) Distinguished Teacher Award in 1994.

“Dave brings many skills to the position of Speaker,” President Lipinski said, “and he is a great role model for our Métis youth, who can now see a Métis person rise to one of the most important leadership positions in Ontario.”

A new Aboriginal Affairs Minister

MNO President Lipinski welcomes appointment of Kathleen Wynne as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

On October 20th, Premier Dalton McGuinty announced his new cabinet, which included a new Minister of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA). Kathleen Wynne, who previously served as Minister of Transportation and Minister of Education, is the new MAA, taking over from Chris Bentley who moves on to become Minister of Energy. “The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) worked closely with Minister Wynne when she was Minister of Education,” explained MNO President Gary Lipinski. “We found it a very productive relationship as evidenced by the strides Métis people in Ontario have made in the education sector over the last several years.”

The MNO expects the positive relationship between the MNO and the MAA will continue under Minis-

“Collectively, we were able to  
advance many important  
issues. We look forward to  
continuing that type of  
productive relationship...”

ter Wynne. “We enjoyed a strong working relationship with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs under Ministers Bentley and Duguid, as we did with Minister Wynne when she was Minister of Education,” stated Lipinski. “Collectively, we were able to advance many important issues. We look forward to continuing that type of productive relationship, including building on the commitments in the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement.”

Based on the direction from the

2011 MNO Annual General Assembly, MNO citizens have identified the ongoing advancement and recognition of Métis rights; accessing economic opportunities for Métis; and Métis inclusion in child and family services as key priorities for the MNO. As well, the MNO will continue to work with the McGuinty government in order to realize legislation that would recognize Ontario’s Métis and the MNO’s governance structures.

“We look forward to engaging with Minister Wynne and the rest of the McGuinty government to move forward on our mutual goals and objectives. I have confidence that by working together we will continue to achieve results for Métis citizens, families and communities in Ontario,” said Lipinski.



Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister Kathleen Wynne.

MÉTIS WOMEN | ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

# Finding Your Voice

The Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) hosts summit seeking to end violence against Aboriginal women

During the weekend of September 9th-11th, 2011, over 40 women from all over Ontario attended the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) "Finding Your Voice Summit" in Toronto. This event built on the work of the "Strong Women Summit" that the WSMNO organized in March of 2011 and focused on prioritizing strategies to end violence against Aboriginal women from a Métis perspective.

The important work related to ending violence against Aboriginal women was highlighted by MNO President, Gary Lipinski, in his remarks to open the *Summit*. He pointed out that the media tends to focus on each incident of violence against Aboriginal women in isolation, rather than showing it to be a systemic problem that needs addressing on a societal level. "This is a provincial and federal priority," stated President Lipinski. "Information from your conference will assist with discussion at those Ministry tables."

The key elements of the Summit were leadership development through a "Personality Dimensions" workshop, a presentation about ending violence against Aboriginal women by Sylvia Maracle, Executive Director for the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, and discussions around setting out WSMNO priorities in the next year.

The "Personality Dimensions" workshop allowed the participants to recognize their unique blend of strengths and qualities and to appreciate others' differences. It also explained how to use this knowledge of self and others to improve interpersonal relations and teamwork. "The women left feeling that this was a great tool that they could use," added Sharon McBride, the WSMNO Spokesperson, who also facilitated the workshop. "I was thrilled that the women who took the course used this throughout the *Summit*."

A major highlight of the *Summit* was the presentation by Sylvia Maracle. Sylvia used storytelling to address the issue of Violence Against Aboriginal Women (VAAW) and shared stories from her own childhood. She explained that her grandmother sometimes spoke of a star shining in the night and this metaphor moved many of the *Summit* participants.

Throughout the *Summit*, participants drew on the star metaphor used by Sylvia to describe their plans on how to end VAAW from a Métis perspective. Each tip of the star represented a different method of ending VAAW.

Later in the *Summit*, MNO staff members Shelley Gonneville, Lynne Picotte and Lisa Pigeau provided background on MNO involvement in the "Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women",



(Left to right) MNO Chair, France Picotte; Speaker, Sylvia Maracle; and, WSMNO Spokesperson, Sharon McBride, at the "Finding Your Voice" Summit in Toronto on September 9-11, 2011.

## Plans on how to end Violence Against Aboriginal Women from a Métis perspective:

- ★ We will talk about violence against Aboriginal women;
- ★ We will honour the power of women and the voice of children and youth;
- ★ We will revitalize our traditions and healthy Métis ways;
- ★ We will transform our communities by sharing stories;
- ★ We will collaborate with all members of our communities and beyond to end violence against Aboriginal women.

the Sexual Violence Action Plan, trauma training as well as current and upcoming MNO programs to address VAAW.

The *Summit* was facilitated by Dr. Kim Anderson, a Métis researcher, writer and educator. Dr. Anderson led exercises that helped the partici-

pants identify their concerns and priorities and discuss direction for the future. "The women have really connected with Dr. Kim Anderson and we are honoured that she is back to work with us" said McBride. Participants were also led through centering and focusing exercises guided by

Cindy Gaudet and encouraged to share their gifts which resulted in the sharing of song, humour and traditional activities.

"The *Finding Your Voice Summit* was a very powerful gathering of Métis women in Ontario," said MNO Chair, France Picotte. "The *Summit* focused on strategic solutions to end violence against Métis women. It is important for us to be active against all aspects of violence. As Métis women we need to trust in ourselves; believe in ourselves; be true to ourselves and love ourselves in order to be strong enough to confront any violence that we encounter. Our voice must be strong," she concluded.

MÉTIS CHILDREN

## Victims of "Sixties Scoop" eligible to join civil lawsuit

From 1965 to 1984, the Ontario Children's Aid agencies removed approximately 16,000 Métis, First Nations and Inuit children from their families and placed them in the care of non-Aboriginal families. This practice, which has become known as "the sixties scoop" resulted in these children losing their cultural identities, being separated from their natural families, and losing access to their medical histories. It also created obstacles to their reclaiming Aboriginal rights and status, should they wish to do so at some point in the future.

This practice only ended in 1984 after Ontario First Nation Chiefs passed resolutions against it, and a Manitoba judicial inquiry released "Report of the Review Committee on Indian and Métis Adoptions and Placements", which harshly condemned it.

In 2009, two survivors of the *sixties scoop*, Robert Commanda and Marcia Brown-Martel, launched a class action lawsuit against the fed-

**“THE “SIXTIES SCOOP” RESULTED IN THESE CHILDREN LOSING THEIR CULTURAL IDENTITIES, BEING SEPARATED FROM THEIR NATURAL FAMILIES, AND LOSING ACCESS TO THEIR MEDICAL HISTORIES.”**

eral government. The lawsuit was certified in 2010 for claims of negligence and breach of fiduciary duty by the federal government. The lawsuit only names the "Attorney General of Canada" because the federal government is constitutionally responsible for Aboriginal peoples. Commanda and Brown-Martel have retained the services of the Wilson Christen Barristers Law Firm and are currently seeking additional

claimants to join the suit.

While the focus of media attention has been on First Nations' victims of the *sixties scoop*, a number of Métis are also known to have been removed from their families, and Métis individuals are eligible to participate in the suit providing they meet the following criteria:

- Individuals who were adopted or placed in care between January 1, 1965, and December 31, 1984;
- Individuals who were in care in Ontario;
- Individuals who were moved from an Aboriginal home to a non-Aboriginal home.

People who participated in the residential schools settlement are encouraged to join the suit but may end up not being eligible.

Wilson Christen Barristers have set up a website that provides potential claimants with more information including how to register: <http://sixtiesscoop.wordpress.com>

RESIDENCE SCHOOLS | BITTER LEGACY

## Thousands of Métis Residential School survivors remain unacknowledged

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister, John Duncan, has announced that a stained-glass window, to be designed by an Indigenous artist, will be permanently installed in the entry to the House of Commons in the Canadian Parliament.

In response, the Métis National Council acknowledged the announcement made by the Government of Canada as a next step as laid out in the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

"This symbolic gesture in tribute to the legacy of those who have been affected by the residential schools system is a positive step to rebuilding a relationship with the Aboriginal peoples of Canada," said President Chartier. "Many appreciated efforts have been made since the 2008 offi-

cial apology from the Government of Canada but in follow up, I must remind Canadians that there are thousands of Métis Nation citizens that attended Métis residential schools, who experienced the same policies that Canada apologized for, that have been excluded from the settlement agreement and mandate of the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission*."



President Chartier says there is still a lot of healing that has to happen. "We will continue to work together to uplift our people, support our community members and in time we will emerge from this dark time in our cultural history with pride. Although we are moving in the right direction there is still a lot of road to travel leading to closure on this issue for the Métis Nation."



ENVIRONMENT



## The Peregrine Falcon: The Bird who may prevent the “Whirly Birds” from changing Thunder Bay’s landscape

By **Joe Daze**  
Consultation Coordinator  
LRC Branch

When I speak of “whirly birds”, I am referring to the wind turbines that have been proposed for placement on historic and beautiful, Nor’Wester mountain escarpment located in Thunder Bay, Ontario. This site was selected by Horizon Wind Inc. as an ideal location for Big Thunder Wind Park, which would consist of 16 wind turbines standing 138 metres high. The implementation of this wind park has met with stiff resistance in Thunder Bay. The Nor’Wester Mountain Escarpment Protection Committee has led a charge to stop the project.

They found a great friend in the form of the peregrine falcon. The peregrine, sometimes known as the “cheetah of the skies”, is the fastest creature on the planet, attaining 300 kilometres per hour when in a full dive. You may be asking yourself: “what about this bird makes it a friend to the people of Thunder Bay?” Well, it’s simple; the peregrine is on the endangered species list and the Ontario Government has a recovery strategy for the peregrine falcon which happens to live high above the city in the majestic Nor’Westers escarpment in the area proposed for the “whirly birds”.

On September 1, 2011, then Minister of Natural Resources, Linda Jeffrey, announced that the Big Thunder Wind Park project may harm or kill peregrine falcons and that the necessary permits to allow the project to go forward may not be granted under the *Endangered Species Act*.



ATIKOKAN | CANOE CULTURE

# Modern-day Voyageur

Atikokan Métis first to travel solo along voyageur canoe route

On September 12th, 2011, in Montreal, QC, Mike Ranta, a Métis from Atikokan completed a 5,200 km canoe journey that started May 7th in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. Ranta followed what is commonly known as “the Alexander Mackenzie route” that was used by generations of Métis voyageurs. While the route has been well-travelled in years gone by, and even today by recreational canoeists, Ranta is the first person to ever travel the entire route by himself. He has applied to *The Guinness Book of World Records* to have this amazing accomplishment recognized.

The 39 year old Ranta undertook the journey to support the Atikokan Youth Initiatives Program. “I wanted to show the youth that if you want something you have to go for it,” explained Ranta. The idea that no goal is too difficult to achieve if you work at it was clearly demonstrated by Ranta’s epic feat. Ranta faced all manner of weather conditions and a back breaking 70 portages. He attributes much of his ability to endure this arduous route to his Métis background. Ranta remembers his family talking about their Métis roots and attributes his “good understanding of the bush” to this heritage. “It’s a great culture and a great people,” said Ranta.

Despite the obvious difficulties presented by the journey, Ranta has nothing but good things to say about the experience. “I felt great at



Mike Ranta with his dog Spitz, who was Mike’s only companion during his 5,200 KM canoe trek.

the end of it,” he stated. He also warmly remembers the hospitality he was shown as he crossed the Métis Homeland. One example of the welcome he received everywhere he went occurred when a group of Aboriginal paddlers shadowed him all the way from Cumberland House in Saskatchewan to Winnipeg, Manitoba. They even provided him with some pickerel during the trip. Ranta paddled into his home town of Atikokan, appro-

“  
Ranta remembers  
his family talking about  
their Métis roots and  
attributes his “good  
understanding of the  
bush” to this heritage.

”

priately the canoe capital of Canada, on July 2nd, where he received a hero’s welcome. “We, in Atikokan, are very proud of Mike,” said Marlene Davidson, the President of the Atikokan and Surrounding Area Métis Council.

Ranta’s future plans include writing a book about his journey, and in three to four years embarking on another canoe trip—this time from Vancouver to Cape Breton Island.

To learn more about Mike Ranta’s voyageur adventure, visit the Atikokan Youth Initiatives website:  
[www.atikokanyouth.org/track\\_our\\_paddler.html](http://www.atikokanyouth.org/track_our_paddler.html).

SUDBURY



Flag carriers, Sudbury Métis Council President, Roger Giroux, and Collège Boréal Métis Outreach Coordinator, Eric Dupuis, at the opening ceremony of the Northern Aboriginal Festival.

## MNO citizens attend 4th Annual Northern Aboriginal Festival

Many MNO citizens with the Sudbury Métis Council participated in the fourth annual Northern Aboriginal Festival that took place at the Sudbury Community Arena on October 2-3, 2011. Sudbury Métis Council President, Roger Giroux, and Council Chair, Rick Meilleur, both took part in the festival’s opening ceremony as flag carriers. People of all nations from Sudbury and the

surrounding areas gathered at the festival, to demonstrate, share and celebrate their cultures.

The festival was co-hosted by Cambrian College, Laurentian University, Collège Boréal and the City of Greater Sudbury. The main features of the weekend included a pow-wow and a vendors’ market, which offered traditional foods, crafts, art and information to attendees.

OTTAWA



Grand River Métis Council Senator, Ed Hass, participates in Paddle for Peace, near Victoria Island in Ottawa.

## Paddle for Peace kicks off annual Ottawa Peace Festival

The Fifth Annual Ottawa Peace Festival was opened on Victoria Island in Ottawa on September 21 with a number of MNO citizens participating. These included Grand River Métis Council Senator, Ed Hass, and his son Duane who were part of the “Paddle for Peace.” They were among the many canoeists who travelled to Victoria Island from a variety of locations along water-

ways leading to Ottawa. Senator Hass and his son paddled all the way from Hillsborough to Victoria Island. Executive Senator Reta Gordon and Ottawa Métis Council Senator Lois McCallum were also among the crowd that gathered on Victoria Island for prayers in reverence for Mother Earth, communal harmony, social justice and peace and indigenous wisdom.



# Jean Teillet awarded Indigenous Peoples' Council designation

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, on behalf of Ontario Métis, offered his congratulations to Métis lawyer Jean Teillet for being awarded the designation of “Indigenous Peoples’ Council” (IPC) by the Indigenous Bar Association (IBA). Jean has been legal counsel for the MNO since its creation in the early 1990s.

The IPC is awarded annually to an Indigenous lawyer in recognition of outstanding achievements in the practice of law. In particular, the IPC award takes into account the manner in which the individual pursues the goals and objectives of the IBA and serves his or her community and the Creator with honour and integrity. Previous designations include: Wilton Littlechild, Roberta Jamieson, Paul Chartrand, David Nahwegahbow, Delia Opekowek,

James [Sákéj] Youngblood Henderson, Don Worme, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafonde, Roger Jones, Darlene Johnson, Mark Stevenson and Justice Murray Sinclair.

Jean was acknowledged for her well-known legal work on behalf of Aboriginal peoples generally and the Métis people specifically. Her work includes:

- acting as lead counsel at all levels of court in *R. v. Powley* - the first Métis rights case to be heard by the Supreme Court of Canada based on s. 35 of *The Constitution Act, 1982*;
- appearing before the Supreme Court of Canada and almost all levels of courts in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and NWT on behalf of Aboriginal peoples;

- acting as counsel for Aboriginal peoples in various modern day treaty making processes, including, the Tlicho in NWT and the Stolo in B.C.;
- speaking at conferences on Aboriginal issues as well as teaching Aboriginal legal issues at various universities and colleges across Canada; and
- as a mentor to other Aboriginal law students and lawyers.

MNO President Gary Lipinski said, “I am pleased to see the Indigenous Bar recognize Jean for her passion and groundbreaking work on behalf of the Métis Nation and other Aboriginal peoples in this country. It is a designation that is well-deserved, and I am proud that the Métis Nation’s own lawyer was recognized amongst other exceptional legal minds.”



Well known and long-time defender of Métis rights, Jean Teillet.

## Hunt for Justice continues at Alberta Court of Appeal

Métis Nation reacts to Alberta Court of Queen’s Bench decision on Métis harvesting right

On November 15, 2011, the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) responded to the recently released decision of Chief Justice Neil Wittmann in the Métis Nation’s test case on Métis harvesting rights in Alberta: *R. v. Hirsekorn*. A copy of the decision is available at [www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com).

“We are pleased that the appeal court overturned significant parts of the trial judge’s decision. In particular, the appeal court rejected the trial judge’s conclusions that because Mr. Hirsekorn was exercising his right to hunt and fish, as a part of a larger political action led by the MNA, his constitutional claim failed,” said Audrey Poitras, MNA President.

Poitras added: “Further, the appeal court rejected the trial judge’s legal conclusion that in order to find a Métis harvesting right in Alberta, a Métis community must be a site-specific settlement located in Alberta prior to effective control. This legal finding essentially rejects the Alberta Government’s longstanding legal position on this issue as well as the underlying premise of its current *Métis Harvesting Policy*, which it is using in the province.”

While the appeal court did overturn the trial judge on several legal issues, it did not ultimately acquit Mr. Hirsekorn because Chief Justice Wittmann concluded that the Powley test required Métis to prove that hunting for food in

the site-specific location of the Cypress Hills was integral to the Métis community’s distinct society, rather than just proving that the Métis hunted for food throughout ‘the plains’ generally, including the Cypress Hills. The appeal court found that in order to prove the hunting was integral the case law required something more than just showing a Métis presence or harvesting in that location prior to effective control. The MNA intends to appeal the appeal court’s decision on this fundamental issue.

“**Chief Justice Wittmann recognized the “ironic” situation the case law creates for mobile aboriginal peoples such as the Métis...**”

Notably, Chief Justice Wittmann recognized the “ironic” situation the case law creates for mobile aboriginal peoples such as the Métis. He held that he would need to modify the Powley test’s site-specific requirements in order to address a unique situation

where an aboriginal people historically followed a herd of animals, such as the Métis buffalo hunters of the plains. He concluded that it was inappropriate “to modify the Powley test at this level of court,” but highlighted that the evidence and fact situation in this case created an “anomaly” because the historic way of life and mobility of the Métis people ultimately resulted in the Powley test denying them s. 35 rights.

“We believe Chief Justice Wittmann’s decision is helpful in illustrating the important and unique legal issues in this case that need further judicial consideration. In *Powley*, the Supreme Court of Canada held that s. 35’s promise to the Métis protects their historic practices and traditions, yet parts of the Powley test are now being interpreted in a manner that effectively denies Métis from being able to continue the practices of their ancestors. This cannot be right based on a purposive interpretation of s. 35. We are pleased Justice Wittmann pointed out the legal anomaly that arises in this case,” said Jason Madden, MNA Legal Counsel.

The MNA will now be seeking leave to appeal to the Alberta Court of Appeal in Calgary. It is expected that a hearing of the appeal will not occur until sometime in 2012.

For additional information visit [www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com)



## Long-separated Métis siblings reunited

A Métis brother and sister separated decades ago when they were small children had an emotional first meeting in Toronto this fall.

Ted Fraser, 63, and Debby Poitras Precius, 56, were both taken from their birth mother in Saskatchewan as part of the so-

called “scoop” in the 50s and 60s, when Native and Métis children were taken from their birth families and placed in non-native homes.

Now that the siblings have met, they say all they want to do is have a big family reunion to catch up on a lifetime of memories.

Visit the link below to see video of the reunion.

[www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/story/2011/10/31/metis-siblings-first-meeting348.html](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/story/2011/10/31/metis-siblings-first-meeting348.html)

### ALBERTA

## Audrey Poitras re-elected as President of Métis Nation of Alberta

On behalf of Ontario Métis, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, congratulated Audrey Poitras on her re-election as President of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) on September 6, 2011. Unofficial results of the MNA election are online ([www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com)).

President Poitras was first elected in 1996 and was the first female to hold the position. This will be her fifth consecutive term. During her tenure, she has advanced the interests and rights of Alberta Métis as well as the Métis Nation as a whole.

MNO President, Gary Lipinski said, “Over her years of dedicated service to the Métis Nation, Audrey

has been a shining example of Métis leadership with integrity and credibility. She is a role model for many and is known for unwavering commitment to advancing the interests and rights of the Métis in Alberta and the entire Métis Nation. I look forward to continuing our work together to further the cause of the Métis people.”

In August 2010, President Lipinski and President Poitras signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order for the MNO and MNA to strengthen the relationship between Ontario and Alberta Métis as well as to share best practices between the MNA and MNO in order to benefit Métis in both provinces.



# COMMUNITY COUNCILS

NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL | COUNCIL MARCHES IN ST. CATHARINES' PARADE

# Métis on the march

Council marches in St. Catharines' Grape and Wine Celebration

By **Barbaranne Wright**  
*Niagara Region Métis Council Women's Representative*

The Métis Nation of Ontario Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC) marched in the St. Catharines' Grape and Wine Celebration on September 24th, 2011. There were over 200 floats this year! The weather was perfect for a walk with our family of Métis volunteers who came out to support their council. "Thank you" goes out to all those who participated, and special thanks to Doug Boese for taking our pictures.

Our youngest Métis was Holden Shanks, who charmed the crowds with his royal wave and contagious smile. The day ended with pizza and pop at the home of Barbaranne Wright where we reflected on the day, and looked forward to next year.



left to right: **Derrick Pont; Harry Wright; Amanda Pont-Shanks; Holden Shanks; Barb Wright** walk in St. Catharines' Grape and Wine Celebration parade. Photo by Doug Boese

NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL | HARVEST FEAST

# Niagara Métis celebrate harvest

Niagara Métis reach out to the community with successful Harvest Dinner

By **Stephen Quesnelle**  
*Niagara Region Métis Council President*

On October the 27th the Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC), in partnership with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Healing and Wellness Branch, held its 6th Annual Harvest Dinner.

I cannot thank Glen Lipinski enough for doing the important job of Master of Ceremonies. Glen was instrumental in seeing that everything ran smoothly throughout the evening, and as usual, Glen did a fantastic job. Thanks Glen.

Our entertainment for the evening was provided by the Niagara Old Tyme Fiddlers, and once again they did a great job of entertaining us for the evening.

We were honoured to have MNO President, Gary Lipinski, who took time out of his very busy schedule, join us as our special guest. President Lipinski shared with the citizens some of the many changes that are happening within the MNO.

We were privileged to have with us Mayor Joyner of West Lincoln and Councillor Paul Grenier, representing the City of Welland and Coun-

cillor Mark Carl of Welland.

Members of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee, Georgia Groat from the District School Board of Niagara and Jacqueline Watson from the Niagara Catholic District School Board, with whom we work to bring Métis presentations into the schools in the Niagara Region, were also in attendance.

We were happy to have with us, the Executive Director, Nora Reid; Curator, Penny Morningstar and Communications Officer, Jodi Dickinson, from the Welland Historical Museum. We worked closely with them to set up the "Infinite History, The Métis in Niagara" display and they are doing an awesome job. The display opened on November 19.

James Wagar, MNO Consultation Assessment Coordinator, Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch (LRC) was able to join us and share information with our citizens about the progress in the areas of "Duty to Consult" and "Traditional Knowledge". We were pleased to welcome Felix Horne, a new MNO LRC Manager. It was also a pleasure to greet members of the MNO Grand River Council and the MNO Oshawa Durham Council.

It was a privilege to introduce our citizens to Mr. Darren Fry, Business Manager from Walker Industries, along with his family. Darren has been a great help and friend to the NRMC. He has been instrumental in providing financial contributions

from Walker Industries. This evening he brought us a cheque to help us in our endeavour to continue to bring Métis culture to the Niagara Region.

Our citizens brought a great variety of food to share and to the delight of all, we had 10 culinary students from Confederation High School, who, under the guidance of their instructor Chef Matthew Cyr, prepared and served a variety of dishes that were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our new Youth Representative, Stephanie Labelle, with the assistance of our local Métis artist Tracy Mae Chambers, entertained the young people with face painting, henna tattooing and various crafts. The children had a wonderful time. Our Youth Rep. and the young culinary students are a credit and an example to our young people.

I would also like to acknowledge and give thanks to our amazing MNO Healing and Wellness Branch staff and all the wonderful volunteers who do so much hard work, mostly behind the scenes and without whom, we would not be able to accomplish all that we do. It is because of them and the council, under the leadership of this year's Harvest Dinner committee chair, Judy Baxter, that our 6th Annual Harvest Dinner was the success that it was; we had 150 plus join us this year. We are looking forward to planning next year's Harvest Dinner. Niagara Region Métis, come join us, help us grow.



top, left to right: **Stephen Quesnelle, President NRMC; Paul Grenier, Welland City Councillor; Gary Lipinski, President MNO; and Mark Carl, Welland City Councillor.**



left: **MNO Healing and Wellness display.** right: **Chef Matthew Cyr and his students from Confederation High School.**



# The volunteers are amazing

## Fort Frances Métis partner in Food Box program

Adapted from article by  
**Duane Hicks**, in the  
*Fort Frances Times On-line*  
<http://fftimes.com/node/246012>

For the fifth year in a row, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is involved in a community-based “Healthy Living Food Box” program, in Fort Frances. The MNO’s partners in the program include the Ontario Government, Northwestern Health Unit, the Sunset Country Métis Council, Valley Diabetes Education Centre and the Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre.

Based out of the Sunset Country Métis Council Hall, the program brings together dozens of volunteers each month to sort healthy [and, to the extent possible, locally-grown] fruits and vegetables into colourful ‘food boxes’ to be sold at affordable rates to local residents. The program provides nutritious food for hundreds of people who utilize the program.



**Members of the Sunset Country Métis Council, one of the partners in the Food Box Program.**

It’s open to everyone, regardless of race, income, or residence [in town, on reserve, or out in the country]. Many of the clients have friendly ‘stop-and-chats’ with the staff and volunteers while picking up their food boxes. There is a real sense of community spirit. While

“There is a real sense of community spirit.”

the program is open to all Fort Frances area residents, Anne Marie Armstrong estimates that approximately 25% or more of the clients are of aboriginal descent.

“The volunteers are amazing,” said Armstrong of the MNO, noting the volunteers really enjoy

themselves while working on the program. She even cites one former volunteer who no longer is able to help out but still makes muffins for the other volunteers who continue to participate. Clint Calder, President of the Sunset Country Métis Council, said the program is much-appreciated. “Thanks to the many, many volunteers who help to bring affordable, healthy foods to our communities,” he said.

During the summer, the number of boxes ordered averages 330-350 each month, but this number climbs to 450-500 in wintertime. One month, volunteers packed 860 boxes. Each box costs \$20 but contains about \$40 worth of healthy food. Armstrong noted that very little of that \$20 goes into administrative costs. Each box also includes a newsletter featuring recipes.

### THUNDER BAY & FORT FRANCES



**MNO Community Wellness Coordinator, Joan Panizza (right) presents a draw prize to Margurite Martin. The painting is the work of Thunder Bay artist Kevin Belmore.**

## Métis Councils celebrate Rendezvous

This year MNO Healing and Wellness staff launched collaborative Rendezvous celebrations with MNO Community Councils across Ontario.

Rendezvous events were organized because the MNO heard from citizens that due to distance, work or other variables they often can’t attend the Annual General Assembly (AGA) and feel they miss the opportunity to connect with fellow Métis. So, this year the MNO hosted one to two-day Rendezvous events to celebrate Métis people and culture right across Ontario.

The Fort Frances and Thunder Bay Community Councils joined

forces to host a Rendezvous in Shebandowan on September 17. There was a great turnout of MNO citizens from all over the Fort Frances and Thunder Bay areas. Attendees participated in wild rice harvesting demonstrations, spirit painting and Métis crafts such as making felted wool slippers. There were several draws for great prizes including a lovely painting by Métis artist Kevin Belmore. Captain of the Hunt for Region 2, Ken Simard, ably served as MC for the festivities and kept everyone entertained with his good humour and positive attitude.

### HIGH LAND WATERS MÉTIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## High Land Waters Métis hold successful Annual General Meeting

(NORTHBROOK, ON) The former Seven Rivers Community Council held its Annual General Meeting on September 24, 2011, at which the council unveiled its new name, “High Land Waters Métis Community Council”.

Entertainment was not scarce as the youth in attendance were taught how to jig and the traditions of sash weaving and bead work were demonstrated.

MNO staff from the Healing and Wellness, Education and Training, and Lands, Resources and Consultation Branches attended the AGM and provided information about the MNO services they administer. This demon-

“I am very proud to be the Regional Councillor for High Land Waters; their commitment to the community is strongly felt in the area.”

strated the council’s focus on providing MNO citizens access to all resources and services that the MNO has to offer. Region 6 PCMNO Councillor, JoAnne Wass, stated: “I am very proud to be the Regional Councillor for High Land Waters; their commitment to the community is strongly felt in the area.”

Ottawa Métis Council President, Dan Gilbeau, was also in attendance and together with High Land Waters Community Métis Council President, Tom Thompson, indicated that both councils need to continue to be united and to work together, creating a stronger region.



**Métis Youth learn traditional jigging at the High Land Waters Annual General Meeting.**



# A year in the life of Sudbury Métis Council

by **Juliette S. Denis**  
*Sudbury Métis Council*

Greetings from the MNO Sudbury Métis Council / salutations du Conseil des Métis de Sudbury. Members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Sudbury Métis Council wish to greet you all and let you know some of the activities members of council have organized and participated in since coming into office last December. There have been several regular and special council meetings held to ensure that the council and its Métis community prosper; our website has been updated; we actively reach out to our

youth and involve them in issues and activities, such as meetings and workshops organized by MNO, as well as numerous meetings with various key persons and organizations in our community in order to create partnerships or raise awareness of Métis issues that are significant to us. Before proceeding, we need to stress the importance of our having an up-to-date citizenship list so that the Sudbury Métis Council and MNO can reach you. Please note that 2012 is an election year, so it is extra important that you provide us with up-to-date information. We urge all citizens of the Sudbury Métis Council to ensure that we have up-to-date contact information (address, postal

code, telephone number and email). You may either send an email or write to us (contact info below). We are pleased to share with you

**CONTACT**  
We urge all citizens of the Sudbury Métis Council to ensure that we have up-to-date contact information (address, postal code, phone number and email). You may either send an email: **metisud@hotmail.com** or  
**Sudbury Métis Council**  
260 Alder Street  
Sudbury, Ontario  
P3C 5P4

some of the activities that our council and citizens have been involved in since December and to provide a few pictures of these activities:

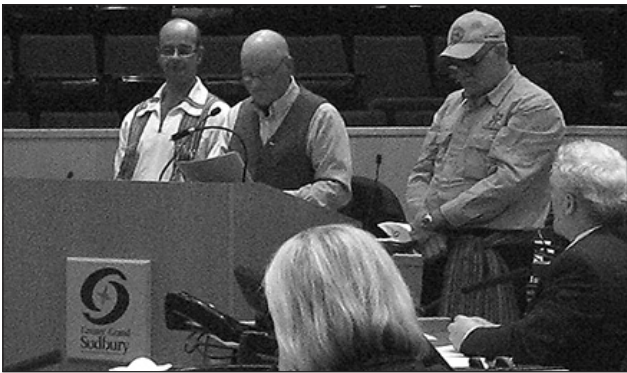
- *Beat the Winter Blues Day*, in Sudbury, at Portes des Eaux (Watergate Building), on February 12, 2011, organized by our regional MNO Healing and Wellness Branch;
- *The Protecting Our Children From Violence Summit* in Toronto, on February 28 to March 2, whose purpose was to create awareness and develop strategies to end violence against Aboriginal children;
- *Aboriginal Women's Leadership*

- *Forum* (March 26-27) and the *Finding Your Voice Summit* (September 9-11) both in Toronto, created awareness and developed strategies to end violence against Aboriginal women;
- *Meet & Greet* with members of MNO Lands, Resources, and Consultation, as well as other significant community stakeholders, on March 29;
- General Meeting in Sudbury, at Place des Eaux (Watergate Building), on March 30;
- *Meet & Greet* at the City of Greater Sudbury (City Hall), on April 20;

continued page 10



▲ *Beat the Winter Blues Day* at Portes des Eaux (Watergate Building), on February 12, 2011, organized by MNO Healing and Wellness Branch.



▲ *Meet & Greet* at the City of Greater Sudbury (City Hall), on April 20, 2011.



▲ *General Meeting* in Verner, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, on May 5, 2011.



▲ The Sudbury Métis Council Annual General Meeting and Fish Fry at the Mine Mills Campground in Sudbury, on June 11, 2011.



▲ *General Meeting* in Sudbury, at Place des Eaux (Watergate Building), on March 30, 2011.



▲ *Annual General Meeting* and Fish Fry at the Mine Mills Campground on June 11, 2011.



▲ The Métis Rendezvous 2011 in Massey, on September 17, 2011.



▲ On September 23, 2011, the *Water Journey* raised awareness about the sacredness, protection, and rehabilitation of our water.



▲ *Way of Life Workshop* offered by Dr. Annette Chrétien at the SMC Office in Sudbury, on September 23, 2011.



▲ The Métis Rendezvous 2011 and Fish Fry in Massey, on September 17, 2011.



NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL



Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC) Youth Representative, **Stephanie Labelle**, (left) and NRMC President, **Stephen Quesnelle**, (right) on the Welland Campus of Niagara College.

# NRMC brings Métis culture to Niagara College

by **Stephen Quesnelle**  
*Niagara Region Métis Council*

On October 5th, members of the Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC) and MNO Natural Resources, Environment and Community Relations staff took the opportunity to promote Métis history and culture to the students and faculty of Niagara College.

NRMC President, Stephen Quesnelle, and Youth Representa-

tive, Stephanie Labelle, along with MNO Community Relations staff member, Glen Lipinski, facilitated the informational display on the Welland Campus. The display and table presented a variety of information about Métis history and culture in the form of banners, MNO publications and other periodicals.

Information days are planned for Niagara College (Niagara-on-the-Lake Campus) and Brock University in the very near future.

FORT FRANCES | SUNSET COUNTRY MÉTIS COUNCIL



The Sunset Country Harvest Fish Fry. PHOTOS COURTESY OF Duane Hicks

# Sunset Country Métis Council's fish fry sells out

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Sunset Country Métis Council Fall Harvest Fish Fry attracted a sold-out crowd of 140 people to the Métis Hall in Fort Frances on October 20.

The fish fry was delicious, prepared by a team of volunteers with the fish provided by Blaine Tucker. The evening also featured music from Abbey Calder, Sandra Allan, Brittany Hayes, Charity Alverson, Ericka Tymkin, and Justin Boshey and Company. "We were very

pleased with the terrific turnout and the awesome entertainers," said Sunset Country Métis secretary Roz Calder. "We have such wonderful talent in our district." Union Gas made a cash donation to help make the fish fry possible.

MNO President Gary Lipinski was in attendance and offered words of encouragement and support to the local council. As well, Sunset Country Métis Council President, Clint Calder, gave a brief update on recent MNO activities.

He attended meetings earlier that day with Rubicon Minerals Corp. and Horizon Hydro Inc., two companies looking to start projects in Red Lake and Ear Falls, respectively. Both companies are going through the approval process, and have consulted with Aboriginal peoples in the areas where they have proposed to conduct their projects. As neither project has been approved, consultations with the Métis will be ongoing.

# A year in the life of Sudbury Métis Council

continued page 9

- General Meeting in Verner, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, on May 5;
- The Sudbury Métis Council Annual General Meeting and Fish Fry at the Mine Mills Campground in Sudbury, on June 11, where we had the pleasure of meeting several of our citizens. Mayor Matichuk of the City of Greater Sudbury, several members of PCMNO and MNO staff, as well as other members of our community at large joined us for great Métis entertainment following the AGM;
- The *Grow North Summit* in Thunder Bay, on June 13-14, and in Sudbury on June 15-16, as well as meetings and dialogue sessions of the Sudbury and Region Economic Development Pilot Project Implementation Team and other key potential partners;
- A meeting and *Meet & Greet* with representatives and key stakeholders of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine;
- The MNO AGA in Parry Sound, on August 19 to 22;
- General Meeting in Webwood, at the Webwood Firehall, on September 17;
- *Métis Rendezvous 2011 and Fish Fry* in Massey, on September 17, an educational, fun-filled, family-oriented activity organ-



▲ (Back row: left to right) **Richard Sarrazin, Captain of the Hunt for Region 5; Roger Giroux, President Sudbury Métis Council (SMC); Gary Lipinski, MNO President; Rick Meilleur, Chair, SMC; and, Kempton (Bucky) Gravelle, SMC.** (Front: left to right) **France Picotte, MNO Chair and Juliette Denis, Women's Rep the SMC.**

# Métis Council holds successful Annual Meeting

Fifty Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens attended the Sudbury Métis Council Annual General Meeting on October 4. The meeting heard from MNO President Gary Lipin-

ski and local SMC President Roger Giroux and discussed Métis harvesting rights and related issues. Following the meeting, the council hosted a delicious pot luck supper.

- ized by our regional MNO Healing and Wellness Branch;
- *The Water Journey 2011*, on September 23, whose purpose was to raise awareness about the sacredness, protection, and rehabilitation of our water;
- *The Way of Life Workshop* offered by Dr. Annette Chrétien at the SMC Office in Sudbury, on September 23;
- *Meet & Greet Fish Fry* at Collège Boréal grounds, including an opportunity to meet the Métis citizens who are in the process of building a birch bark canoe on the premises;
- *Presentations at Collège Boréal* in Sudbury, on August 30, to share Métis history and culture with new students in the Camp de transition;
- The Northern Aboriginal Festival at the Sudbury Arena, on October 1;
- General Meeting and Potluck Supper at the arena in Noëlville, on October 4;
- Several meetings related to *Duty to Consult*;
- Several presentations in various local schools to raise awareness about the Métis and their history and culture;
- Several meetings of Café-musique to plan and organize a multi-phase multi-cultural festival which will be held in 2012, portraying early Métis history in Canada;
- Several practice performances

- to prepare for Café-Noël, which is one of the phases of the multi-cultural festival which will be displaying an Indian village, the arrival of French aristocracy in the "New World", the Louis Riel Story, etc., in which councillors and members of our Métis community performed on November 25, 26, and 27;
- Participation in the MNO Michif Language Project.

These activities were most interesting and filled with an educational, cultural, entertaining, family-oriented or partnership-building component. For further details and pictures we invite you to visit our website on a regular basis at [www.sudburymetiscouncil.org](http://www.sudburymetiscouncil.org).

We wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has joined us for our activities and those who have shared their views and comments in order that we may better serve you.

We also wish everyone and their families a very safe and most enjoyable holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year 2012!

Joyeux Noël et Bonne et Heureuse Année 2012 à chacun et chacune, ainsi qu'à tous les membres de vos familles! On vous souhaite tûtt dé bin belles Fêtes et à tûtt vos familles itout! Meegwich! Thank you! Merci! Marcee



EDUCATION

# Collège Boréal unveils pedagogical Métis canoe

Collège Boréal at the University of Sudbury was one of the first postsecondary institutions to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). Currently, the MNO has MOUs with ten Ontario postsecondary institutions. These agreements are the basis for partnership between the MOU and the institution and demonstrate each institution's commitment to enhance services to Métis students and show sensitivity to Métis culture. MOU agreements with postsecondary institutions were made following a MOU signed between the MNO and the Ministry of Colleges, Training and Universities, which in turn followed the signing of the historic MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement in 2008.

Since signing the MOU with the MNO, Collège Boréal has opened the Centre Louis-Riel on its campus. Centre Louis-Riel is the first Métis Centre of its kind at a post-secondary institution in Ontario, and is a special place that welcomes Métis

students

On October 3, 2011, as part of the Northern Aboriginal Festival, Collège Boréal officially unveiled its new traditional Métis canoe construction project. This educational initiative aims to familiarize Collège Boréal and area school board students with the ancestral Métis techniques and traditions that were used to explore Ontario over 400 years ago.

This twenty-foot canoe built by Marcel Labelle and Christian Pilon is entirely made from natural materials such as birch bark and spruce roots. It has important historical and spiritual significance, as Collège Boréal's President Denis Hubert-Dutrisac explains: "We see the construction of this canoe as a way to make our students aware of the richness of their past and the importance of respecting our environment."

Construction of the Metis canoe began during the summer of 2011. The launch was scheduled for November.



From left: Denis Hubert-Dutrisac, President of Collège Boréal, Christian Pilon and Marcel Labelle.

THUNDER BAY | MNO PARTNERS WITH LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

## First Faculty of Law in northwestern Ontario

*Adapted from a speech by Wendy Landry, President of the Thunder Bay Métis Council, given at a ceremony formally launching the new Faculty of Law at Lakehead University.*

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is one of the partners with Lakehead University in launching the first Faculty of Law at a university in north-western Ontario. MNO President Gary Lipinski was invited to speak at a ceremony formally launching the faculty but was unable to attend due to a prior engagement. Wendy Landry, the President of the Thunder Bay Métis Council, represented President Lipinski at the event and made remarks on behalf of the MNO. (See Voyageur 67, page 6 for more.)

The MNO's partnership with the first law school in north-western Ontario is another example of the success of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement and the subsequent Memorandum of Understanding between the MNO and the Ministry of Colleges, Training and Universities. This is exciting news for north-western Ontario and the MNO hopes that this will mean new opportunities for Métis and other Aboriginal young people. It will help our youth break down some of the obstacles that face them when pursuing postsecondary education. Ontario and Canada's economic prosperity depends on a well-educated Aboriginal work force, and this is a good step in that direction. The investments made today will have enormous positive intergenerational effects. The Province of Ontario is making a good investment, one that will pay dividends long into the future. The Faculty of Law located in north-western Ontario will

be a significant building block for all Aboriginal learners who wish to benefit from higher education, and will provide their families with the support systems they often need.

The MNO looks forward to working with Lakehead University to make this Faculty of Law not only a dream for those wishing to enter the law profession, but a reality.

Métis case law has been established by the Supreme Court of Canada (Powley), and more is emerging. The MNO anticipates Lakehead will be at the forefront in teaching current and evolving case law that touches the daily lives of Métis citizens. The MNO congratulates Lakehead University and is proud to be a partner in the first Faculty of Law in north-western Ontario.



Wendy Landry speaking at Lakehead University at the Ceremony launching the Faculty of Law.

SUDBURY | MÉTIS STUDENT SUPPORT AT COLLÈGE BORÉAL

## Collège Boréal has Métis Elder-on-campus



Since October 19, 2011, Collège Boréal's Learning Centre has yet another asset to enhance the academic success and personal growth of their aboriginal students: Métis, First Nations and Inuit. In fact, the presence of a Métis Elder on campus every Wednesday is a true cultural resource for these students.

Elder Marie-Claire Vignola, a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario, is available every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to meet these students either individually or in groups in the relaxed and friendly atmosphere of the Louis-Riel Centre. Besides offering cultural presentations and traditional teachings, she also welcomes at the Louis-Riel Centre any non-aboriginal students and staff interested in knowing more about Canada's aboriginal cultures.

Marie-Claire Vignola is honoured to work as a Métis Elder-on-campus at Collège Boréal in Sudbury and awaits visitors with an open heart and mind!

Depuis le 19 octobre 2011, le Centre d'appui à l'apprentissage du Collège Boréal s'est doté d'un autre atout pour favoriser la réussite académique et l'épanouissement personnel des étudiantes et des étudiants autochtones de la Nation métisse, des Premières nations ainsi que Inuits. En effet, avec la présence sur le campus d'une aînée autochtone, citoyenne de la Nation métisse de l'Ontario, ces étudiantes et

étudiants du Collège Boréal ont désormais un point de référence culturel. Ils peuvent rencontrer l'aînée, Marie-Claire Vignola, individuellement ou en groupe, afin d'échanger informellement, dans un contexte d'amitié et de confiance.

Marie-Claire est disponible au Centre Louis-Riel tous les mercredis de 10h à 15h. En plus d'offrir des présentations culturelles et des enseignements traditionnels dans les salles de classe, elle accueille aussi tous les membres du personnel et les autres étudiantes et étudiants non autochtones qui souhaiteraient discuter avec elle afin de découvrir la richesse des cultures autochtones du Canada.

Marie-Claire Vignola est honorée de travailler à titre d'aînée métisse au campus de Sudbury et elle attend les visiteurs à cœur et bras ouverts!



Elder Marie-Claire Vignola and Eric Dupuis, Coordonnateur - Projets Autochtone / Coordinator - Aboriginal Projects, at Collège Boréal.



## ARTS

## Witness

MNC President Clément Chartier travelled to Nicaragua in 1986 to document the struggles of the Indigenous peoples.

By **Chris Paci**  
MNOET, Manager

If you get a chance, read Clément Chartier's book, *Witness to Resistance: Under Fire in Nicaragua*. The book is set in three major sections with appendices, maps and photos. It is Chartier's eyewitness account and testimony on the resistance of Indigenous peoples in 1980s Nicaragua. The book captures a little over a year, including a harrowing 16 day fact-finding mission and escape from Sandinistas.

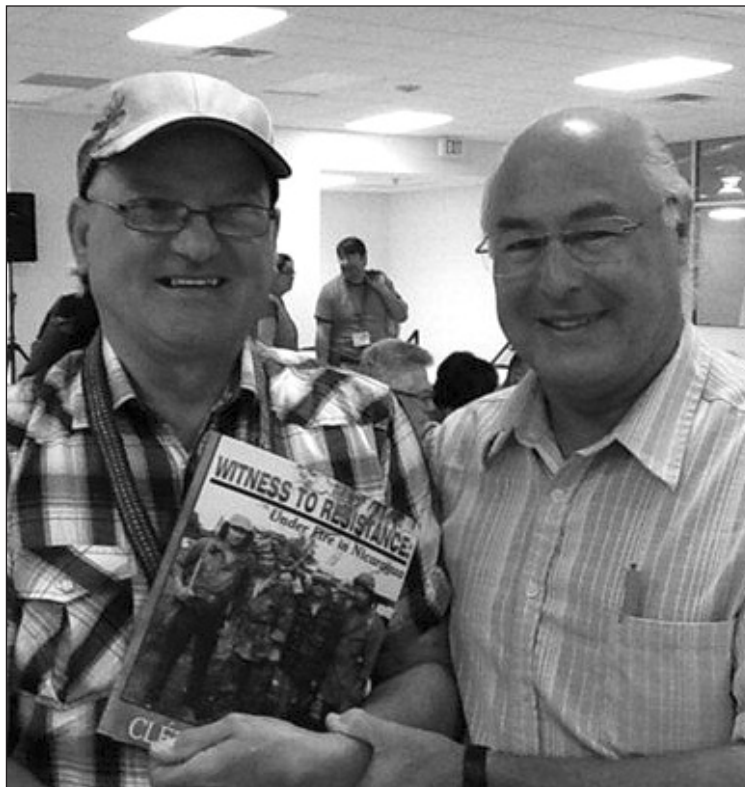
"Witness to Resistance" is published more than 30 years after the events, and documents the atrocities suffered by Indigenous peoples at the hands of the Sandinistas and Contras. It is not surprising that, while others may have stayed out of Nicaragua during those dark years, Chartier and other Indigenous leaders courageously visited to lend support to their Indigenous brothers and sisters: to stand in solidarity against the cruel tyranny of colonialism and to document and bring Indigenous voices to the world.

Since Prime Minister Trudeau's

speech about living next door to the Americans, (Washington Press Club, March 25, 1969: Trudeau utters his famous quote about living next to the U.S. being like "sleeping with an elephant.") whenever I think of colonization it looks like a big pink pachyderm. Unfortunately, US foreign policy isn't funny; the reality of globalization has far too often propped up illegitimate governments supplied with Yankee arms used to suppress Indigenous peoples. American attempts to colonize British North America yielded mixed results and ultimately Manifest Destiny failed. The War of 1812 marginalized First Nations' and Métis' involvement, which was overshadowed by a British officer killed in Queenston.

The Americans, like the British and French before them and since, have had a long try at replicating themselves in countries outside their original borders. Attempts to impose their interests, economic or otherwise, continue now in far-away lands like Iran. Colonialism continues under a number of guises including

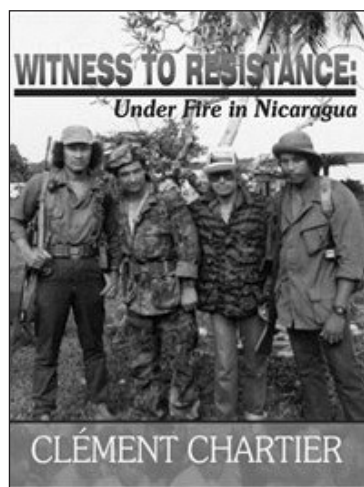
*continued page 22*



▲ Métis National Council President Clément Chartier (right) presents Roger Giroux (left) and the Sudbury Métis Council a copy of his new book, *Witness to Resistance: Under Fire in Nicaragua*.

**WITNESS TO RESISTANCE:  
UNDER FIRE IN NICARAGUA**

By Clément Chartier  
Baico Publishing, 2011.  
Available on line from Indigo.ca



## The girl with the labyrinth tattoo

Métis writer's first novel is a compelling mystery

Gloria Bell, a Métis from the Simcoe Region of Ontario has recently written and published her first novel, an art mystery titled "Akila's Labyrinth", set in the southwest United States. She is a fourth generation Métis with family connections to the Red River Settlement and James Bay. In this novel, she wanted to explore the importance of artwork for Aboriginal welfare, while also detailing the desert landscapes of New Mexico. Some of the characters are inspired by her Métis and Cree heritage. Here is a summary of her novel.

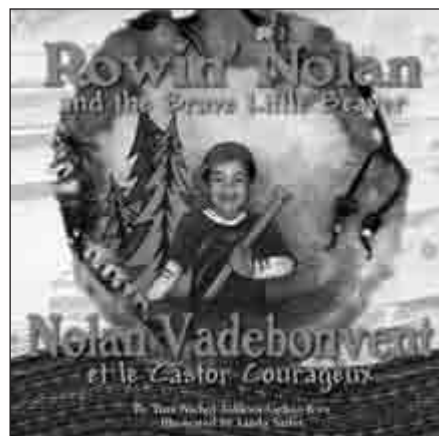
Akila Peters works as an art consultant in Santa Fe. Wandering through the Georgia O'Keefe museum, he discovers a man's body with a labyrinth tattoo. While he tries to unravel why this man was killed, he discovers a series of southwest art thefts and a variety of interesting characters in the City Different. His neighbour, Ms. White, likes to spy on his apartment and while she seems innocent, she has a collection of Civil War era weapons and an assortment of south-western jewellery that has gone missing. His one friend in town, Janine, works at a bookstore and has a knack for understanding people. She also sports a labyrinth tattoo. Although never one for believing in the super-



natural, something is following him that won't leave him alone, perhaps to his peril. Walking through the many art galleries and desert landscapes of New Mexico, Akila realizes that there is much more behind art than just an aesthetic appreciation; peoples' lives depend on it.

This novel is available for purchase online (\$2.99) at amazon.ca and smashwords.com. Bell plans on writing a sequel to this, where Akila Peters attends the Venice Biennale in Italy, the world's largest contemporary art exhibition, and is drawn into a series of perilous events.

To see a page from *Akila's Labyrinth* online visit:  
<http://metisramblings.blogspot.com/p/akilas-labyrinth.html>



## Rowin' Nolan teaches respect for Mother Earth

Tina Nichol is pleased to have the first book in a series of Rowin' Nolan Adventures available for the public. She has been writing stories for several years now, but only recently published her own work.

A proud Métis woman, Tina was born and raised in Temiskaming, where the idea of a young canoe boy sprung to life.

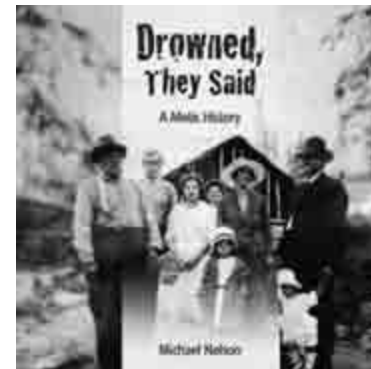
She is a millennium graduate of the Journalism-Print program at Cambrian College in Sudbury, and more recently graduated with honours in the Environmental Sciences and Conservation program from Stratford Career Institute in Toronto.

*About The Book:* Rowin' Nolan is a young boy growing up in the town of Deep Water, a community in northern Ontario. He spends his

time canoeing the lakes and streams surrounding his home. Distinct from the folks of Deep Water, Nolan respects Mother Earth and what she provides him. He fishes and catches only what he eats and uses a canoe instead of a boat powered by motor. The people of Deep Water nickname him "Rowin' Nolan" because he can row as perfectly as the sound of a banging drum, and paddle faster than ducks' feet. And he does it all while singing his "wild wild" song.

\$1 from each sale of this book will go to the Métis Nation of Ontario and Temiskaming Métis Community Council for ongoing community projects.

*Rowin' Nolan* is available at:  
[www.treebarkbooks.ca](http://www.treebarkbooks.ca)



## Voices out of the past

**DROWNED, THEY SAID:  
A MÉTIS HISTORY**

By Michael B. Nelson  
Seraphim Editions, 2011  
Available online from Indigo.ca and Amazon.ca

By **Linda Lord**

"Drowned, They Said", is the story of Michael Nelson's return to the gravesite of his paternal grandparents who are buried near a remote portage on the Batchewana River, in the Algoma Highlands east of Lake Superior. In fact it is two stories that run parallel to one another, like railway tracks, except that eventually they run together and become the same account.

One story tells of the author's ancestors, his grandfather in particular, and how he came to be drowned on the Batchewana, and why he was buried in that remote place. "He came to me by absence: there on the living room wall of grandmother's house was the photograph that held the face of the man my grandfather, whose name I bear. As a child I looked upon it and wondered of the man....I knew he was gone, dead, but why and where? Drowned, they said, on the Batchewana." So the book begins.

The other story is that of the author, who, like so many of us, is looking for his roots. He is trying to unearth the details that families don't talk about: the Native connection. Where is grandpa buried? What happened to Aunt Rose?

"We look into the ledgers and lists of names, into certificates of birth, baptismal and marriage, into the archives of fur trade, treaty and census, searching through florid hand and old typeface for clues out of the past."

As I read this charming and poetic book, I had the distinct feeling that I knew these people. They might have been my own relatives, or yours. The many pictures seem familiar and personal, like an old family album or scrapbook.

Anyone who has ever looked at a yellowed photograph that is fading toward oblivion and wondered what it was like to be these people, and what ever happened to them, will find "Drowned" an irresistible read.



# PRESIDENT’S REPORT



**“For the MNO to grow and expand its operations, we need to strengthen our financial management and administration.”**

– Gary Lipinski, MNO President, May 6, 2008

# Turning the Corner Together

An Update on  
Métis Nation of Ontario  
Finances



BY **Gary Lipinski**  
PRESIDENT, Métis Nation of Ontario

**E**ven while many of Riel’s battles are still being fought, the MNO acknowledged that some progress has been made in Ontario towards achieving Riel’s goals. Some evidence of this progress could be seen at the ceremony itself where a large number of provincial cabinet ministers and Members of the Provincial Parliament were in attendance. These were: the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; the Honourable John Gerretsen, Attorney General; the Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Energy; the Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities; the Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Children and Youth Services; the Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Consumer Services; New Democratic Party Aboriginal Affairs Critic, Sarah Campbell; MPP, Michael Prue; MPP, Dave Levac; MPP, Grant Crack; MPP, Victor Fedeli; MPP, David Zimmer; MPP, Soo Wong; and MPP, Frank Klees.

The presence of these Ministers and MPPs at the Provincial Louis Riel Day event demonstrated the positive relationship the MNO has built with Ontario through the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, which was signed three years ago. “The government’s willingness to sign the Framework Agreement with us,” stated President Lipinski, “signaled there was a new way of doing business with the Métis and that the process of recon-

ciliation had started.” Minister Wynne also spoke about the importance of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement. “That agreement is the foundation of a collaborative agreement between us,” she said, “and it has created opportunities, partnerships and achieved measurable results.” Minister Wynne also highlighted the development of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF), which she described as “our biggest achievement together so far.” The Ontario Government has committed 30 million dollars over 10 years to the MVDF, which will help Métis entrepreneurs and businesses. The Minister also outlined the work the MNO has undertaken with funding through the New Relationship Fund. “That work of helping people say who they are, self-identification projects, coming to realization is such an important part of what you do,” she said. “I believe Ontario and the Métis Nation of Ontario have come a long way together in a short period of time, but I recognize that there is a lot more work that we have to do together.”

Carrying on the work of Riel, however, is not just up to the MNO leadership and the government. MNO Chair, France Picotte, called on all MNO citizens to carry on Riel’s work by showing their Métis pride. “It is up to us, not necessarily up to the Métis Nation of Ontario. We are the umbrella; we might be able to help you, might be able to help facilitate you, but it is your responsibility to transfer that culture, that knowledge,

“

**Leadership on these issues starts at the top, and I am committed to putting in place a comprehensive action plan to address the MNO’s existing debt, and the challenges in relation to cash flow for the MNO and its Community Councils. This plan will also put in place stronger financial management processes, increased transparency and effective checks and balances, to ensure deficits become a thing of the past within the MNO.**

”

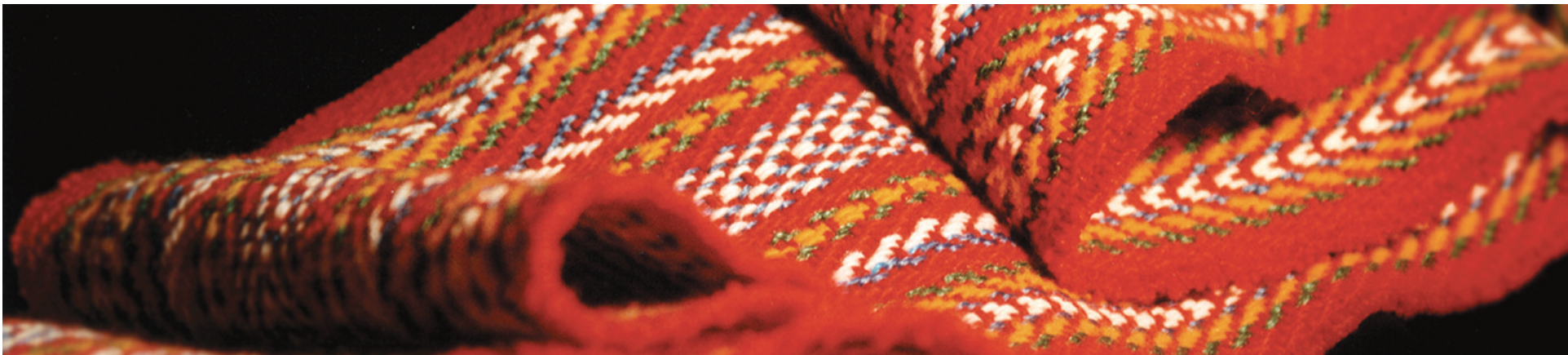
**Gary Lipinski**  
MNO President,  
May 6, 2008

to be proud of who you are.” As an example Chair Picotte spoke enthusiastically about the work done in the last year to help revive Michif, the Métis language. President Lipinski concluded his remarks by saying that although Riel’s work remains unfinished there is no doubt that the MNO is continuing his work. “It may fall to future generations,” said President Lipinski, “to the youth that are here today, to carry on, because that

work will take time; but as long as we are making progress in the right direction, and we are, then I think we should celebrate that.” The ceremony left no doubt that Riel’s execution, 126 years before, had not stopped the Métis cause, and in fact, as Métis youth Conlin Sawchuk stated: “The Heart of Louis Riel is alive and beating with us today.”



AN UPDATE ON MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO FINANCES



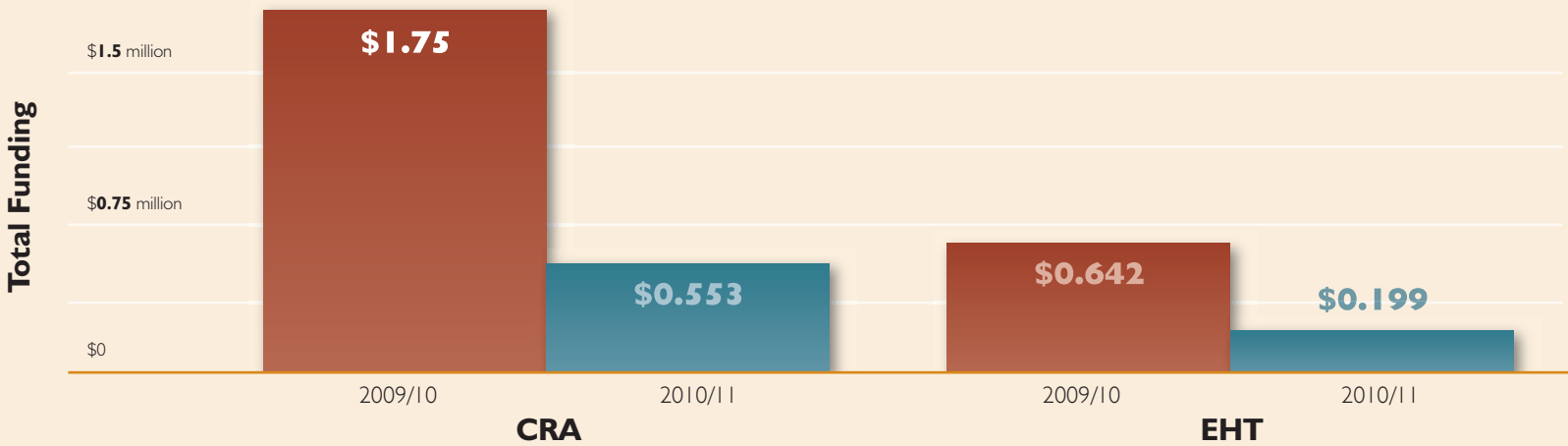
# Turning the Corner together

## Financial Highlights and Measureable Results

Some of the measureable results achieved through the support and effort of our citizens, PCMNO and MNO administration include:

- **The MNO has been able to reduce its cumulative deficit (i.e., assets minus liabilities) by approximately 40% since 2008.** As of March 31st, 2011, the MNO's cumulative deficit was \$2.49 million versus \$4.2 million in 2008/09 – a reduction of over \$1.7 million in the last 3 years.
- **The MNO has been able to cut its Total Service Debt (TSD) Ratio by close to 50%.** Specifically, in early 2008, MNO's TDS ratio was 31%. As of March 31st, 2011, it was at 15%.
- **The MNO has significantly reduced its debts owing to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and Ontario for the Employer Health Tax (EHT).** It has also negotiated debt repayment plans with these agencies. The amount owing to CRA was originally \$2.1 million, but has been reduced to \$553,000 at the end of November 30, 2011. The amount owing for EHT was originally \$735,000, but has been reduced to \$199,000 by the end of November 30, 2011. This equates to over two million in debt reduction. As well, debts owed to Service Canada and Health Canada (originally totalling \$1.8 million) are being reduced through regular re-payment plans and negotiations are underway to reach a compromise settlement on the remaining outstanding debt.

Metis Nation of Ontario Debt Reduction in Millions As of November 30, 2011



### Implementation of Financial Policies and Procedures

The MNO's Finance Branch has fully implemented the stringent Financial Policies and Procedures adopted by the PCMNO in November 2009. The MNO Finance Branch, after in depth third party analysis has doubled in size and now has two Certified Accountants and six other trained and qualified staff in place. With a capable Finance Branch and with the right systems and oversight in place to meet the many complexities and challenges which confront a “not-for-profit corporation,” and with a myr-

iad of funders each with different accountability requirements we can now effectively manage all necessary reporting and tracking. Along with the day-to-day requirements, the Finance Branch continues to refine new software and to further automate systems to increase efficiencies, which will free up time for Branch staff to engage in actual program business analysis and to ensure timely responses to variances and reporting.

### Growth in the Face of the Economic Downturn and Government Cutbacks

Funders who were ready to close our doors in 2008 have new faith in the MNO and since May 2008, MNO revenues have increased by approximately 65% from \$12.5 million in 2007/2008 to over \$20 million in 2010/2011). This growth, in the face of the economic downturn and government cutbacks, is a testament to how the MNO is now seen in the eyes of government and funders. Our risk assessment has dropped from high to medium and the MNO is seen as a credible partner to invest in. By way of

caution, while we can indeed be proud of all we have accomplished, the work is just beginning, and it is not the time to rest on our laurels. We need to stay the course of accountability and transparency and we still have a debt which must be eliminated. We must find ways to get more funding to our communities to support the work and desires of the many volunteers, who continue to be the backbone of the MNO. We can only do this if we continue to do it – together!



AN UPDATE ON MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO FINANCES

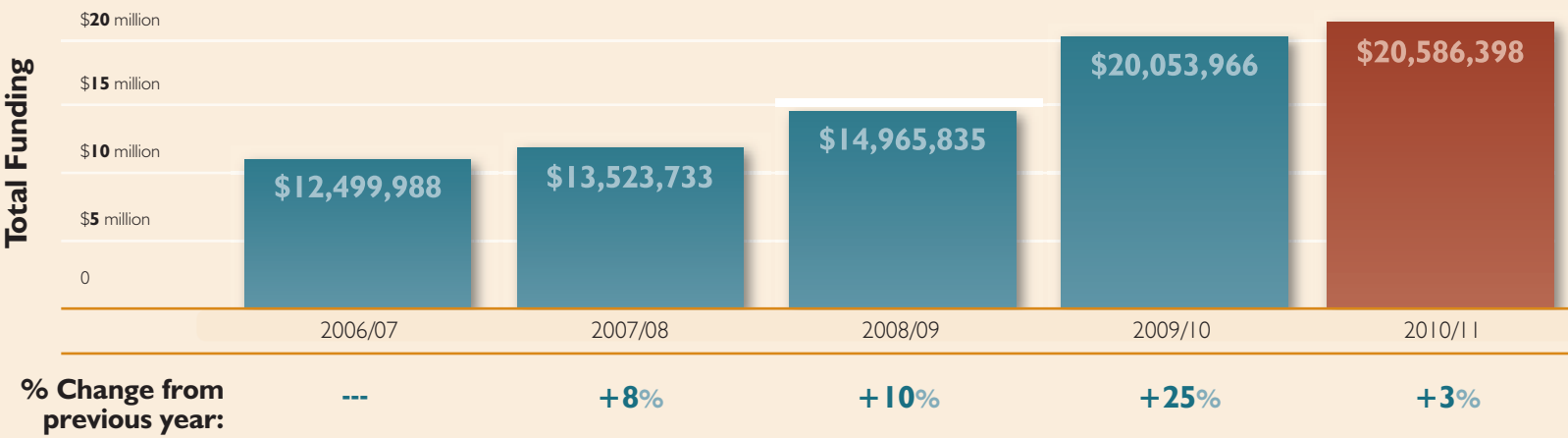


Province commits \$30 Million to support Métis entrepreneurs and businesses

▲ Former Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Chris Bentley (left) and MNO President, Gary Lipinski (right) during media event announcing creation of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund.

Growth in MNO Revenues 2006-11

Metis Nation of Ontario Total Revenue



- The figures above indicate a 65% increase in total revenue from 2006-07 to 2010-11.
- Between 2006-07 and 2010-11, the number of contribution agreements between the MNO and funders increased from 37 to 83, which represents a 124% increase.
- Between 2006-07 and 2010-11 the number of funders that the MNO had contributions agreements with increased from 14 to 28, which represents a 100% increase.

- This increased credibility in the eyes of our funding partners has also led to their increased willingness to enter into multi-year contribution agreements with the MNO. In the last few years, the following multi-year, multi-million dollar agreements have been negotiated and signed:
- A five and a half year Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy to replace the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement with Services Canada for \$30,692,737 million to support the work of the MNO's Education and Training Branch;
  - A five year Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy Agreement for \$2.6 million to support the work of the MNO's Healing and Wellness Branch;
  - A five year New Relationship Funding Agreement for \$2.1 million a year to support the work of the MNO's Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch, MNO Community Councils and MNO Regional Consultation Committees; and

- A ten year agreement with the Ontario government for the Métis Voyageur Development Fund.(The MVDF) The agreement provides for three million a year for each year of the agreement; 30 million dollars in total. The MVDF will support Métis entrepreneurship and investment in Ontario's resource sector.



## AN UPDATE ON MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO FINANCES



## MNO to receive \$30.6 million for Employment & Training over five years

▲ (Left to right) Bruce Stanton, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Aboriginal Affairs; Shelly Glover, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; and, Gary Lipinski, President of the MNO, on November 22, 2010, in the MNO head office in Ottawa.

## Payments to Vendors, Community Councils and MNO Citizens

The MNO has also significantly reduced the delay in making payments to our vendors, Community Councils and our own people. For example, on average, our trade payables are paid in less than 30 days. Moreover, our monthly accounts payables have been reduced from an average of 30.7% in 2007/2008 to 0.3% in 2010/2011. These improvements are due primarily to the fact that MNO now employs project and fund accounting and more sophisticated software which provides for improved cash flow and timely payments.

Today, any delays in payment are mostly due to a lack of adequate financial reporting (i.e., expense claims not being properly completed and coded, receipts not being provided, financial statements of Community Councils not being submitted, and monies not being received from funders, etc.) rather than the MNO not having money in the bank. This is a significant change in the day-to-day realities of the MNO.

## Increased Capacity for MNO Community Councils

In the past, the MNO was unable to provide any financial support to MNO Community Councils and their important work. MNO Community Councils had to rely entirely on the good will and efforts of volunteers. In May 2008, the PCMNO and I focussed on finding ways to change that reality. We wanted to make sure that the MNO's growth and increased financial stability also had direct measurable results for Community Councils.

Through our discussions on the *New Relationship Fund* with Ontario, the MNO was able to secure capacity funding for consultation activities through the MNO's Consultation Framework. Over the last

four fiscal years, over \$1.6 million has been dedicated to Community Councils to support their work at the local and regional levels on consultation related activities. Moreover, through the MNO's Consultation Framework, many Regions and Community Councils are now discussing economic development opportunities to support their future work at the local level. These realities would not have been possible without being able to demonstrate a willingness to be transparent with funders and much stronger financial management and accountability processes across the MNO locally, regionally and provincially.

## Turning the Corner - Together

As you can see, our collective sacrifices and efforts over the last few years have achieved measureable results. I believe we have "turned the corner" within the MNO when it comes to our financial management, administration and accountability. However, while we have "turned the corner," we must remain committed to ensuring we do not fall back into old habits. We must constantly reassess our financial management and accountability in order to limit our financial liabilities and risks as a nation.

We cannot allow our recent achievements and successes to allow us to lose

sight of our collective commitment to our children and grandchildren --- to hand over a debt-free MNO with a strong economic base and opportunities for generations to come. A debt-free MNO will accelerate our ability to advance on the visions and objectives so well articulated in MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose. Your current leadership at the local, regional and provincial levels are committed to seeing that dream become a reality. It will require continued commitment and sacrifice, but it is achievable if we continue to work -- together.

## Conclusion

As MNO President, I look forward to continuing to keep MNO citizens apprised of what is happening within our nation on the financial front. In addition to this update, we will be providing further information as a part of the upcoming Phase II community consultations on Métis identification and registry that are scheduled to begin in early 2012.

If you have any questions about this update, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of my PCMNO colleagues.

Gary Lipinski  
President, MNO  
November 2011

TURNING THE CORNER - TOGETHER ∞ AN UPDATE ON MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO FINANCES

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

# Economic Development gets another boost at Métis Nation of Ontario

For Métis in Ontario, 2011 has already been a banner year for economic development! In addition to the creation of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF), the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) will begin to lay the foundation for business support for Métis businesses. Effective November 15, 2011, the MNO will provide “Advisory, Support and Referral Services” to the Métis business community in Ontario. This service will assist Métis entrepreneurs seeking to start a company, current business owners wishing to expand, or those seeking professional assistance with their company. Contact

information for these services will be provided on the MNO website. In addition, the MNO will be creating a database of Métis businesses in Ontario. Over the next several months the MNO will reach out to identify Métis businesses in all business sectors. Important business opportunities will be created through the upcoming Pan American Games in 2015 as well as through MNO’s relationships with industry proponents. The MNO wishes to identify, market, and provide opportunities for Métis businesses where possible. Other initiatives planned this year are the development of a

“**EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 15, 2011, THE MNO WILL PROVIDE “ADVISORY, SUPPORT AND REFERRAL SERVICES” TO THE MÉTIS BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN ONTARIO.**”

“Tool Kit for Small and Medium Enterprises” with a guide to business resources and funding sources to start or expand businesses, and the creation of a “Business Advisory Committee” comprised of financial and business experts to provide the MNO with guidance on how best to develop economic opportunities arising from its on-going interactions with industry proponents. Finally, the MNO will host a Métis business forum with the intent of holding an information session on the MVDF; providing information about upcoming business opportunities related to the 2015 Pan American Games; train-

ing on a topic of interest to Métis business; and listening to Métis businesses about the barriers they face and the supports they would like to see from the MNO to further their businesses. Keep an eye on the MNO website ([www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)) for updates about these new and exciting initiatives. For information contact: **Joanne Meyer** Director Intergovernmental Relations (416) 977-9881 ext. 101 [joannem@metisnation.org](mailto:joannem@metisnation.org)

## Métis entrepreneur named Business Woman of the Year

By **Connie Boyd**  
[www.silvermoccasin.com](http://www.silvermoccasin.com)

As you may already know, I was chosen for the Business Woman of the Year Award by the Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund, which recognizes Aboriginal business entrepreneurs in Ontario. I had the honour of receiving my award at a special banquet and ceremony on October 26th, in Timmins, Ontario. There were eight awards given and mine was sponsored by Hydro One. It was a very special evening indeed with about 350 guests in

attendance. I want to sincerely thank all those who provided letters of support for this award. I am so grateful for that. This award was certainly not achieved by me alone! I’ve had so much support from my family, friends and my community since opening The Silver Moccasin that the business has sort of taken on a life of its own. It does require dedication and hard work but I have been truly enjoying every minute of it and hope to continue doing what I love to do while supporting our native artisans. That’s a daily reward in itself!



▲ **Connie Boyd recently recieved a Business Woman of the Year Award.**  
PHOTO BY Gerry Robichaud

For more info and a list of the other recipients you can visit:  
[www.nadf.org/article/nadf-annual-business-awards-138.asp](http://www.nadf.org/article/nadf-annual-business-awards-138.asp)

### BUILDING SYSTEMS TECHNICAL ADVISOR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (BSTAIP)

## MNO’s Housing Interns work with Habitat for Humanity

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Building Systems Technical Advisor Internship Program (BSTAIP) interns were on the site of a Habitat for Humanity house on October 18, 2011. Based in Thunder Bay, the purpose of BSTAIP is to develop a workforce of highly skilled building inspection and energy conservation advisors that will be leaders in the current trends influencing housing. The interns assisted Habitat for Humanity by reviewing the building’s blue prints, and observing the construction details involved with the new construction in reference to the Ontario Building Code. The interns were supported by Paul Burry, who is one of the instructors at Confederation College who is assisting with the BSTAIP.



▲ **MNO Building Systems Technical Advisor Internship Program (BSTAIP) Interns Work with Habitat for Humanity.**

### ABORIGINAL APPRENTICESHIP CENTRE | SAULT STE. MARIE

## Apprenticeship jumpstarts careers in the trades

By **Jennifer St. Germain**  
Director, Education and Training  
OTTAWA



The Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre (AAC) is a partnership between the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Sault College and provides a client-based approach to pursuing careers in the skilled trades to individuals in Sault Ste. Marie and the surrounding area. The AAC’s goal is to increase Aboriginal participation in apprenticeships, increase youth awareness of trades and provide support systems for successful completion of apprenticeship training. Lynne Sinclair has been the project coordinator for the last two years; however, funding for her contract is coming to an end. The centre has been quite successful and we are pleased to announce that Sault College has agreed to bring Lynne on to their staff. As the project coordinator, Lynne can help you become an apprentice and begin your journey towards a

successful career in the trades. MNO will continue to work in partnership with the college to move the initiatives of the centre forward. If you have any questions or wish to contact Lynne, her office phone number is 705-759-2554 X 2587 and her new email will be [lynne.sinclair@saultcollege.ca](mailto:lynne.sinclair@saultcollege.ca). Tiffany Beerthuisen, the MNO Regional Employment and Training Coordinator in Thunder Bay has recently accepted an exciting new position with Wasaya Airlines. Tiffany has been working as the Coordinator in Thunder Bay for several years and has built strong relationships throughout the region. Her dedication and commitment to the Métis people in Region Two have been invaluable. While Tiffany’s professionalism and expertise will be missed we wish her the best in this new chapter in her life.

### GEORGIAN BAY MÉTIS COUNCIL | NEW CENTRE

## A Métis Cultural and Community Centre for Georgian Bay

The Georgian Bay Métis Council takes the next step towards a proposed Métis Centre

On October 14, 2011, Georgian Bay Métis Council President, Brenda Laurin, was notified by Jason Peltier, Business Development Officer for Waubetek Business Development Corporation, that GBMC was approved for a funding grant to hire a consultant to complete a business plan for the proposed Georgian Bay Métis Cul-

tural and Community Centre. The council has hired Joe Melisek and his team from the firm of BDO Canada to conduct this research. There will be community consultation meetings held in the area to ensure that all concerned citizens can have input into the uses and services to be supplied by this proposed centre.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO YOUTH COUNCIL

# Re-Introducing the MNO Youth Council

After a few years of relatively little activity, The Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council has been rejuvenated and wants to hear from you!

We would like to introduce your MNO Youth Council Representatives and remind you that we are currently looking for Provincial Representatives from Regions, 1, 3, 6 and 9. If you are in one of these areas and would like to be part of the MNOYC, we would love to hear from you. You'll be hearing from us!

Sign up for the Youth Email Distribution List at [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org) to find out about Opportunities for Métis Youth!



**Nick Callaghan**  
PCMNO YOUTH REP  
[callagn@hotmail.com](mailto:callagn@hotmail.com)

Hey, I'm Nick Callaghan from Sudbury, Region 5. I am the MNOYC Chair and PCMNO Youth Rep. I have been involved with the Métis youth for four years. I started as the Region 5 Youth Rep., then, was elected the PCMNO Youth Rep. at the 2009 AGA. I first wanted to become part of the council as a way to stay connected with and learn more about my Métis heritage, and to better understand more of the political aspects of the MNO. I have learned so much in the four years that I have been involved! Being on council has also been a great way to network and make friends with Métis youth across the province, and even across the country. As your Youth Rep. my job is to work for you! If you want your voice to be heard, want to get involved, or have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.



**Janine Landry**  
REGION 2  
[j9landry@tbaytel.net](mailto:j9landry@tbaytel.net)

Hi there my name is Janine Landry. I was born and raised in Thunder Bay and am the eldest of six children. I have been working with the Métis Nation of Ontario since 2008. I began as the local female Youth Rep. for our Thunder Bay Métis Council and from there began working to help rectify the MNOYC. I am a driven, responsible young woman, and am very passionate about Aboriginal rights and my spirituality. I am still attending Lakehead University in the Honours Indigenous Learning Program, and hope to continue some kind of graduate school afterwards. If you need to contact me just email me.



**Mitch Case**  
REGION 4  
[mitch.case@hotmail.com](mailto:mitch.case@hotmail.com)

Bonjour, Boozhoo, Hello! My name is Mitch Case. I am the Youth Rep. for Region 4 for the MNOYC. I have served my community of Sault Ste Marie as Youth Rep for three years and am happy to now serve our beautiful Region 4. I am currently a student at Algoma University studying history and Anishinaabemowin. As the MNOYC is rebuilding itself we need input from all the Métis youth in Ontario. We are your council; your interests and concerns are our interests and concerns. I look forward to working with the rest of the council and with other councils and staff at the MNO to make sure the voice of the youth is heard. I can be reached on facebook and by email. I look forward to hearing from the youth of Region 4 and from the rest of Ontario. Remember, you have a voice; never forget to use it.



**James Callaghan**  
REGION 5  
[jamescallaghan89@hotmail.com](mailto:jamescallaghan89@hotmail.com)

Hello! My name is James Callaghan and I am the Region 5 Youth Representative. I live in Sudbury, and have lived here for my entire life. I have been on the council for the past three years. Being on the council gives me the opportunity to give back to the community, help further the youth initiative, and to give my insight from a health perspective. It is important for our community, culture, and family to grow. This means youth needs to be involved and support each other. A building cannot be built without a solid foundation. If you would like to contact me, send me an email. Thank you!



**Katelyn Lacroix**  
REGION 7  
[katelynlacroix@live.ca](mailto:katelynlacroix@live.ca)

Boozho, Bonjour, Hello. My name is Katelyn Lacroix. I was born in Penetanguishene. I currently live in Waterloo where I am studying music. I am so excited to join the council this year. I'm so lucky to have this wonderful extended Métis family to learn and connect with. I want to share this with other youth, by spreading awareness about their culture, and the wonderful learning opportunities.

You can also connect with me on Facebook, through the Georgian Bay Métis Council page, or the Métis Youth page.



**Ginny Gonneau**  
REGION 8  
[ggonneau@gmail.com](mailto:ggonneau@gmail.com)

Hello. I am the Region 8 Youth Rep. on the MNOYC. I am 27 years old and live in Toronto. I was born in Thunder Bay and grew up in Barrie. It is very exciting to be on the youth council; there are lots of changes and good things happening. I have been involved with youth initiatives at the MNO since I was 18. I am very passionate about youth engagement, youth participation in governance and decision-making. If you live in Region 8 (Oshawa, Durham, Toronto, North York or Mississauga) please email me so I can connect with you and pass along opportunities. I hope to hear from you and represent your voice at the regional and provincial level within the MNO.



**Alex Young**  
REGION 9  
[youngalexander@gmail.com](mailto:youngalexander@gmail.com)

My name is Alexander Young, and I am a second year student at McMaster University enrolled in the Integrated Science (iSci) program. I am 19 years old and originally from Caledonia Ontario, although I currently live in Hamilton. I am incredibly excited to be part of the MNOYC, as I believe that Metis youth throughout the MNO deserve a stronger voice, and being part of this council facilitates exactly that. I am looking forward to working with everyone who is part of the MNOYC, and the entirety of the MNO. I am open to all comments and concerns, and can be reached at [youngalexander@gmail.com](mailto:youngalexander@gmail.com).

## MÉTIS YOUTH CONTEST

# Generation Innovation

## Métis Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge takes off!

By **Erin Tomkins**  
MNO Policy Analyst

The Métis Nation of Ontario, with financial support from the Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation and numerous corporate sponsors, has developed an exciting new project designed for Métis youth (aged 13 - 29) interested in entrepreneurship--starting or expanding their own businesses and developing skills in business planning, finance, budgeting and marketing strategies.

*Generation Innovation: Métis Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge* was launched in mid October and met with great enthusiasm from

around Ontario. Métis youth were asked to submit an application including a rough outline of their business idea or innovation. Phase two of our project involves providing program applicants with training and where possible pairing them with a business professional that will provide mentorship in all aspects of entrepreneurship including business planning, marketing and budget development.

In early 2012, participants will submit their completed business plans for review. Those with the best business plans will be flown to Toronto to participate in an intensive (and fun) *Skills Summit* where they will hone their skills in the all-important "pitch" (think

*Dragon's Den*). The youth will then pitch their business to a panel of esteemed experts and compete for prizes and glory.

*First prize:* \$1000 cash and a new computer and printer!  
*Second prize:* \$500 cash!  
*Third prize:* \$250 cash

Stay tuned for more exciting updates on the project and our innovative participants!

For additional information please check out the MNO website at [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org) or email: [info@generationinnovation.ca](mailto:info@generationinnovation.ca)



◀ **Métis youth learn finger-weaving at Georgian Bay Rendezvous as part of the Summer Youth Cultural Program.**

## MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program

This summer, Métis youth were given the opportunity to learn more about their Métis culture and history. A program, 2011 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Summer Youth Cultural Program designed for Métis youth, was provided in Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Midland MNO offices.

The main objective of the program is to equip Métis youth with the knowledge to speak about Métis people, their culture and history. The training and orientation activities encourage the sharing, learning, and celebrating of Métis traditions, with specific emphasis on the Ontario Métis history and culture.



## HEALING & WELLNESS

# Connecting generations through Métis storytelling

By **October Fostey**  
AHBHC Coordinator  
WINDSOR

On September 21, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor staff was delighted to host the “Connecting Generations—Through Métis Storytelling” event that focused on the importance of sharing the knowledge our Métis Grandmothers, Grandfathers, and Elders have with younger generations in order to preserve the traditions many of our families have forgotten or did not know.

It started with a sumptuous dinner of wild game stew, three sisters salad, butternut squash and apple soup, wild blueberry and plain bannock, and two kinds of cake--wild rice cake (a huge hit and everyone wanted the recipe), and a butternut squash spice cake. Oral historians that I have been

“**THIS VERY SPECIAL EVENING SHOWED US JUST HOW HUNGRY OUR COMMUNITY IS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THEIR CULTURE**”

working with over the past two years on the research project, the Indigenous Knowledge Network, which is focusing on gathering traditional Métis knowledge from our region, were invited in from Wallaceburg, Ontario, to meet some of our community members and



▲ Participants at Windsor’s “Connecting Generations—Through Métis Storytelling” event.

share their wisdom on a variety of topics. We were joined by MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council Senator, Earl Scofield, and Vice President, Wilfred Rochon. Information was shared about child development and the importance of teaching our little ones to use their

imaginings instead of buying them electronic toys. We also talked about fishing, farming, and relationships. By the end of the evening everyone was feeling very positive about their identity, and they wished the evening could have gone on. Since

the event, I have fielded several calls from attendees who raved about the excellent meal, and the fun they had listening and sharing the stories of our people. I would like to sincerely thank the Elders and Grandmothers who travelled to share with us, and our beloved Senator for his touching story about the tiny cross he has carried since his days serving our country. This very special evening showed us just how hungry our community is to learn more about themselves and their culture; to share in laughter and good food; and, to walk away feeling they have found a place where they belong. Thanks also to my team mates, Janna Mawa, MNO Long Term Care Coordinator; and Danielle Deneau, MNO Community Wellness Coordinator and to one of our community members, Gloria, many thanks for a fabulous meal; everyone loved it!

## Journals

An easy and powerful way to accelerate your personal development

By **Tracey Dale**  
Community Wellness Coordinator  
BANCROFT

The Bancroft office of The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) recently held a “Journaling for Wellness” workshop. Participants were given an opportunity to explore different types of journaling, including:

- Journaling thoughts and ideas
- The importance of journaling
- Journaling words from a loved one to pass on through generations
- How and why to keep a house journal
- Benefits of journaling
- Setbacks of journaling

During discussion it was apparent that the number one reason participants didn’t journal was confidentiality and a fear of having their journals read by someone. This led to discussion on how to keep our journals safe. The group decided that purchasing a security safe to put journals in would be beneficial for those who feel vulnerable.



TIMMINS | UPCOMING HEALING & WELLNESS EVENTS

## Timmins -- Healing Together

By **Louise Cloutier**  
Long Term Care Coordinator  
TIMMINS

Wow! Time sure flies when you’re having fun! Year end is just around the corner and we still have lots to offer in our surrounding community. First of all, let me say that we are very happy to have **Jessie Dolan** our Community Wellness Coordinator on our Healing and Wellness Team and **Michelle Seguin**, who started in November with the Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children (AHBHC) pro-

gram. We have many upcoming events to look forward to. The Long Term Care (LTC) Learning Circle group meets every Thursday at the MNO office to socialize, do crafts, knit, and quilt. We are very fortunate to be partnering with Aboriginal Peoples’ Alliance Northern Ontario, Inahepanik Community Centre, Northern Lights Métis Council, and Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy for a two day event in Cochrane on January 17th and 18th. The event is promoted as “Learning Today for a Healthy Tomorrow”.

Topics being presented include: Aboriginal Historical Overview; Métis Identity and Culture; Healthy Sexuality; the 7 Grandfather Teachings; Elder Abuse; Spiritual Health; Journaling for Wellness; HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. Various agencies will have booths available to promote their programs for participants. In February we will participate in a “Healing Together Project”. This project is a unique endeavour to build the capacities of Aboriginal organizations and communities through programs and services to

Aboriginal victims of domestic and family violence. Tentative dates for the events are February 4th for a family event with many activities and a workshop, followed by traditional learning and Métis health promotion on February 16th. If you have any question regarding the events please contact the Timmins Healing and Wellness Branch at **705-264-3939**. The Healing and Wellness team wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

THUNDER BAY | MÉTIS HERITAGE

## A capote for Captain Ken

By **Joan Panizza**  
Community Wellness Coordinator  
THUNDER BAY

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Healing and Wellness Staff in Thunder Bay runs a traditional crafting group every Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. We have been very lucky to have a Métis citizen come forward and volunteer to teach us how to make capotes. Michelle Pringnezt is a stellar lady with a wealth of knowledge and resources. We have been making capotes for a few months and enjoy getting together to work on our coats. It’s a process, making something like a coat by hand, but the efforts are well worth it. The best part is that our imagination and creativity are developed and grow as our garment is being completed.



Learn something new; make your own, and you get a warm coat to boot. What could be better? Michelle continues to be a dream volunteer with her knowledge and guidance. She is very dedicated to her Métis heritage and also enjoys attending Métis conferences, tanning hides, putting up preserves, gardening, making other traditional clothing, etc. She comes from a family that hunts, and thanks to her sharing, I have been able to enjoy some deer. Michelle was very gracious to donate a capote to the Thunder Bay Métis Centre recently. We hope to sell raffle tickets for it to help us with the purchase of door prizes for our 2012 Rendezvous.

right: **Michelle Pringnezt presents a capote to Captain of the Hunt (Region 2), Ken Simard.**





## Responsible Gambling Slogan Contest

You could win one of three amazing prizes before the holiday season!

The challenge is to create a unique slogan for the Métis Nation of Ontario's Provincial Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program. It is easy and fun! **Simply drop us an e-mail with a slogan.**

Even if your slogan is not selected, your name will still be entered into a draw. Visit the MNO website ([www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)) to read about the prizes, rules, regulations, and selection process.

## Two Tired Cranes

A tale of the trials of parenting

By **Jessie Dolan**  
Community Wellness Coordinator  
TIMMINS

**T**wo cranes, Carl and Cindy, decided that they wanted to fill their nest with love, for Cindy had always wanted children of her own. So Carl and Cindy started to get ready for life as parents.

Cindy laid three whole eggs that would one day be their children. Day after day she sat on the eggs to keep them warm and protected, and day after day she thanked Carl for bringing food back to the nest for her, even though she wanted to fly very much herself.

Finally, the day came and their children hatched. Three little birds were now theirs to take care of. Carl and Cindy made sure that nothing bad happened to their little ones.

They brought food back to the nest to ensure that they were healthy, and kept a constant watch for other animals, and things that might hurt their children.

As the children grew, they became curious and wanted to try things for themselves. They had been watching their parents very closely as they looked for food in the water, ran across the ground, and even flew and dipped and soared through the air.

Carl and Cindy knew that they must teach their children all of these things, but they did not know where to start. The first little crane was running across the field; the second little crane had left the nest to try finding food in the water; and, the third adventurous little bird was trying to take flight.

Carl and Cindy tried to get the children together. The first little bird ran right back to the nest as Carl started towards her. The second little bird was stubborn and told Cindy he would not leave until he ate something, for he was having too much fun. And the third little bird was soaring over the water splashing away as she passed her mother.

Carl and Cindy feared that something might hurt their little children, as there are many dangers in the water and animals much bigger than they are. They

continued to coax their children back to the nest, but they soon found that keeping all of them in the nest was almost impossible. They very much liked to run and play and soar with each other.

Finally, when the sun started to set their children started to yawn, and one by one they went back to the nest to sleep and dream of all their adventures that day. Carl and Cindy, so tired from chasing and following their little ones all day, fell asleep right away.

The next morning the children were up and out of the nest with the sun, leaving Carl and Cindy to follow and try to keep their children safe. By the time the sun was up in the middle of the sky Carl and Cindy were again so tired that they sat down by the water.

The first little bird asked them why they were not chasing and playing with them anymore. The second little bird tried and tried to get them to play for just a little bit longer. And the third little bird sat by her parents to wait and listen, for they had not yet answered the question her sister had asked.

Cindy looked at her third child and smiled. When all three were listening she told them that she very much wanted to play with them, but she was very tired because they always went in different directions and wanted to play and learn different things.

The three little birds listened to their mother and decided that they could help. They talked amongst themselves and thought that they could solve their parents' tiredness.

So it came to be that the three little birds agreed to play together so that their parents did not have to chase them in different directions.

They promised their parents that they would be home for dinner, so they knew they were healthy. They even told their parents where they would go and not go, so they knew they were safe.

Carl and Cindy were no longer two tired cranes. They were able to play with their children and watched them grow into big, beautiful cranes like themselves.

Carl and Cindy had their family and they were happier than ever knowing that their children were safe and would one day have little birds of their own.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS | WINDSOR-ESSEX THERAPEUTIC RIDING ASSOCIATION



▲ Sienna, our future Métis cowgirl.

## Métis Riders

Windsor's Community Riding Day takes off at a gallop

By **Danielle Deneau**  
Community Wellness Coordinator  
WINDSOR

**T**he Windsor Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Wellness and Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children Programs in partnership with SOADI and the Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre spent a day with the wonderful workers at the Windsor-Essex Therapeutic Riding Association (WETRA) for our second partnership. WETRA was celebrating the grand opening of their new facility, built after receiving a grant. The new and improved barn and stables are set out in the county on a lush piece of property surrounded by a pond and conservation trails.

After a quick introduction from director, Sue Klotzer, we finally got to see the new arena and make our way to the stables. You could feel the excitement, curiosity and anxiousness coming from the children and their families. After seeing the tack room, some of the other animals in the stables and learning about the horses' feed, it was time to see the horses. Becky, the head instructor, came in to

**ALL WERE NATURAL RIDERS AND SMILES RADIATED FROM EVERYONE, EAR TO EAR.**

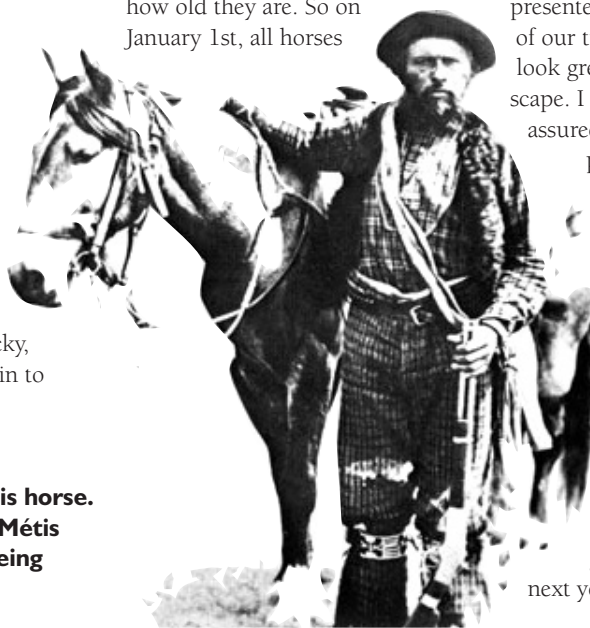
teach us about proper grooming; how to weigh the horse; how to measure how tall a horse is; and, how to tell how old a horse is. How do you tell how old a horse is? Well, by its teeth. The shorter the teeth are the younger the horse is and the longer, the older. Truly amazing! Another interesting fact is that some horses don't come with papers so you don't know how old they are. So on January 1st, all horses

that don't have papers turn a year older.

The participants had an opportunity to put their new horse knowledge to work with a scavenger hunt. All did amazingly well at naming the items they had to find. Way to go teams! After lunch we strolled through the conservation area and discussed some traditional medicines, such as dandelions, milkweed, and Queen Anne's lace. With the mosquitoes driving us out, it was time to get back to what we were all anxiously awaiting—riding.

All were natural riders and smiles radiated from everyone, ear to ear. As the day wound down and the excitement came to an end, yawns could be seen. It was a perfect end to a perfect day. To show our gratitude towards WETRA for another great year, the MNO staff presented Sue and Becky with one of our trees. We thought it would look great added to their landscape. I am happy to share that Sue assured us that the tree would be planted with a plaque to represent the Métis Nation of Ontario. I look forward to sharing photos of this with you over the years.

A big "thank you" to October Fostey, Beth Johnson, Barb Whiteye, Sue Klotzer and Becky Mills for helping me make this day possible! Your time and energy are greatly appreciated. Until next year, "Walk On".



**Gabriel Dumont and his horse. In Dumont's time the Métis had a reputation for being skilled riders.**



# REMEMBRANCE DAY

## A Proud Tradition of Service

Ontario's new Aboriginal Affairs Minister remembers the sacrifices of Aboriginal people

By **Kathleen Wynne**  
*Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs*

**N**ovember 11 is a solemn day for remembrance.

Across the country, Canadians gather to honour veterans who served with courage to protect our freedom in times of war and in peace.

Among them are the generations of First Nations, Métis and Inuit men and women who have served, and continue to serve, in the Canadian regular and reserve forces.

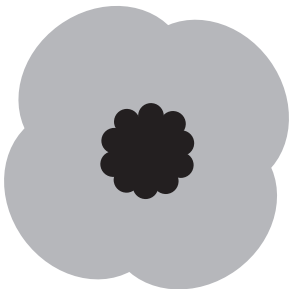
In my new role as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, I would like to highlight the proud tradition of military service among Aboriginal

people in this country. Of all groups in Canada, Aboriginal people have been among the most willing to volunteer for service.

During the War of 1812, Aboriginal people defended our borders and our shared principles. Iroquois warriors fought on the side of the British, playing a significant role in preventing the American conquest of Canada.

Aboriginal people were exempt from conscription during the First World War. Yet, thousands volunteered to fight overseas, distinguishing themselves with their bravery and skill.

The sacrifices of these brave men and women did not end on the battlefield. Many First Nations



“Of all groups in Canada, Aboriginal people have been among the most willing to volunteer for service.”

veterans returned to Canada stripped of their Indian status and ineligible for the military pensions and land grants provided to their non-Aboriginal comrades.

Despite this, Aboriginal people again answered the call during the Second World War. In Ontario, more Status Indians enlisted than in any other province or territory in Canada.

Aboriginal people continued to volunteer during the Korean War and beyond. Inuit, First Nations and Métis people have served in Afghanistan, as peacekeepers and as Canadian Rangers patrolling Canada's remote areas and northern borders.

This year, we reached out to

some of these Aboriginal veterans and began to record their stories. We've posted the first of these videos to our website (see below) to help Ontarians learn more about their contributions.

Ontarians owe veterans an everlasting debt of gratitude. This Remembrance Day, I hope we all take time to honour the contributions and sacrifices of Aboriginal veterans and Canadian veterans of all backgrounds. Let us never forget.

*Métis veteran, Norman Horlock is featured in a video available on-line.*  
[www.ontario.ca/aboriginal](http://www.ontario.ca/aboriginal)

### PORT CREDIT | REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES



PHOTO BY Jim Tolles

## Sea of Wreaths

By **Joseph Paquette**  
*Secretary, MNO Veterans' Council*

**T**he sea of wreaths at the Port Credit Cenotaph; a wreath created by local MNO citizens to honour Métis veterans is third from the left in the second row.

As we do every November 11th, this year we honoured all the servicemen and women who contributed to the freedom of our country, Canada. Once again, I had the privilege of participating in the Remembrance Day parade sponsored by the local Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 82, located in Port Credit.

It was good to see many familiar and friendly faces. Mr. Jim Tolles, a Credit River MNO citizen, also attended and took several photographs. Thank you, Jim for your support of Métis veterans and your commitment to our people. As the parade assembled at Branch 82, the wind was blowing with great strength, and cold to boot; a certain pride came over me in that I was carrying the Métis Batoche flag to honour of our veterans.

Just as we started to march, the wind blew off the top clip, which held the Métis Batoche flag in its proper place on the pike I was carrying.

I became very uncomfortable knowing that the Batoche flag was now flying at half-mast. The Sergeant-at-Arms instructed me to remain in the Colour Party, so, I had to keep going. I noticed, however, that the flags that were flying at the Legion Branch and government buildings in Port Credit were also flying at half-mast. It was then I realized that perhaps it was meant as a tribute to our brave Métis veterans that died fighting in the War of 1812, Batoche, World War I and II, Korea, Afghanistan and many other conflicts around the world.

Arriving at the cenotaph, my eyes were met with a sea of wreaths representing many veteran organizations throughout Canada and abroad. This was overwhelming because so many were being remembered for their contributions. It was a reminder of the number who crossed the oceans to far-away lands and battled for freedom. Within the sea of wreaths, was the Métis Veterans' wreath. Pride again filled my heart in the knowledge that the Métis are part of the Canadian fabric of honoured veterans. Along with all Canadian veterans, we are now being recognized for having contributed to Canadian freedom.

### TORONTO | REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES

## Lest We Forget

MNO Veterans participate in Queen's Park Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the invitation of the Office of the Premier

By **Senator Alis B. Kennedy**  
TORONTO

**T**wo Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veterans, Harvey Horlock and Senator Alis Kennedy, were honoured to be invited by the Office of the Premier to attend Remembrance Day Ceremonies held in Queen's Park in Toronto.

"The ceremony was quite emotional and humbling," said Senator Kennedy. "I was proud to wear my Canadian Decoration (CD) and even prouder to have my father's World War II medals in my left pocket."

Premier Dalton McGuinty spoke at the event as did Major-General (retired) Richard Rohmer, OC, CMM, DFC, O. Ont., KStJ, CD, OL, QC, JD, LLD and Brigadier-General F.A. Lewis, FA, MSM, CD. Major-General Rohmer, who is 87 years young, is Canada's most decorated citizen and Brigadier-General Lewis currently serves as Commander of the Joint Task Force Central/Land Force Central Area.

“The ceremony was quite emotional and humbling.”

Because it was a cold and windy day, some older veterans had to wear aluminum emergency blankets under EMS orange blankets. The navy, army and air-cadets were kept busy assisting the veterans and providing coffee and blankets to the large crowd who attended. Most sat in the rear with some people standing behind an impressive mural depicting events from World War I.

Summing everything up, Senator Kennedy said: "It was quite a day that I will not forget; if invited again next year I will again gladly accept the honour."



▲ MNO Veteran Harvey Horlock shakes hands with Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty.



▲ Veteran and Senator Alis Kennedy with Premier McGuinty.



REMEMBRANCE DAY | A SPECIAL TRIBUTE



▲ Joseph Paquette with a special wreath dedicated to Métis Veterans. The wreath was created by members of the Credit River Métis Council.

## Honouring Our Veterans

By **Joseph Paquette**  
*MNO Veterans' Council*  
Secretary

Honouring our veterans is something that was instilled in me at a very young age. My father was a World War II Veteran and my grandfather served with the Merchant Marines. All of mother's brothers also served overseas. I remember as a Boy Scout, participating in Remembrance Day parades back in the 1950s and 60s.

As 2011 is the year during the *Decade of the Métis* that recognizes Métis Veterans, the timing is perfect to introduce a Remembrance Day wreath to honour our Métis Veterans. I humbly present the result of what came together with the participation and help of several people in the Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) area.

Joyce Tolles, Secretary-Treasurer for the CRMC beaded seven beautiful poppies. These poppies represent the fact that the Métis were known as the beadwork people. The centre of each poppy is

both green and black, showing the transition over the years by the Royal Canadian Legion from the green to black centre. The seven poppies also represent the Seven Grandfather Teachings of Respect, Love, Honesty, Humility, Bravery, Wisdom and Truth. Thanks go out to our First Nations relatives and extended families for those important teachings.

The Métis sash, embroidered by Joyce, was incorporated into the wreath to show who we are as a people. Thank you, Joyce, for supporting our Métis Veterans.

The wreath itself, represents the European side of our tree, so all aspects of our culture are included. The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 82, from Port Credit, provided the wreath which was modified to its present state. Many thanks go out to Julie Morris, Norm Lacasse and Ron Knappe, from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 82.

Without all these people, there time and donations, this would not have been possible. A very heartfelt Thank You. Miigwetch. Marcee.

REMEMBRANCE DAY | MÉTIS VETERANS INVITED TO OTTAWA

# Métis Veterans Keep the Faith

"It is something that never happened to me before in my life," explained Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veteran Wilfred Rochon, when speaking about attending this year's national Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa. "It is one of those things that I will always remember, like joining the army."

Wilfred was selected by the MNO Veterans' Council to attend the National Ceremony. The council had raised funds at the MNO Annual General Assembly in Parry Sound in August to support bringing World War II veterans to the Ottawa ceremony, and these funds helped cover the cost of Wilfred coming from Windsor. Wilfred had never attended the national ceremony before and the experience was very special to him. Participating in the ceremony with his fellow veterans he said: "Felt good; it felt like being home."

Wilfred served in the Canadian Army from 1944 to 1946. He served in Canada, and among his assignments was a term as a guard at the Ravenhurst Prisoner of War facility (for German officers) in British Columbia.

Mr. Rochon was always keenly aware of his Métis heritage and joined the MNO in 1998, when along with fellow MNO veteran, Earl Scofield, they formed the Windsor Métis Council. Wilfred was the council's first president.

Wilfred Rochon was joined at the ceremony by two other MNO veterans, George Kelly and Shaun Redmond, and by Executive Senator Reta Gordon. Senator Gordon and Shaun have for the last several years participated in the national ceremony by laying a wreath at the National Cenotaph on behalf of the MNO. Shaun comes from a long line of Métis who have been involved in the military going back as far as the War of 1812. His own illustrious career, which started in 1973, includes service in the Canadian Air Force, Army and Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and he continues to serve. He is currently an instructor



▲ (Left to right) Senator Reta Gordon with MNO veterans Shaun Redmond (standing) Wilfred Rochon (sitting) and George Kelly.

for air-cadets. Remembrance Day is especially poignant for Shaun because he remembers his uncle who was killed serving in World War II. He is proud that for the last several years his own son, who is a sergeant in the navy, has served as a sentry at the Cenotaph in Cornwall, where his uncle's name is inscribed. A member of the MNO for over a decade and a regular at the national ceremony, Shaun says: "I am humbled every time I see the war veterans."

George Kelly joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1952 hoping that he would be assigned to the Korean War. "There is a strong military tradition in my family," he explained. "My uncles and grandfather served in the hope they could make Canada a better place, so, I was determined that when I get my opportunity, I will do my part as well." George did not get his wish, however, and instead was assigned to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Command based in Europe.

He spent most of his military career in that area of operation and left the navy in 1957 as a leading seaman with responsibility for aiming and firing the large guns on battleships. A founding member of the MNO, he has been attending National Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa for over 20 years. "I knew many veterans who did not come back," he reflected. "When the call of duty called, they came to their country's defence--now when the call of duty is made new people still go."

These three veterans are part of a long tradition of military service among the Métis and amongst them they include service in the army, navy, air force and RCMP. Like all veterans they participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies not because they seek any honour for themselves but because they wish to keep the faith with friends and family members they knew who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to protect freedom.

BOOK REVIEW | CLEMENT CHARTIER, MNC PRESIDENT

## Witness to Resistance: Under Fire in Nicaragua

*continued from page 12*

policing the international community and the more recent rooting out of terrorism. In those places where colonists establish undemocratic illegitimate governments, or try to remove governments they disfavour, whole regions can easily fall into unstable and chaotic states.

In the 1930s, Latin America was falling into chaos and Nicaragua became a sad reminder that it is Indigenous peoples who suffer colonization and the struggles by others who fundamentally do not have their interests at heart. It reinforces the fact that Indigenous rights can't be a subset of revolutionary movements; they must be upheld by

Indigenous peoples whose right to self-determination must be recognized and affirmed.

The history of Métis people is marked by continually standing up against oppression and bearing witness to atrocity. Struggle and conflicts over the last 200 years have honed a keen sense of seeing.

"Witness to Resistance" is full of first-hand accounts. Reading it today, far removed from the jungle, and decades later, their testimony sent shivers down my spine. In the chapter titled "Under Attack at Blackwater (Layasiksa)" Chartier documents an unprovoked series of attacks. At one point following the aerial attack which Chartier is able to capture on tape, Misurasata

“They travelled to Nicaragua to find out what the Sandinista revolutionary government did not want the world to know about their ill-treatment of Miskito, Mayangna and Rama Indigenous peoples.”

leader, Brooklyn Riviera, (p. 196) states, "I think now that many other people are witnessing, you know, what is the reality. You and Russell, and Bob, Hank are witness of these crude and coward attacks to the people. Now these poor people will spend many, many days here in this condition. Little baby and the mother. It's with all the mosquitoes and if the rain start, you can imagine what will be the situation. And no

food and no medicine, nothing in this condition. I'm sure we'll spend weeks, weeks because the soldiers will continue tomorrow in the persecution. It's look like they are trying to get our heads." To which Chartier responds, "That's right and they won't want us to get out of here alive to be witness to this."

"Witness to Resistance", is made up largely from journal notes and transcribed tapes originally made in

1986 during Chartier's clandestine journey. Section two is the bulk of the book, containing full and partial transcripts from numerous Indigenous witnesses. The book represents first-hand accounts of Mr Chartier's experience in Nicaragua as part of a small group of Indigenous leaders from North America which included Russell Means. They travelled to Nicaragua to find out what the Sandinista revolutionary government did not want the world to know about their ill-treatment of Miskito, Mayangna and Rama Indigenous peoples. Not all will agree with Chartier's views, but all must agree this is a book worth reading and sharing with a much wider audience.



CANADIAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION | FUNDING

# Girl's Fund Grants

The Canadian Women's Foundation is pleased to announce the call for proposals for initiatives working with girls aged 9 to 13. Funding will be available for 25 – 28 grants and will include both program grants and network grants. These are multi-year grants for a period of 4 years.



a) Girls Program

We will select approximately 25 programs focused on delivering programs to girls between the ages of 9 and 13 that are using one or more of the following approaches: leadership/empowerment; physical activities/sports; science/math/technology; media literacy; financial literacy; and/or Aboriginal culture and teachings.

Aboriginal culture and teaching is being added this year as an approach that will be considered for the girls' programs. This decision is based on our learning from the past grant cycle. Previous evaluations demonstrated a positive impact on the lives of the Aboriginal girls in those programs that integrated cultural teachings into their programming.

All of these approaches are ways to engage girls in programs that will help build protective fac-

tors, such as confidence, connectedness, and critical thinking skills. These protective factors can mitigate the challenging environments girls may face and help them make positive choices along the way and avoid risky behavior.

Girls' program grants will range from \$25,000 to \$40,000 annually for a four year period.

b) Enhanced Mentoring Component - Nancy Baron Mentorship for Girls Program

Mentoring has been recognized as a "best practice" in promoting strengths and resilience and has always been an expectation in the funded girls' programs. However, in this grants cycle we are providing additional resources for organizations to create intentional, comprehensive group mentoring initiatives to complement their girls' program.

Group mentoring involves matching groups of girls with one or more adults, older youth or Elders, in a supportive environment where they participate in group activities and ongoing intentional

relationships are formed. Generally, in group mentoring there should not be more than four mentees per mentor, and most groups where there is a team of mentors involved includes three mentors for a group of ten girls.

For those organizations selected for funding to implement their group mentoring component, an additional \$25,000 to \$40,000 annually will be available for two years, and smaller amounts or supports in the other two years.

Network Development Grants

We will make up to three grants to organizations that are working to build the capacity of girl-serving organizations and to strengthen connections between programs and organizations working with girls in the above noted program areas. Network grants selected will be awarded a maximum of \$40,000 annually for a four year period.

Diversity of Grants

The selection process will ensure that the range of funded programs serves diverse populations of girls all across Canada.

Deadline Dec 20, 2011.

For more information visit the website:  
[www.canadianwomen.org/girls-fund-grants](http://www.canadianwomen.org/girls-fund-grants)

GEORGIAN BAY MÉTIS COUNCIL



▲ Georgian Bay Métis Drumming Group performs---sounding better all the time under the leadership of Travis Lepage.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

## Georgian Bay Métis Council meetings

Community Assembly Meetings for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council in 2012:

Sunday February 26th in the <b>Seniors' Room</b>	Sunday May 27th, 2012 in the <b>Community Hall (upstairs)</b>	Sunday, September 23rd, 2012 in the <b>Seniors' Room</b>
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All meetings are held at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre in Midland, starting at 1:00 PM.

Reaching 10,000 Métis Households

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

ADVERTISING

As the voice of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), the Métis Voyageur is the best vehicle for reaching one of the fastest growing demographic groups in the province. It is also a respected source of information about Métis issues and events that is used by government, business and educational institutions across Ontario.

Rates\* for Corporations & Governments

Size	One Issue	Two Issues (Save 10%)	Three Issues (Save 20%)	Four Issues (Save 30%)	Five Issues (Save 40%)	Six Issues (Save 45%)
Full page	\$1200	\$2160	\$2520	\$2880	\$3600	\$3960
1/2 page	\$600	\$1080	\$1260	\$1440	\$1800	\$1980
1/3 page	\$400	\$720	\$840	\$960	\$1200	\$1320
1/4 page	\$300	\$540	\$630	\$720	\$900	\$990
1/6 page	\$200	\$360	\$420	\$480	\$600	\$660
Listing	\$150	\$270	\$360	\$420	\$450	\$495

Rates\* for MNO Community Councils, MNO Citizens & other Métis Governments

Size	One Issue	Two Issues (Save 10%)	Three Issues (Save 20%)	Four Issues (Save 30%)	Five Issues (Save 40%)	Six Issues (Save 45%)
Full page	\$600	\$1080	\$1260	\$1440	\$1800	\$1980
1/2 page	\$425	\$765	\$1020	\$1130	\$1275	\$1402
1/3 page	\$285	\$510	\$680	\$750	\$850	\$935
1/4 page	\$225	\$405	\$540	\$600	\$675	\$740
1/6 page	\$125	\$225	\$300	\$330	\$375	\$412
Listing	\$75	\$135	\$180	\$210	\$225	\$247

\* Double the price for an ad to appear in full colour.  
Multiply the price by 2.5 for an ad to appear on the back cover (always in full colour).  
Rates effective as of October 13th, 2011

File Submission

Please submit ads electronically in PDF format to [samb@metisnation.org](mailto:samb@metisnation.org)  
For more information contact:  
Sam Baynham at  
613-798-1488 ext. 155

Please note that there is limited space for advertising in each issue of the Métis Voyageur, so, advertising is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The MNO reserves the right to not accept advertisements.

Advertisement Sizes

Full page - 10" x 16"  
1/2 page - 6.5" x 10.5"  
1/3 page - 5" x 16" or 10" x 8"  
1/4 page - 8" x 5" or 2.5" x 16" or 10" x 4"  
1/6 page - 4" x 2.5" or 1.25" x 8" or 5" x 2"  
Listing (business card) - 2" X 3.5"

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THUNDER BAY | COMMUNITY NEWS

# Fighting Racism with Facts on Crime

The crime rate is going down but media creates a “climate of fear”

Aboriginal leaders in Thunder Bay are criticizing the media's role in creating a “climate of fear” underlined with racism in the city, following the high profile given to the latest death of a young Native man and recent media reports of Thunder Bay being the “murder capital” of Canada.

Leaders in the city are also cautioning the public against reacting with racism against the Aboriginal community in the city, noting that crime rates continue to fall and a number of programs are having success dealing with underlying social issues.

“Overall, our crime rate is going down in Thunder Bay,” said Wendy Landry, President of the Thunder Bay Métis Council. “The average person is getting a blanketed perception (of the Aboriginal community). It's not right and it's not fair.”

During the past few weeks a number of letters to the editor have been published in Thunder Bay's Chronicle-Journal placing the blame for Thunder Bay's high number of murders and other crimes in the Aboriginal community.

Meanwhile the tragic death of

Jimmy Robert Monias, 21, on Oct. 30, has exacerbated the problem of the public perception linking Aboriginal people to murder. Monias passed away after suffering head injuries in an assault at a residence at Limbrick Place in Thunder Bay.

Landry, who also serves as Chair of the Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council, noted the death of Monias was the result of a fight between friends who had been drinking, not pre-planned murder.

Four of the five deaths of 2010 that resulted in Thunder Bay being tagged “Canada's murder capital” were also a result of altercations between people who knew each other, and also involved drinking.

“The message needs to go out that yes, these were awful incidents; we're not trying to downplay the crime, but these were five deaths, not five murders,” Landry said.

Thunder Bay Mayor, Keith Hobbs, said everyone in Thunder Bay has to work together to target the social issues that lead to crime, rather than pointing blame at one population. “People always want to turn crime into a race issue,” Hobbs said. “But crime is crime. You can't put a race to it. Why are people

“Overall, our crime rate is going down in Thunder Bay,” said Wendy Landry, President of the Thunder Bay Métis Council. “The average person is getting a blanketed perception (of the Aboriginal community). It's not right and it's not fair.”

committing crimes? Nobody has been able to solve that problem.”

Thunder Bay's Crime Prevention Council was established in 2010 with the intent of educating the public on the root causes of crime and creating strategies for dealing

with those causes. The council, made up of representatives of 28 organizations plus public and youth representatives, started its work by completing a preliminary audit of crime in Thunder Bay. As Sheila Hendrick, acting coordinator for the council noted, the causes of crime often relate to social issues like drugs, alcohol and poverty that affect Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people alike. “A lot of things are happening to address those social issues, but the interpretation is often that nothing is being done,” Hendrick said.

The preliminary crime audit found that most crime in Thunder Bay is either domestic cases or public intoxication, and that “stranger to victim” crime remains extremely rare. The audit also states that people in conflict with the law “typically have histories of childhood abuse and neglect, and very low education and employment levels.”

Landry added that when it comes to Aboriginal people committing crime, the effect of residential schools cannot be overstated.

“The loss of parenting skills due to residential schools is a big factor,” Landry said.

Thunder Bay's Aboriginal community has been growing over the past decade, making up over 10 per cent of the total city population in 2010. Hobbs said that growth is something the city wants to encourage. “The Aboriginal population is a big economic driver for Thunder Bay,” the mayor said. “They buy homes, cars and groceries, and they help the economy of Thunder Bay. Just because a small percentage is involved in crime, the whole population is getting labelled and that's not right.”

Landry said that much of the growth of the Aboriginal population in Thunder Bay is due to Native people coming into the city for education opportunities, either in high school or post-secondary education. “What's the best way to get people away from crime? Give them an education,” Landry said. “We now have the most ever Aboriginal people going to post-secondary education.”

From Wawatay News On-line see original story at:

[www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2011/11/10/fighting-racism-facts-crime\\_22040](http://www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2011/11/10/fighting-racism-facts-crime_22040)

Opinions expressed in the following commentary are solely those of the writer and do not reflect the policies of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) or the viewpoints of MNO officials or staff.

## A Voyageur reader weighs in on province's Green Energy plans

continued page 2

huge difference. However, the price offered for electricity from other green sources is closer to 15 cents a kwath. Remember you can find all of this online. The province hoped these high prices would drive innovation and job creation. Now, according to their Oct 31st press release, they will be looking at price reductions and possibly other changes.

All this is part of a larger, decade old effort by the provincial Liberals to decrease or eliminate coal fired generators that provide around 20% of our electricity. In that regard the province has received some unwanted help. The ongoing economic slump, offshoring and the high Canadian dollar have reduced industrial demand for electricity in Ontario and this may be one of the reasons the province started exporting power in 2006. The province is not exporting because of surplus green power. According to the Ottawa Citizen: “Projects stemming from the Green Energy Act amounted to 95 megawatts (MW) of power -- the equivalent of 0.27 per cent of 34,882 MW of generation that currently exists in Ontario.” So green energy is still a trickle.

There are many more aspects to this issue but I'll end by saying that apart from new generation, the province, like much of North America, needs improved transmission facilities as much as more generation. Roughly 20% of the power



that is generated in Ontario is lost during transmission and through power management. Electricity has to be managed in order to keep it uniform everywhere and to do that you have to throw some of it away. A more modern transmission facility would reduce these losses. It wouldn't take much of an improvement to match the total green energy flowing through the system. The good news is that there are provincial incentives for transmission projects and generation projects with Métis ownership.

The Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program and Aboriginal Energy Partnerships Program both appear to provide substantial loan and capital facilities for green power projects. In addition, there is the above mentioned Price Adder of around two cents per kwath that would add substantially to the net

profit of Métis community-owned green power projects. The major issue appears to be defining a “Métis community”. When I called the Ontario Financing Authority last winter regarding the new loan guarantees, the young man on the other end of the phone awkwardly confirmed that I, as an individual Métis, was not a community. All right, so I added more Métis families with each inquiry as to eligibility. “No”, “No”, “No”, and finally “I don't know” was all he could provide. If any of my fellow Métis has had any success with these programs could you please share the “acceptable” definition of a Métis community as defined by the province?

I'll end by saying that the people of Ontario have chosen to subsidize green sources of electricity and they have chosen to offer incentives to Métis entrepreneurs to deliver some of this power. Métis with the necessary technical and business skills should seriously consider developing business plans for these projects. Incentives exist for business plans as well. Let's all hope that all the current incentives for Métis to participate in green energy generation survive the review of the program since the Métis have always respected the environment and it's a natural FIT. Sorry I couldn't resist.

Jacques Pilon is a citizen of the MNO born in Penetanguishene where his extended family still lives. He works as an entrepreneur primarily in technology related industries. He holds an honours degree in physics from the University of Waterloo and lives with his family in Trenton, Ontario.

### COMMITTEE DII MICHIF



Members of the Michif Committee cut and wrap 190 packages of moose meat for the community.

## Lii Michif

Bonjou, Chu bin contante dlouvrage du groupe qui méde avec lii michif. Ona commencé par sortir note ptit livv a « L'Assemblée Générale de la Nation Métisse de l'Ontario ».

On vaw parlé dla chasse a larnal qui spasse law. Yaw quequn a Timmins quyaw donné un nargnal pour la communauté. On dit marcee a Jacques. Laute soir on law débité pi on étai neuf parsonne pour coupé pi envloppé. On aw u du fun; on aw mangé du chilli pi du filet mignon. On aw envloppé otour de 190 paquet; sa pri cinq heure. Note monde a Timmins ivon pouvoir mangé dlarnal stanné. Law on donne lii pau a Bonny pour la prison diyow qua travaille. Bin jveu rmarcié tou seu quiyon édé, , Louise, Richard, Lynne, André, Natalie, Shawn é pi lbouché, John.

Y fau mette une recette. Tourtière moqué argnal et lawr aché, ajouté par live de viande:

- un ognon aché
- Un oreille daille
- Un tsipeu de sel, de sel de cèlri, dsu pouwèw, dzu clou dgirofe é pis dlau

Tûte cuire ensemble é pi après ajouté dii pétak pilé jusqua sque saye dlaire de quouwa stsu veu. Maw lii dan-n crûte pi fa lii cuire. Sé bin bon.

Arvouwéyur  
**Committee dii Michif:**  
Alvina Cimon  
Helene Savard  
Joseph Paquette  
Juliette St.Denis  
Lise Malette  
Louise Cloutier  
Lynne Picotte  
Marc Laurin  
Maurice Sarrazin  
Natalie Durocher  
Nicole Charron  
Pauline Saulnier  
Richard Meilleur  
Richard Sarrazin  
France Picotte

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[www.metisnation.org/culture--heritage/michif.aspx](http://www.metisnation.org/culture--heritage/michif.aspx)





# Hypothermia | Cold that kills

Hypothermia is defined as having a core body temperature less than 95 degrees fahrenheit or 35 degrees Celsius. The time to prevent hypothermia is before it happens.

## Step One: **Exposure and Exhaustion**

While you voluntarily exercise to stay warm, your body makes involuntary adjustments to preserve normal temperature in the vital organs. These adjustments are controlled in the part of the brain called the hypothalamus, which is responsible for recognizing alterations in body temperature and responding appropriately. Most heat is lost at the skin surface by convection, conduction, radiation, and evaporation. If the environment gets colder, the body may need to generate more heat by shivering (increasing muscle activity that promotes heat formation). But if heat loss is greater than the body's ability to make more, then the body's core temperature will fall.

## Step Two: Hypothermia

The body starts to slow as the temperature drops. Aside from the cold that is felt and the shivering that may occur, mental function is most affected initially. A particular danger of hypothermia is that it develops gradually, and since it affects thinking and reasoning, it may go unnoticed.

The heart and brain are most sensitive to cold, and the electrical activity in these organs slows in response to cold. If the body temperature continues to decrease, organs begin to fail, and eventually death will occur.

## YOUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE

- **Stay dry;** even a few minutes in cold water can be fatal. When clothes get wet, they lose about 90% of their value. Wool loses less; cotton, down and synthetics lose more.
- **Beware of the wind.** A slight breeze carries heat away from bare skin much faster than still air. Wind drives cold air under and through clothing. Wind refrigerates wet clothes by evaporating moisture from the surface. Wind multiplies the problems of staying dry.
- **Understand Cold.** Most hypothermia cases develop in air temperatures between

-2 degrees C and +10 degrees C (30F and 50F). Most people simply can't believe such temperatures can be dangerous. They fatally underestimate the danger of being wet at such temperatures.

## YOUR SECOND LINE OF DEFENCE

- Be brave enough to give up reaching the peak, or getting the fish, or whatever you had in mind.
- Get out of the wind/rain. Build a fire. Concentrate on making your camp or bivouac as secure and comfortable as possible.

## YOUR THIRD LINE OF DEFENCE

Watch for these symptoms:

- Uncontrollable fits of shivering;
- Vague, slow, slurred speech;
- Memory lapses and incoherence;
- Immobile, fumbling hands;
- Frequent stumbling, or a lurching gait;
- Drowsiness (to sleep is to die);
- Apparent exhaustion or the inability to get up after a rest.

## YOUR LAST LINE OF DEFENCE

- **Get the victim out of the wind and rain.**
- **Strip off all wet clothes.** If the victim is only mildly affected get them into dry clothes and a warm sleeping bag. Well-wrapped, warm (not hot) rocks or canteens will hasten recovery; provide warm drinks.
- **If the victim is semi-conscious try to keep them awake.** Give warm drinks if possible. Put the naked victim in a sleeping bag with another person (also stripped). Skin to skin contact is the most effective treatment.
- **Build a fire to warm the camp.**

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Umlauts:  $\text{ü} = \text{u} + \text{umlaut}$ ,  $\text{ö} = \text{o} + \text{umlaut}$ ,  $\text{ä} = \text{a} + \text{umlaut}$



LOUIS RIEL DAY • ACROSS THE PROVINCE

MÉTIS RIGHTS | LAW SOCIETY OF UPPER CANADA

# Promises Made, Promises Kept?

As has happened for the last number of years, on Louis Riel Day the Law Society of Upper Canada partnered with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to provide public education events related to legal issues surrounding Métis rights. This year's program included a panel of three prominent Métis rights lawyers as well as a reading from Giller Prize-winning Métis author, Joseph Boyden.

It was standing room only in the Law Society's Convocation Hall for Boyden's reading. The excerpt was preceded by a reception, which included greetings from MNO President, Gary Lipinski; Law Society Treasurer, Laurie Pawlitza; and, Ontario Superior Court Justice, Todd Ducharme. Boyden then read from *Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont*. Published in 2010, as part of Penguin Books' "Extraordinary Canadians" series, Boyden's treatment of Riel and Dumont provided a fresh and sometimes controversial insight into these two seminal figures and



▲ Métis writer Joseph Boyden speaking at the MNO/Law Society of Upper Canada Louis Riel Day event.

how they shaped Canada.

The legal panel discussion took place in the Barristers' Lounge and also attracted a standing room only crowd. Entitled "Canada and Riel's People: Promises Made, Promises Kept?" the panel featured Jean Teillet, who is descended from Louis Riel's brother and who defended

Métis rights in the historic *R. v. Powley* Supreme Court of Canada case; Jason Madden, who is Chief Legal Counsel for the MNO and has been involved in numerous Métis rights cases across the Homeland; and Jim Aldridge, who is going before the Supreme Court of

Canada on December 13 for *Manitoba Métis Federation Inc., et al. v. Attorney General of Canada, et al.* (Manitoba)

All three speakers provided excellent historical background on the Métis in Canada as issues of Métis rights are tightly woven into the fabric of Canadian history. Current legal cases involving the Métis inevitably require lawyers to establish that long-held Métis rights have been denied and need to be restored. Madden cut a wide swath through history discussing the implications to Métis rights of scrip; *The Dominion Lands Act*; *The Constitution Act, 1882*; *Powley*; and, reconciliation processes with First Nations, as well as *R. v. Hirsekorn*, an Alberta Harvesting Case that he is currently litigating on behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Referring to a wealth of historical documentation, Teillet demonstrated how Ontario Métis had actively pursued their rights with various colonial governments and officials and

explained the relevance of this history to current Métis rights cases. Her presentation clearly demonstrated the need to learn more about Métis history in Ontario.

Aldridge provided an exhaustive review of the upcoming Manitoba Métis Federation case, which has been ongoing since 1981. He explained how the Provisional Métis Government had successfully negotiated Manitoba's entry into Confederation and won various concessions from the federal government. He went on to explain how the majority of 1.4 million acres of land that was to go to the Métis was never properly awarded, which is the basis of the MMF case to the Supreme Court.



**Louis Riel & Gabriel Dumont**  
By Joseph Boyden





LOUIS RIEL DAY • 2011



◀ **Métis Nation of Ontario President, Gary Lipinski, addresses the crowd during Louis Riel Day ceremonies at Queen's Park in Toronto.**

▼ **Senator Reta Gordon.**



▲ **MNO Chair France Picotte and Senator Joseph Poitras share a light moment before the opening prayer.**



▲ **Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister Kathleen Wynne.**

▲ (middle row, left to right) **Jean Teillet; MNO Vice-Chair, Sharon McBride; Colin Sawchuk; MPP Beaches-East York, Michael Prue.**

◀ (left) **Joseph Paquette and Senator Alis Kennedy raise the Métis flag.**

continued from page 28

being brought by the Manitoba Métis Federation and concerns 1.4 million acres of land in Manitoba that Riel had negotiated into The Manitoba Act. “The case is directly about what Louis Riel was fighting for in 1869-70 in Manitoba,” said Teillet. “The government took 15 years to do it; it ended up doing it by a lottery, and then ended up only issuing pieces of paper. Less than one per cent of the land ended up in the hands of the Métis. So, lest we think that the land issues and all the issues that Riel fought and died for are settled, they’re not.”

Even while many of Riel’s battles are still being fought, the MNO acknowledged that some progress has been made in Ontario towards achieving Riel’s goals. Some evidence of this progress could be seen at the ceremony itself where a large number of

provincial cabinet ministers and Members of the Provincial Parliament were in attendance. These were: the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; the Honourable John Gerretsen, Attorney General; the Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Energy; the Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities; the Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Children and Youth Services; the Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Consumer Services; New Democratic Party Aboriginal Affairs Critic, Sarah Campbell; MPP, Michael Prue; MPP, Dave Levac; MPP, Grant Crack; MPP, Victor Fedeli; MPP, David Zimmer; MPP, Soo Wong; and MPP, Frank Klees.

The presence of these Ministers and MPPs at the Provincial Louis Riel Day event demonstrated the positive relationship the MNO has built with Ontario through the MNO-Ontario Framework Agree-

ment, which was signed three years ago. “The government’s willingness to sign the Framework Agreement with us,” stated President Lipinski, “signaled there was a new way of doing business with the Métis and that the process of reconciliation had started.” Minister Wynne also spoke about the importance of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement. “That agreement is the foundation of a collaborative agreement between us,” she said, “and it has created opportunities, partnerships and achieved measurable results.” Minister Wynne also highlighted the development of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF), which she described as “our biggest achievement together so far.” The Ontario Government has committed 30 million dollars over 10 years to the MVDF, which will help Métis entrepreneurs and businesses. The Minister also outlined the work the MNO has

undertaken with funding through the New Relationship Fund. “That work of helping people say who they are, self-identification projects, coming to realization is such an important part of what you do,” she said. “I believe Ontario and the Métis Nation of Ontario have come a long way together in a short period of time, but I recognize that there is a lot more work that we have to do together.”

Carrying on the work of Riel, however, is not just up to the MNO leadership and the government. MNO Chair, France Picotte, called on all MNO citizens to carry on Riel’s work by showing their Métis pride. “It is up to us, not necessarily up to the Métis Nation of Ontario. We are the umbrella; we might be able to help you, might be able to help facilitate you, but it is your responsibility to transfer that culture, that knowledge, to be proud of who you are.” As an example Chair Picotte spoke

enthusiastically about the work done in the last year to help revive Michif, the Métis language.

President Lipinski concluded his remarks by saying that although Riel’s work remains unfinished there is no doubt that the MNO is continuing his work. “It may fall to future generations,” said President Lipinski, “to the youth that are here today, to carry on, because that work will take time; but as long as we are making progress in the right direction, and we are, then I think we should celebrate that.”

The ceremony left no doubt that Riel’s execution, 126 years before, had not stopped the Métis cause, and in fact, as Métis youth Conlin Sawchuk stated: “The Heart of Louis Riel is alive and beating with us today.”







## Louis Riel Day • 2011



▼ Métis youth fiddler Alicia Blore accompanies the Todmorden Colour Guard as they lead a march from the steps of the Legislative Building at Queen's Park to the Northwest Rebellion Monument on Louis Riel Day, November 16, 2011.

PHOTOS: Marc St. Germain

# The heart of Louis Riel is alive and beating today

As happens every year, on November 16, 2011, Métis people all across Ontario gathered for Louis Riel Day events. The provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony was held at Queen's Park in Toronto at the Northwest Rebellion Monument. While aspects of the day definitely are celebratory, there is always a sombre undercurrent. "November 16 marks one of the darkest moments in Canadian history," explained Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, at the provincial ceremony. "It marks a day when Canada went completely off the rails." November 16 is the day in 1885 when the Canadian Government executed Riel for leading the Northwest Resistance in defense of the Métis. Sorrowful remembrance is always

part of Louis Riel Day, as MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride explained when she described her first trip to Batoche, site of the last stand of the Métis during the *Resistance*. "When I was walking among the ruins, and I thought about what happened there," she explained, "it made me think about the families who lived there, fought there, and survived there. It was so overwhelming for me; you really feel it in your heart."

While a sense of loss did underscore Riel Day, it was Riel's cause that was front-and-centre for those in attendance. "Riel was only seeking that the rightful place of the Métis within Canada be recognized and respected," stated President Lipinski, "and that the Métis way of life be protected within Confederation." Conlin Sawchuk, who represented Métis youth at

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the ceremony, and who shares a common ancestor with Riel, eloquently described what the Métis leader had set out to accomplish. "He attempted to create a truly equal society where the rights of minorities were recognized--a truly democratic state," stated Sawchuk. "I think it is important to celebrate today the contribution of Louis Riel to our country and the Métis by sharing our culture, our stories, our language, our entrepreneurial spirit and our profound understanding and respect for the environment. If Canada can embrace its history and tap into the knowledge of our ancestors, this would be to the benefit of all our fellow citizens as well as future generations."

President Lipinski explained that even though Riel did not achieve his goals in his lifetime,

the work towards his goals has never stopped. "In 1885, Riel offered Canada an opportunity to bargain in good faith that was harshly rejected," stated President Lipinski, "but today the MNO continues to make that offer. While we have seen some progress in the last several years there is still much to be done before Riel's vision becomes a reality." The Métis quest and progress thus far in realizing the vision of Louis Riel was on the minds of many people attending the ceremony. One of the most direct examples of the ongoing work of achieving Riel's goals was touched upon by Métis lawyer, Jean Teillet, a descendent of Riel's brother. She described the case coming to the Supreme Court of Canada on December 13th. It is

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