

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

Issue No. 73, **MIDWINTER 2012**

Louis Riel Day events celebrated throughout Métis Homeland

Fulfilling Riel's Dream

Every year, Métis from across the Homeland, honour the anniversary of the unjust execution of Louis Riel on November 16, 1885, by holding Louis Riel

Day events. Although Louis Riel Day commemorates one of the great tragedies of Canadian history, it is also a day to celebrate Métis culture and the continuing

progress the Métis people are making in fulfilling Louis Riel's dream of the Métis taking their rightful place within Confederation. **More on pages 12-14.**



▲ 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 16th.



A VIBRANT CULTURE

Métis Community Festivals across province celebrate our heritage

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LEST WE FORGET

Métis veterans participate in Remembrance Day Ceremonies

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SENATOR SCOFIELD

WWII Veteran, Métis Senator Dies at 87

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MANITOBA MÉTIS

Government of Manitoba signs harvesting rights agreement with MMF

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AROUND THE MNO

CONGRATULATIONS



Proud Dad

Paige Daniel Rivers, born June 12, 2012, and weighing in at 6 lbs. poses with her dad, Peter Rivers of Windsor, ON.



Métis student achieves

Valerie-Rose Jean Gordon graduated June 8th, 2012, from the University of Toronto as a pharmacist. She is the daughter of Irene and Allan Gordon (Vice-president, MNO Greenstone Métis Council). Born and raised in Geraldton with her brother Scott, Valerie attended B.A. Parker Public School and Geraldton Composite High School.

"Val", as everyone calls her, began working as a cashier at a corner store at the age of eleven. She eventually owned and managed her own ice cream shop for three years before deciding upon a degree profession.

Desiring to help her community, Val first considered being a pediatrician and attended the University of Western Ontario where she studied health and pharmaceutical sciences for three years. She was then accepted at the Leslie Dan School of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto where she studied for a further four years, and graduated as a pharmacist.

Valerie's steadfast perseverance and determination were rewarded by success and she is grateful to those who helped ease the financial burden: The Métis Nation of Ontario bursaries; and, Aboriginal Grants for Health Education from the Government of Ontario.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Fundraising on the golf links

This past June, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Geraldton-Greenstone Métis Council was a major sponsor of the Confederation College Scholarship Golf Tournament.

This very successful event was to raise funds for bursaries and scholarships to benefit youth in the Greenstone area. We are always pleased to take part in this yearly event.



from left: **William "Torch" Gordon, Brian Burgess, Ted Pile and Bob Velanof** at the Confederation College Golf Tournament.

OBITUARY

Shirley L. Corriveau
(née Dumont)
1948-2012

The family announces with sorrow, her death in Sudbury, Friday, May 11, 2012 at the age of 64 years. Daughter of the late Hector Dumont and the late Doria (née Dusome) Dumont. Wife of the late George Cameron and the late Oscar Corriveau. Loving mother of Mario Germain (Anita) of Barrie, Diane Malette (Richard) of Hanmer, Karen Hykin (Brian) of Chelmsford, Joyce Cameron (Terry Rand) of Wahnapiatae and step mother of



Diane Danis (Florian) of Field, Roger Corriveau (Christine) of Welland and Paulette Turnbull (Dave) of Ottawa. Dear sister of Jim Dumont (Diane), David Dumont (Jeanette), Rita Dumont, Stella Dumont (Gilbert) all of St-Charles, Kenneth Dumont of Sudbury and Steve Dumont (Sylvia) of Warren. Lovingly remembered by 16 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

THE
MÉTIS
VOYAGEUR

LATE FALL 2012, No. 73

**Produced by
the Métis Nation of Ontario
Communications Branch**

Sam Baynham
Mike Fedyk
Linda Lord
Marc St. Germain

contributors

Anne Trudel
Barbaranne Wright
Chris Paci
Donn Fowler
Mike Fedyk
Raymond Tremblay
Richard Cuddy
Sam Baynham

**To submit stories
and pictures contact:**

Métis Voyageur
Métis Nation of Ontario
500 Old St. Patrick St., Unit D
Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4
E-mail: mikef@metisnation.org
Phone: 1-800-263-4889
Fax: 613-722-4225

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HOLIDAY SEASON | MÉTIS SANTA CLAUS

Métis Claus is coming to town

Santa Claus isn't coming to town; he's already here and he's Métis. In private life his name is Raymond Tremblay, but in the Christmas season he becomes Santa's representative in eastern Ontario. You might meet him almost anywhere (right top), such as with the Mayor of Ottawa, Jim Watson, and Cindy Smith, Executive Director of the Caring and Sharing Exchange, a charity located in Ottawa, with a mission to serve all residents who face economic hardship, regardless of age, ethnicity, creed or culture.

If you are very, very, good, you might even see his smiling face on the Honourable Peter MacKay's Christmas card (right bottom). The MNO would like to thank the Honourable Peter MacKay for sharing this photo with us, and Madeleine Ashe, Personal Assistant to Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence for her assistance.



BY-ELECTION

Region 5
By-election
Results

By **Paul Devillers**
Chief Electoral Officer

Paul Devillers, Chief Electoral Officer, has declared Denis Juliette the winner of the Region 5 By-election with 334 votes. Maurice Sarrazin received 293 votes.

Denis, Juliette - 334
Sarrazin, Maurice - 293

AGA

A great
Métis
gathering

By **Ken Simard**
Captain of the Hunt, Region 2

To all Métis citizens who missed the 19th AGA: you have missed the best one yet. All the activities were great. The accommodation, food, meetings, and workshops were the best.

I want to express my thanks for the enjoyment and laughter at the Kiwanis Community Theatre. It was a pleasure to see such a good turnout sharing our pride with performers like James Kirkham, the Métis Dancers, and the Métis Fiddler Quartet. The presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award is always inspiring.

I also want to thank all the organizers for their time and hard work putting this AGA together. My family really enjoyed it.

MÉTIS NATION NEWS

POWLEY DAY | SEPTEMBER 19



▲ Steve Powley at the Supreme Court of Canada in 2003.

Powley

Personal sacrifice and commitment to the ongoing struggle for Métis rights

By **Gary Lipinski**
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

As many of you are aware, Wednesday, September 19, 2012, marked the ninth anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *R. v. Powley*. The ground breaking decision ushered in a whole new era of Métis rights in Ontario and across the Métis Homeland. Especially important at this time of the year are the Métis harvesting rights, which are now recognized by the Province of Ontario through our harvesting agreement.

Take time to reflect on the pride that each of us feels when we look at what has been accomplished. Take time to enjoy, participate in organized events, and be proud to be Métis!

This fall, as you participate in the harvest or in MNO Community Council events celebrating the harvest season I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on how the Powley decision has raised the profile of the Métis, and contributed to the recognition of our rights as a distinct Aboriginal people within Canada. The affirmation of the right to harvest is a component critical to the already rich fabric that defines Métis culture.

It is fair to say that in spite of a tremendous amount of hard work and sacrifice of many Métis, our pursuit for full recognition of Métis rights continues. There is still much work to be done with the province and especially with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in ensuring the acceptance of those rights when they are asserted. We will continue to push forward on the priority issues that you have raised with your Captains of the Hunt, your PCMNO representative or myself. We will continue to report progress and movement as it occurs. However each of us must do all we can to ensure that the collective rights of Métis to harvest are preserved through responsible management of the Métis harvest in Ontario. The work ahead of us is great and the journey will be long and hard.

During this harvesting season, please take a moment to celebrate your Métis culture and heritage and to remember Steve, Rodney and the Powley family for their personal sacrifice and commitment to the ongoing struggle for Métis rights.

I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on how the Powley decision has contributed to the recognition of our rights.

POWLEY DAY | SEPTEMBER 19



2013 AGA in Ottawa

Ottawa Regional & High Land Waters Métis Councils to co-host

On October 13, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) accepted a proposal from the MNO Ottawa Regional and High Land Waters Métis Councils that Ottawa serve as the location for the 2013 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA). The AGA is scheduled for August 24-26, 2013, and the 2013 AGA marks the twentieth anniversary of the MNO, which was formed in 1993. It also marks the tenth anniversary of the historic *R v Powley* Supreme Court of Canada case that affirmed Métis harvesting rights.

"We are very pleased that the two councils in Region 6 have stepped forward to provide the MNO with this opportunity," stated MNO President, Gary Lipinski. "Ottawa is a beautiful city with great venues for AGA events, including several with important ties to the Métis Nation." Among the locations of special interest to Métis are the Supreme Court of Canada building, where the Powley decision was announced; the stunning Museum of Civilization in nearby Gatineau, which was designed by Métis architect Douglas Cardinal; the Aboriginal Veterans Monument; and, the Ottawa River, which was a

major fur trade route.

"Ottawa has a lot to offer," explained Dan Gilbeau, President of the MNO Ottawa Métis Regional Council, "and we are excited to invite all MNO citizens to the national capital. We plan on making sure that the MNO's twentieth anniversary AGA is an event to remember!"

The MNO has already started work on securing venues for meetings and accommodations and will be making more announcements about the AGA in the coming months.

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RIDEAU HALL | MÉTIS HISTORY



▲ MNO President Gary Lipinski and MNOVC President Joseph Paquette accept War of 1812 banner and medal from Prime Minister Harper and Governor-General Johnston.

Métis contributions during War of 1812 recognized

On October 25, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, and MNO Veterans' Council (MNOVC) President, Joseph Paquette, participated in a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa that recognized the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to the effort to defend Canada during the War of 1812.

During the ceremony, His Excellency, Governor-General David Johnston and Prime Minister Stephen Harper presented Presidents Lipinski and Paquette with a War of 1812 commemorative banner and

commemorative medal to acknowledge Métis contributions during the war. These banners and medals were also presented to First Nations' groups and in other ceremonies to Canadian military units that participated in the war.

President Lipinski spoke at the ceremony and described the many contributions of our Métis ancestors. "It is significant," explained President Lipinski, "that Métis contributions during the War of 1812 are being recognized along with those of First Nations and other Canadians. Unfortunately,

in the past, this has not always been the case. I am proud to be here today to represent my Métis ancestors who fought for Canada before there was a Canada."

"The Métis have a strong tradition of military service," pointed out MNOVC President Paquette. "Our involvement in the defense of Canada started in the War of 1812, and Métis have served in both World Wars, the Korean Conflict, in peacekeeping missions and most recently in Afghanistan."

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ONTARIO PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

MNO thanks Premier McGuinty for his dedicated service

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, reacted to the recent announcement that the Right Honourable Dalton McGuinty is stepping down as Premier of Ontario. “Premier McGuinty has dedicated 22 years of his life to the service of the people of Ontario,” stated President Lipinski. “On behalf of the MNO I want to thank him for that service.”

“I have had the opportunity to meet with, and work closely with, Premier McGuinty over the last several years,” explained President Lipinski, “and the Métis people of Ontario saw significant advances during his tenure.”

President Lipinski cited the signing of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement in 2008 as pivotal in building the positive relationship between Ontario and the Métis. “The Framework Agreement set the tone for our work with Ontario under Premier McGuinty and led to numerous similar agreements with government ministries, agencies and postsecondary institutions,” said President Lipinski.

“The Premier also played a major role in 2010 being declared the “Year of the Métis”. It was a historic and proud moment for the Métis to be



▲ left to right: **Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Kathleen Wynne; MNO President, Gary Lipinski; MNO Chair, France Picotte; and Premier Dalton McGuinty.**

recognized on the floor of the Legislature and this was indicative of the respect the Premier has always shown the Métis.”

In 2009, the McGuinty government established the “Chair for Métis Studies” at the University of Ottawa and in 2011 it signed an

agreement to provide \$30 million of funding over ten years to the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF). “The kinds of agreements reached with the Ontario Government under Premier McGuinty,” stated President Lipinski, “will improve the lives of Métis people in

Ontario for many years to come.”

“We are very grateful for all of Premier McGuinty’s efforts for the Métis and all Ontario citizens,” concluded President Lipinski, “and wish him well in all his future endeavors.”

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ABORIGINAL WOMEN



▲ Left to right: **Betty Kennedy, Ontario Native Women’s Association (ONWA); Dr. Dawn Harvard, ONWA; Sheila McMahon, Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC); Sylvia Maracle, OFIFC; the Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues; the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; Gary Lipinski, MNO President; France Picotte, MNO Chair; Grand Chief Harvey Yesno, Chiefs of Ontario; and Doug Wilson, MNO Chief Operating Officer.**

Ending violence against Aboriginal women

MNO continues efforts to reduce violence against Aboriginal women

On September 24, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, and MNO Chair, France Picotte, participated with other members of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Violence against Aboriginal Women (VAAW) in a meeting in Toronto with the Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues and the Honourable Kath-

leen Wynne, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

The MNO has been a key player in advancing the agenda to end VAAW, and has participated in five summits as a full signatory to the *Framework to End Violence against Aboriginal Women* and as an active member of the JWG on VAAW since its inception in 2010. The MNO has also been integrating awareness about VAAW within the MNO and in particular the Women’s Secretariat of the MNO has been heavily involved in this critical issue.

The meeting was the first opportunity for the JWG—which consists of ten provincial ministries, the

MNO, the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, the Ontario Native Women’s Association, the Chiefs of Ontario and Independent First Nations—to report on its progress. The MNO commended the Government of Ontario for supporting efforts to reduce the very high rates of violence affecting Métis, First Nations and Inuit women in Ontario and called upon the two lead Ministers to report back to their cabinet colleagues on progress and ongoing challenges articulated in the meeting. It is expected that the JWG will reconvene on an annual basis.

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PCMNO BIO

Region 6 | **Tom Thompson Jr.**

Following the resignation of JoAnne Wass as PCMNO Region Six Councillor, Tom Thompson Jr. has been selected by the PCMNO to complete her term.

Tom’s family is descended from David Thompson, the famous map maker and fur trader and has always been proud of his Métis heritage. Prior to being selected as Region Six Councillor, Tom was President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) High Land Water Métis Council. He and his father, Tom Thompson Sr., became MNO citizens in 2000 and helped form the MNO Seven Rivers (now called the High Land Waters) Métis Council in 2001. Tom is an avid harvester, who hunts moose in the Matachewan and Hillsport areas, traps in the winter and grows an amazing garden full of wild berries and vegetables.

For 15 years, Tom has been a Mechanical Supervisor responsible for hospital and school expansions in the Kingston and Belleville areas and prior to that he worked as a plumber in London, Ontario. Tom now lives in Northbrook with Karen, his wife of 14 years. They have four adult children and live in a house they built in 1991 on property owned by Tom’s great-grandfather.

PCMNO

PCMNO Vacancy Filled

Tom Thompson Jr. selected to serve as Region 6 PCMNO Councillor

On September 28, 2012, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) announced the resignation of JoAnne Wass as Region 6 Councillor on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

The PCMNO followed Section 10 of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Bylaws, which define the subsequent action to be taken:

If any vacancy occurs the PCMNO may appoint as a replacement, a citizen of the MNO, and that person shall hold office until the next election.

Accordingly, the PCMNO also announced that MNO citizens living in Region 6, interested in holding the position until the next election should make their intentions known to the MNO Chief Operating Officer and provide him with information about their qualifications and a statement explaining their interest in the position.

Six MNO citizens expressed interest in the position by the designated deadline.

The information each individual provided was shared with the PCMNO at the meeting held October 14, 2012, in Toronto. Voting by secret ballot, the PCMNO elected Tom Thompson Jr. to serve as Region 6 Councillor. Thompson was elected with 80% of the vote. For the last several years Tom Thompson has been the President of the MNO High Land Waters Métis Council.

“The PCMNO selected Tom from a strong field of candidates,” stated MNO President Gary Lipinski, “and we are very pleased there was so much interest in the position.” He added: “Tom brings many wonderful traits to the PCMNO, including great experience and dedication to the Métis cause. He will be an excellent representative for Region 6 and everyone on the PCMNO is looking forward to working with him.”

▼ **Tom Thompson Jr. is the new PCMNO Councillor for Region 6.**



MANITOBA | MÉTIS HARVESTING RIGHTS

Métis hunting rights recognized

Government of Manitoba signs agreement with Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) ending a decade-long struggle for Métis harvesting rights

The Government of Manitoba has signed an agreement with the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) which gives Métis the same hunting rights as other Aboriginal people. The agreement, which was signed at the MMF's Annual General Assembly, ends almost a decade of bad blood between the MMF and the province and means Métis people can hunt and fish without a provincial licence, but only in certain regions of the province for now. "This is the most advanced recognition of our inherent harvesting rights anywhere in Canada," Chartrand said Friday. "What's happening is one of the most far-reaching historic advancements in over a century, since our time as a people governing ourselves in the west."

First Nations people have had the right to hunt, trap and fish for food at all seasons of the year since 1930. Talks between the province and the MMF started in earnest in June after Chartrand and Conservation Minister Gord Mackintosh met at a Manitoba Wildlife Federation meeting. Mackintosh said Friday as long as Métis rights are reasonably accommodated under the province's conservation rules--the ban on moose hunting in some areas has to be respected--there's no reason the Métis and province can't work together. Chartrand said the Manitoba Métis have been pushing for their own hunting rights since 2003 when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled, in *R v Powley*, that a group of



▲ Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger and Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand sign historic agreement.

Métis in the Sault Ste. Marie, region of Ontario had a constitutionally protected aboriginal right to harvest food for domestic purposes. Then-premier Gary Doer later said his government respected the rights of the Métis as they were outlined by the Supreme Court.

However, talks between the province and the MMF were derailed after Métis hunter Will Goodon was charged with failing to have a migrating game-bird hunting licence when he shot a duck near the Turtle Mountains and took it to a local conservation officer.

Goodon had a Métis harvester card, recently issued to him by the MMF to identify Métis people through a genealogical search, but not a provincial hunting licence. A provincial court judge eventually threw out the charge against Goodon in 2009.

Laws of the Hunt

Chartrand said the Métis hunters and fishers will follow what's called the Métis laws of the hunt, which put wildlife conservation first. "Our laws are probably more restrictive than provincial laws. What we're doing is making sure our traditional foods that we've always enjoyed, and still have the power to enjoy, are going to be protected for years to come." Mackintosh said the deal also means charges of hunting without a provincial licence against about 30 Métis hunters will be stayed by the courts.

Based on an original story: www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/metis-hunting-rights-recognized-171903271.html

MIDLAND | ROYAL VISIT



▲ Danielle Secord presents education kits to Their Royal Highnesses in Midland.

MNO citizens greet Royals near Midland

On September 16, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, a nationally significant historic site near Midland, Ontario, was resplendent in early fall colours and bustling with such activities as corn meal and maple syrup making, blacksmithing, and birch-bark canoe building. La Compagnie Franche recreated the sights and sounds of an early military unit in New France as Their Royal Highnesses the Earl and Countess of Wessex, better known as Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones, arrived at the site. The Earl and Countess are the youngest son and daughter-in-law of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh and the first members of the British Royal Family to visit Sainte-Marie among the Hurons.

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens were on hand to greet the Royal Couple and offer gifts that included Métis sashes and "Métis Education kits". When presented with the Education Kits, the Prince joked, "Oh, you are giving me some homework." The Royal Couple spoke to everyone in the Métis contingent and were very interested in Métis culture and heritage. Among those attending were Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Region 7 Councillor, Pauline Saulnier; Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council (MNOVC) Sgt-at-Arms, Greg Garratt; Senator, Dora MacInnis; and, MNO Projects and Partnerships Manager, Scott Carpenter. Scott and several Métis

youth wore Métis clothing of the period. The couple also learned about moose-hair tufting, a traditional First Nations' craft, and lacrosse, Canada's original sport. The pageantry and colour of singing, drumming, and dancing filled the air as the Red Spirit Circle Drum Group, the Christian Island Hand Drum Group, and the Kwiikikwe Métis Women's Drum Group performed. Beausoleil First Nation Chief, Roland (Roly) Monague, and President Michael Duquette of the Georgian Bay Métis Council both welcomed the royal guests. The Earl and Countess completed their tour with a visit to the candle-lit Church of Saint-Joseph.

Based on an article from Simcoe.com: <http://goo.gl/lcPY8>

MÉTIS RIGHTS

MNO congratulates Manitoba Métis on harvesting rights agreement

On September 29, 2012, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, offered congratulations to the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) and the Manitoba Government on the signing of a historic harvesting rights agreement. "As the home of the Supreme Court of Canada's landmark *Powley* decision on Métis harvesting rights, the MNO is pleased to see the legal principles won in that case on behalf of the entire Métis Nation finally be implemented in Manitoba. We are also pleased that the MNO's existing Métis harvesting agreement with the Ontario Government now has a

companion within the Métis Nation," said President Lipinski. Lipinski added: "I commend the MMF's President, David Chartrand, and Manitoba Métis for reaching this historic agreement. The MNO knows very well how much time and effort goes into reaching these types of agreements. This agreement is a testament to the strength and resilience of the Manitoba Métis community and their elected leadership."

Similar to the MNO's harvesting agreement, the MMF-Manitoba agreement relies on Métis-developed laws for the conduct of Métis harvesting as well as a Métis controlled identification system for Métis harvesters. The agreement also sets out a process for the future collaborative research and expansion of the area where Métis harvesting rights are now recognized in Manitoba.

"This agreement demonstrates that the time has finally come for governments to respect Métis rights and deal with the democratically elected governments of the Métis people. It also demonstrates that real progress and results can be achieved when forward-thinking governments work together," concluded Lipinski.

“This agreement demonstrates that the time has finally come for governments to respect Métis rights and deal with the democratically elected governments of the Métis people.”

For more information about the MMF-Manitoba agreement visit: www.mmf.mb.ca

And the Spirit Lives On

Unique outdoor
multi-media
presentation portrays
Métis ancestral
spirits telling stories
passed down by
Métis elders

Welland playwright, Kay Annable, and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council President, Stephen Quesnelle, recently shared the history of the Métis with, “And the Spirit Lives On”, a light and sound performance told from the perspective of those who lived it. The event took place at a Welland cemetery the evenings of November 2nd and 3rd.

As part of the Welland edition of the “Niagara Nights of Art”, those in attendance had a chance to learn and enjoy the history of the Métis in Niagara told by the spirits who lived it.

While spectators walked outside of the cemetery, pre-recorded voices of modern Niagara Métis told the story through lighting and visual effects created by Joe Rodgers of Elechtech.

Five stations were set up at the



▲ **Champion fiddler Cassandra Swan and guitarist Natalie Pikula at the Welland Cemetery as part of the *And the Spirit Lives On*.**

cemetery. At four of these the spirits arose and recounted their Métis history through the magic of light and sound. At the fifth station live performers and Métis music courtesy of champion fiddler Cassandra Swan and guitarist Natalie Pikula completed the show written by Kay Annable with research supplied by MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President, Stephen Quesnelle.

"It's actually looking at the history of the Métis as they were in southern Ontario," said Annable,

who viewed writing the script as an opportunity to share a rich and often overlooked history. She felt it was an amazing way to present the story that would “do the Métis proud.”

"We are called the lost people," said Quesnelle, who was excited to see the history of his people shared. That history, he said, was essential to the exploration and formation of Canada as a country.

"I want people to realize they should be proud," he said.



▲ **Niagara Region Métis Council Chair, Derrick Pont with Holden Shanks in the cart; Garth Wright pulling the cart; Women's Rep., Barbaranne Wright with the Canadian flag; and Councillor, Amanda Pont-Shanks carrying the Métis flag.**

Métis on parade

By **Barbaranne Wright**
Niagara Region Métis Council

What a great day for a parade! The streets were packed with people who were so happy to see us. Our youngest Métis, Holden Shanks, was with us for the second

year in a row and pleased to smile at crowds. Waving with both hands, Holden stole the show!

After the parade Niagara Region Métis Council citizens and volunteers enjoyed pizza and light refreshments at the home of Barbaranne Wright.

Inspired by a story at www.niagarathisweek.com/what's%20on/article/1524963--a-story-in-sound-in-light

Lakehead Supports Aboriginal Learners

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Nanabijou Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement
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Elders Program

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MNO COMMUNITY COUNCILS



▲ 1) Youth sack races at the Community Festival in Welland. 2) Barbaranne Wright and Fritz Steele at the Community Festival in Port Dover. 3) Quilting at Camp Bickell. 4) Andy Lefebvre shows youth how to field dress a moose. 5) Cooking bannock over an open fire in Kenora. 6) Métis music in Welland.

Vibrant & Alive

Community Festivals across province celebrate our Métis Culture and Heritage

“Community and family are at the centre of the Métis Nation,” explained Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, while attending one of the nine Métis Community Festivals organized by the MNO this summer and fall. “This is why we hold these events; they keep our culture vibrant and alive while giving us the opportunity to have fun and renew friendships.”

Enthusiastic crowds gathered for the Métis Community Festivals held May 27, near Windsor; July 11, at the local park in Bancroft; July 14, at Ma-Ta-Way Park near Renfrew; September 8, at Aaron Park near Dryden; September 15, at the Massey Fair Grounds near Sudbury; September 22, at Silver Lake Park near Port Dover; September 23, at Talbot Park near Port McNicoll; September 29, at Camp Bickell near Iroquois Falls; and, September 30, at Club Richelieu, in Welland. “We felt it was important to hold these festivals as widely as possible across Ontario,” stated President Lipinski, “and each festival was located between Métis communities. We wanted to make the festivals accessible to as many of our MNO citizens as possible.”

In keeping with Métis spiritual beliefs, MNO Senators provided opening and closing prayers at each festival, setting the proper tone

for the events and reminding all participants to be thankful.

Traditional Practices

Métis culture and traditions were front and centre at each festival. MNO Chair, France Picotte, for example, taught the basic techniques for finger-weaving sashes at the Camp Bickell event. “A key part of these celebrations,” said Chair Picotte, “is passing on the traditional Métis knowledge to our young people.” Region 3 Captain of the Hunt, Andy Lefebvre, and his harvesting team also displayed a moose hanging on poles at Camp Bickell. The moose was shot by Jacques Picotte. Andy was very patient with children in attendance as he shared traditional teachings on how to prepare the moose for the community freezer. Paul Rondeau also demonstrated working with cedar wood, which is used in the building of birch bark canoes.

Music & Dancing

Music and dancing were big parts of most of the festivals. The Kwijikwewag Métis Women’s Drum Group, the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Youth Drummers, Cindy

Thompson’s fiddle students and the Copegog Family Band provided lively performances at the Talbot Park Festival, while Senator John and Dylinda George fired up the dance floor with a jigging workshop at the Aaron Park event. The Talbot Park Festival was also enlivened by Lillian Penner, a young fiddler who got everyone’s heels tapping. Daryle Gardipy taught dance techniques at the Ma-Ta-Way Park event and Les Amis Qui Danse group provided square-dancing instruction at Camp Bickell.

Métis history was not forgotten at these festivals either. Club Richelieu, Port Dover and Camp Bickell each featured historical re-creations of Métis encampments and Port Dover’s activities included the Métis Voyageur Games. These are competitions based on the traditional lifestyle of Métis voyageurs. Hank and Scott Rowlinson provided instruction and supervision and everyone had a great time! Our natural heritage was also celebrated at the festivals. In Aaron Park, Arlene Williams led a nature walk, which enjoyed great participation despite rain during that particular festival.

Craft making played a big role in several festivals. The Kenora Métis Warmth and Wellness Committee provided a knitting display and an on-site demonstration at the Aaron Park

event, while Regina Rosignol demonstrated her quilt-making expertise at Camp Bickell. Dot-painting was a popular activity with young and old at most of the festivals and a tie blanket workshop at the Massey Fairgrounds Festival attracted participants of all ages.

Something for everyone

Every festival had many activities for the children and laughter filled the air, especially during events such as the good old-fashioned three-legged race at Aaron Park, sack races and four-person snowshoe races at Club Richelieu. There were also vendors, displays and door prizes at most of the events. The cooks won rave reviews for their meals that always included traditional Métis fare such as bannock, roasted corn, fish-fry, bear, wild turkey, venison, and moose stew.

Each Métis Community Festival was a resounding success. The hard work of MNO Community Council volunteers with the assistance of MNO staff paid off in enjoyable events for all involved. “Our Métis culture,” stated President Lipinski, “is something that we all can be very proud of, and something that our families and communities keep alive. It is events like these that really bring that home!”

DUTY TO CONSULT



▲ Left to right: **Denis Ayotte**, area forester (Tembec); **Rob Arnup**, (Consultant); **Alden Barty**, MNO staff; **MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council President**, **Kim Powley**; **PCMNO Region 4 Councillor**, **Ernie Gatien**; **Eric Bazinet**, Sawmill Supervisor (Tembec).

MNO meets with forestry company

Historic Sault Ste. Marie Traditional Territory Consultation Committee meets with Tembec

On August 1, 2012, the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Traditional Territory Consultation Committee travelled to Chapleau, Ontario, to participate in a meeting with Tembec's forestry staff for the Martel Forest.

After introductions, Tembec provided the committee with a tour of the Chapleau sawmill complex including log unloading, debarking and slashing decks; sawmill in-feed decks and saw-lines, including trimmer, edger and stacker operations; and the final process at the planer mill, where the lumber is dressed and packaged. The committee took full advantage of the tour and asked numerous questions during each stop.

The meeting served as an opportunity to bring both parties to the table and discuss forest management practices, future planning for the Martel Forest, the status of the current Forest Management Plan, update on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, and general information related to forest management.

At the end of the day the focus was on establishing the next steps. Both parties agreed that continued communication is an important factor in developing a long term relationship. Tembec and the committee have agreed that the sharing of the Annual Work Schedule (AWS) will take place after the first submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources. The committee will be given the opportunity to review the documentation and provide Tembec with comments that Métis citizens may have concerning the AWS.

TEMBEC INFO: *Tembec, a global leader in sustainable forest management practices, is a manufacturer of forest products: lumber, pulp, paper and specialty cellulose.*

CONTACT:

Alden Barty
Consultation Coordinator
MNO Land, Resources and Consultations
aldenb@metisnation.org

MÉTIS HARVESTERS

Forests & rivers

MNO Georgian Bay Harvesters Committee involved in conservation efforts to help forests and fish population

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Harvesters Committee was recently involved in two different conservation efforts. The first was the planting of 4,000 trees at the "Millennium Tract" in Simcoe County Forest near Barrie. The Harvesters were responsible for the planning of one section of the planting including over 300 hardwoods, which, when mature, will provide food for wildlife in the area. The volunteers thank Steven Richmond for helping out. Steve also received credit towards his community service requirements for high school.

The Harvesters were assisted by Georgian Bay Bassmasters (a fishing club for men and women that provides fishing education and information, and is involved in youth and conservation activities in the community) and First Wye Marsh Scouts; both had excellent member support. The tree planting was supervised

and supported financially by North Simcoe Anglers and Hunters Conservation Club who provided \$6,500.00 for the cost of the trees. Hats off to them!

The other conservation effort was the Georgian Bay Bassmasters' fish habitat project. The Georgian Bay Bassmasters place fish habitats in the water to offer small fish a place to hide and grow. They have been doing this for many years. This is the second year that the MNO Georgian Bay Harvesters Committee has been included in this project. Artificial reefs are used throughout the United States and Canada as a proven strategy for improving fish stocks.

This year, the GBMC Harvesters received a letter of appreciation from the Georgian Bay Bassmasters. "I would like to thank Chris Charrier for helping and for his efforts on behalf of the Harvesters Committee," said Larry Ferris.

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LANDS & RESOURCES

Nuclear Site-seeing

As part of the engagement program associated with Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) Project for the long-term management of low and intermediate level radioactive waste at the Bruce nuclear site, OPG committed to facilitate tours with MNO representatives. Three information tours have been arranged to date by Melanie Hamilton, MNO's Nuclear Waste Liaison. The tours took place in November 2009, November 2011 and most recently, on June 7, 2012. The tour groups consisted of MNO citizens, council representatives and MNO staff. Altogether about 50 Métis participated in the three tours. The groups toured OPG's Western Waste Management Facility (WWMF) and the DGR

project site. All of the participants said they appreciated the opportunity to see the facilities firsthand. Several comments were made, including seeing for themselves what the nuclear waste is like and how it is currently managed. The community members remarked they were surprised with the small amount of waste.

An important aspect of the tours was getting a chance to ask questions and comment on the project. All comments and questions from tour participants were recorded by Melanie Hamilton--forming a record of engagement between MNO and OPG. Below is a sampling of the types of questions asked by participants, and the answers provided by the DGR representatives.

Q: What if there is an earthquake that causes damage?

A: The Bruce nuclear site lies within the tectonically stable interior of the North American continent, an area with low seismic potential. Historic records indicate that in 180 years there have been no recorded earthquakes of magnitude greater than 5. A Seismic Hazard Assessment of earthquakes ranging to 7.5 magnitude concluded that earthquakes will not impact the safe operation or long-term ability of the DGR to safely isolate and contain low and intermediate level waste.

Q: What about security?

A: Security requirements for the DGR Project, as with any nuclear facility, will be mandated by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. The DGR is located on the Bruce nuclear site, which has security measures in place, including access control, a security fence and armed security personnel.

Q: What if there is a leak that contaminates the soil and water, affecting plants, animals and human health?

A: The DGR project will manage low and intermediate level waste (currently stored safely at surface) underground at a depth of 680 m in a layer of very low permeability limestone. This limestone is overlain by a 200 m thick layer of low permeability shale. These rock formations are very old, laterally extensive and at longer timeframes will provide passive barriers to contain and isolate the wastes from surface water. The results of the safety assessment studies completed to assess the potential for migration of contaminants from the DGR indicate that the peak dose from the DGR under the normal evolution scenario could be expected in approximately one million years and the dose would be significantly less than background radiation. The results of the assessment of disruptive scenarios, such as human intrusion and severe shaft failure, conclude that there is potential for significant doses but the peak impact would

apply to someone living directly on top of the repository, and impacts farther afield are much smaller. In all cases the potential impacts become small on timescales of around 60,000 to 100,000 years as a result of radioactive decay.

Q: Is there sufficient funding for this project in the long-term?

A: An existing segregated fund, which has been accumulating funds as part of electricity rates, will be used to pay the cost of the DGR Project. The segregated fund is close to being fully funded.

Q: What monitoring is proposed before, during and after construction?

A: Monitoring is planned before, during and after construction. An Environmental Assessment Follow-up Monitoring Program was included in OPG's submission to the Joint Review Panel. This program outlines monitoring proposed to verify the effects predicted in the environmental assessment and assess the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, as well as that associated with regulatory requirements. Monitoring of conventional parameters and radionuclides in air, surface and groundwater are proposed. For example, monitoring wells have been established as part of the geoscience site characterization program and this monitoring will continue during construction and operation of the DGR.

Q: What will be the effects of noise and vibrations from blasting (on fish)?

A: Noise levels associated with the DGR Project during construction will be similar to those associated with the use of heavy equipment. The majority of the blasting will be below ground surface and will not contribute to the noise.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Guidelines state that no explosive may be used that produces, or is likely to produce, a peak particle velocity greater than 13mm/s in a spawning

Métis Citizens share concerns about OPG's proposed Deep Geologic Repository



▲ MNO citizens, council representatives and MNO staff tour OPG's Western Waste Management Facility (WWMF) and the DGR project site.

bed during egg incubation. The predicted maximum ground vibration during shaft sinking is predicted to be 8.4 mm/s; therefore no effects on fish are expected from blasting.

Q: What impacts will there be on migratory species (birds, fish and animals)?

A: The environmental assessment considered potential effects of the DGR Project on habitat utilization, and vehicle strikes for a number of wildlife species. No residual effects are predicted for any migratory species.

Q: The removal of cattails (a traditional food of local Métis) means less filtration of water. Will this be a problem at the DGR project site?

A: Construction of the DGR Project will result in the loss of a small quantity of Eastern White Cedar, but will not result in removal of cattails. The majority of the surface drainage system for the DGR Project will be new ditches separate from the existing on-site drainage ditches.

Q: Will the temperature of the rock change?

A: The low and intermediate level waste gives off little heat. Geothermal properties of the rock at the repository level will not be impacted.

For more information on the tours and Deep Geologic Repository Project please contact:

Melanie Hamilton
Nuclear Waste Liaison - MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch
380 9th Street East
Owen Sound, ON
N4K 1P1
Tel: 519 370-0435
melanieh@metisnation.org

INFORMATION

What is low and intermediate level waste?

Low level waste consists of industrial items that have become contaminated with low levels of radioactivity during routine clean-up and maintenance activities at nuclear generating stations. Low level waste includes items such as mop heads, cloths, paper towels, floor sweepings and protective clothing. Low level waste may be processed through incineration or compaction to reduce its volume before storage.

Intermediate level waste consists primarily of used reactor core components and ion-exchange resins and filters used to purify reactor water systems. Ninety-five percent of the total low and intermediate level waste received at the WWMF is low level.



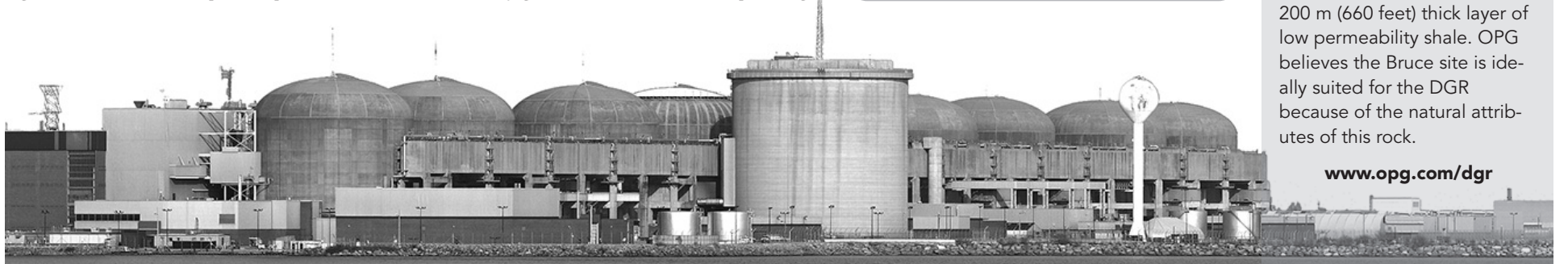
INFORMATION

What is the Deep Geologic Repository?

OPG is proposing to construct and operate a Deep Geologic Repository for the long-term management of low and intermediate level nuclear waste. The DGR will be located adjacent to OPG's Western Waste Management Facility (WWMF) at the Bruce nuclear site, in Kincardine, Ontario. The DGR facility would manage about 200,000 cubic metres of low and intermediate level waste. Only low and intermediate level waste from OPG-owned or operated nuclear generating stations in Ontario will be accepted for storage in the DGR.

Used fuel will not be stored in the DGR. The DGR is proposed to be located about 680 m (2230 feet) below ground surface in low permeability limestone, beneath a 200 m (660 feet) thick layer of low permeability shale. OPG believes the Bruce site is ideally suited for the DGR because of the natural attributes of this rock.

www.opg.com/dgr



OUR STORIES

A Métis Veteran Remembers:

Piping
for Vimy

In January 1945, some members of all the Canadian Highland Infantry, including this article's author **Donn Fowler**, were fighting north towards Germany, when they were suddenly ordered out of action and exchanged battle-dress for kilts and reclaimed their bagpipes and drums...

By **Donn Fowler**

The ninth day of April, 1945, was the 28th anniversary of the taking of Vimy Ridge in 1917, by Canadian soldiers, many of whom were Aboriginal Canadians—Métis and “Indian”. A military order had come down to our Canadian WWII Highland units from the 9th Canadian (Highland) Brigade Headquarters. It was circulated for the purpose of ordering that certain trained fighting soldiers were to become LOB (left out of battle) and the centrepiece for a very special commemorative ceremonial remembrance parade at the Vimy Ridge Memorial in France, to take place on the 9th of April 1945.

That date happened to be one month before the end of WWII on May 8th, 1945. The parade itself was to be a special remembrance ceremony of what had taken place in France almost three decades earlier, when so many Canadian soldiers gave so much. That treacherous uphill Vimy action had been an extremely arduous victory, especially for Canada. The great victory was marked, in 1936, by the unveiling of the Vimy Memorial con-

structed on land ceded to Canada by France for perpetual use to establish a battlefield park and memorial so that those Canadians who fell in France now rested in Canadian soil.

In January and February of 1945, some members of all the Canadian Highland Infantry units overseas were still fighting northward towards Germany, when suddenly some of us were ordered “out-of-action”. We were about to exchange our battle-dress for kilts and reclaim our bagpipes, drums, etc, and get busy practicing as a single unit of pipers and drummers. We were about to be transported back to France, (from Holland now very near Emden, Germany), for the ceremony scheduled for the twenty-eighth anniversary of the taking of Vimy Ridge.

Prior to D-Day, 6 June, 1944, all former pipers and drummers of the Canadian Highland units had been required to relinquish their kilts and musical instruments and get into battle-dress—except for a mere six pipers who remained musically active within the individual companies of the individual battalions.

Before the recall order, we former bandmen were part of the fighting invasion front in Normandy, France. We had given up our pipes and

drums for action as stretcher-bearers, specialized medical attendants in the RAP (Regimental Aid Posts), vehicle drivers, dispatch riders, or ordinary rifle soldiers. As fighting soldiers some of these bandmen were KIA or DoW (killed in action or died of wounds).

However, all of the surviving pipers and drummers were suddenly bandmen again, and reunited at Vimy as one huge band of Canadian pipers and drummers. We had come from all over Canada: British Columbia (Canadian Scottish Regiment) to Nova Scotia, and all those highland units in between in the Canadian Army. It was a mass of pipers and drummers.

Training at the Vimy Memorial was initially to determine the best way to present an affective and effective playing of appropriate highland tunes without confusing the resultant sound of the intended music. The solution was to divide the total massed band into two sections; one section at each end of the huge monument, both facing down the slope of the hill. After several unsuccessful marching practice runs downhill, each of which became a terrible

“**We had given up our pipes and drums for action as stretcher-bearers, specialized medical attendants in the RAP (Regimental Aid Posts), vehicle drivers, dispatch riders or ordinary rifle soldiers.**”

cacophony of dissonant sounds, another solution had to be found. Finally, a hair-raising, (in my view) wonderful blending of the entire massed band sound was attained. The solution was to have only half of the band play while the other half at the other end of the monument held their pipes and drums as though playing, but not playing until both sections had converged, row by row, at the bottom of the hill. We then counter-marched together playing in unison up toward the

monument at the top of the hill. The unified sound of the pipes and drums was a never-to-be-forgotten musical experience—a real tear-jerker to be honest—of a beautiful remembrance of our 1914-1918 fallen comrades, and of our fallen 1939-1945 comrades as well.

Many of the fallen from the 1914-1918 units were men of the 21st Battalion—who were buried where they fell at the time—and many of these

came from Kingston, Ontario, a military town, and were mobilised from the PWOR (Princess of Wales' Own Regiment [MG]) of Kingston. During WWII, the PWOR also supplied a company of recruits to the 1st Battalion, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, and these “Glens” became one of the three Battalions of the 9th Canadian Highland Brigade, along with the HLI and NNS (Highland Light Infantry of Canada and the North Nova Scotia Highlanders).



Donald (Donn) Fowler enlisted as a 14 year-old in the Canadian army in June, 1940. As a member of the Glengarry Highlanders he landed in Normandy, France with a wave of D-Day reinforcements in 1944.

▼ Pack horses transporting ammunition to Canadian field artillery in 1917.

▼ The 1st Canadian Army Massed Pipes and Drums at the Vimy Memorial.



REMEMBRANCE DAY



▲ Premier Dalton McGuinty (centre) with MNO Veterans Harvey Horlock and Senator Alis Kennedy following Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Queen's Park on November 11, 2012.



▲ Greg Garratt, Sergeant-at-Arms for the MNOVC participates in Midland Remembrance Day Ceremony.

Lest We Forget

Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans and Citizens maintain vital Remembrance Day traditions

Every year on November 11, Métis from across the Homeland participate in Remembrance Day Ceremonies. Being part of these ceremonies is very important to Métis because we have contributed to the defense of Canada as far back as the War of 1812 as well as both World Wars, the Korean Conflict, peacekeeping missions and most recently, Afghanistan. Over the years, many Métis have served and many have made the ultimate sacrifice. By making the Métis presence felt at Remembrance Day services, we show our respect for all veterans and we remind all Canadians of Métis service and sacrifice.

MNO veterans and citizens participated in Remembrance Day Services all over Ontario this year. These included the national ceremony in Ottawa, the provincial ceremony in Toronto and the City of Sudbury service.

Since 2004, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has laid a wreath at the National Cenotaph in Ottawa during National Remembrance Day ceremonies. The wreath is laid each year by MNO Executive Senator Reta Gordon and Métis veteran, Shaun Redmond. Senator Reta and Shaun have performed this important gesture on behalf of the MNO in good weather and bad because it is very meaningful on a personal level for both of them, and because it is important to recognize our many Métis veterans who gave and continue to give so much in securing and sustaining the rights and freedoms that we all enjoy.

Shaun enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1971 and rose to the rank of lieutenant prior to joining the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1980. Although retired, he still serves as a captain in the Reserves and trains cadets. "My father's brother was killed in action in Italy during World War II," explained Shaun, "and it [laying the wreath] is a way to remember him."

Each year following protocol, Shaun, as a veteran, presents the MNO wreath to Senator Reta who then lays the wreath on the cenotaph. Senator Reta's father and her nine uncles all participated in World War II. Then later in the 1950s, her four brothers also served in the military and one of her brothers, Senator George Kelly, even participated in the national

Remembrance Day ceremonies this year. "It is good to let everyone know the Métis are here and that we support Remembrance Day," explained Senator Reta.

This year Senator Reta and Shaun also participated in a ceremony at the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument prior to the National Remembrance Day Ceremony. The National Aboriginal Veterans Monument is located a short distance away from the National Cenotaph and is an important symbol of the contributions of Métis and other Aboriginal veterans to Canada.

Another Remembrance Day service took place at the Sudbury Arena this November 11 with several MNO citizens actively participating. The Rev. Steve Callaghan, Métis veteran and Councillor on the MNO Sudbury Métis Council provided the prayer during the ceremony and a wreath was laid on the Cenotaph on behalf of the MNO by Senator Kempton Gravelle and Gail Charbonneau, Métis Facilitator at Cambrian College in Sudbury.

This year MNO veterans Harvey Horlock and Senator Alis Kennedy were also invited by the Office of the Premier to attend provincial Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Queen's Park in Toronto.

This was Premier McGuinty's last Remembrance Day as Premier. It was under his leadership that the Veterans' Memorial Mural was created.

Brigadier-General Omer Lavoie, who served in Afghanistan, spoke of how difficult it was to send soldiers to their death and to have to tell their parents and loved ones of their passing. Major-General Richard Rohmer, Canada's most highly decorated soldier also addressed those in attendance.

The participation of MNO veterans and citizens in these Remembrance Day ceremonies and ones like them all over the Métis Homeland is very important to the whole Métis Nation because it reminds all Canadians of the sacrifices the Métis have made and of our long tradition of military service.



▲ MNO Veterans' Council President, Joe Paquette (centre) at Remembrance Day Ceremonies in Port Credit.



▲ MNO citizens at the Sudbury Remembrance Day Ceremony. (left to right) Steve Callaghan, Gail Charbonneau and Senator Kempton Gravelle.



▲ Senator Reta Gordon (left) and Métis veteran, Shaun Redmond, at the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument in Ottawa.

LOUIS RIEL DAY | NOVEMBER 16th



▲ Senator Joseph Poitras and MNOVC President Joseph Paquette carry wreaths from the steps of the Legislative Building at Queen's Park to the Northwest Rebellion Monument on Riel Day, November 16th.

Louis Riel Day events celebrated throughout Métis Homeland

Fulfilling Riel's Dream

QUEEN'S PARK • TORONTO

Many Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) chartered community councils held flag raisings, feasts and cultural celebrations to recognize Louis Riel Day. As in the past, provincial ceremonies were held at Queen's Park in Toronto because the Northwest Rebellion monument and the Provincial Parliament Building are both located there. Ironically, the monument recognizes the Canadian soldiers who fought in the Northwest Resistance against the Métis, but on Louis Riel Day it is draped with Métis symbols and a portrait of Louis Riel is reverentially placed upon it.

It was a beautiful fall day in Toronto for this year's provincial ceremony with over 100 people in attendance, not only from the Toronto area, but from as far away as Thunder Bay. As in the past, events started with a flag raising ceremony. Jennifer Henry, the Postsecondary Representative on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), raised the flag with MNO President, Gary Lipinski, the Honourable Dave Levac, Speaker of the Ontario Legislature, and the Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Minister of Energy looking on.

Following the flag ceremony, the partici-

pants formed a procession led by members of the No. 10 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and accompanied by Métis fiddler Alicia Blore. The No. 10 Legion Branch has been participating in Louis Riel Day ceremonies for 12 years and their dedication and service was commented upon by several of the speakers during the ceremony that followed the procession. Although Alicia had broken her leg a few days prior to Louis Riel Day, she refused to be deterred from participating in the procession and her determination provided a shining example of the Métis spirit!

The procession made its way to the Northwest Rebellion monument where the official Riel Day ceremony was held. PCMNO Senator Joseph Poitras provided the opening prayer and thanked the Creator for the many blessings received by the Métis and for bringing people of many different affiliations together to recognize Riel Day. MNO Chair France Picotte, emceed the ceremony and welcomed everyone. She set a positive tone for the ceremony stating: "On each Riel Day, I ask those assembled to think back to the last Riel Day and remember what they have done to advance the Métis Nation in the last year, and to also think forward about what they will do in the upcoming year for the Métis people."

Next to address the crowd was the Honourable Dave Levac, Speaker of the Ontario

Parliament. Speaker Levac is an MNO citizen and is the first person of Métis ancestry to serve as the speaker of a provincial parliament or legislature in Canada. He related the story of how he discovered his Métis heritage and he explained now that he is aware of his background it means "...more to me than I ever knew it could." He added that as speaker, his official portrait would eventually be painted and displayed in the Parliament Building. Proudly he stated that in this portrait he would be wearing his sash, "because I am Métis," he proclaimed.

Speaker Levac was followed to the podium by MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride. Vice-chair McBride said that she would have liked to meet Louis Riel so that she could tell him that "his people are not ashamed--we are a recognized Aboriginal people." She also said she would like to tell him that "... you are loved and remembered" and "your spirit lives on through all of us."

Chair Picotte introduced the next speaker, the Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Minister of Energy, as a "good friend of the Métis." It was noted that Minister Bentley enjoys an unrivaled record for attending MNO Annual General Assemblies and other MNO events and has played a role in some of our greatest achievements. Minister Bentley commented that the Métis have "shown lead-

ership, endured great challenges and made sacrifices," for the betterment of all Canadians. He also spoke about the success of the MNO Ontario Framework Agreement, signed in 2008, that has contributed to building a strong positive relationship between the MNO and the Government of Ontario, which led to among other things, the establishment of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund. "The re-kindling of the Métis entrepreneurial spirit," declared Minister Bentley "was an important result of our working together."

Michael Prue, a New Democratic Party (NDP) Member of the Provincial Parliament (MPP) represented NDP leader Andrea Horwath at the ceremony. As a member of the No. 10 Legion Branch, MPP Prue has attended Louis Riel ceremonies loyally for 12 years. In his statements he focused on how dramatically attitudes towards Louis Riel have changed since he was first taught about Riel in high school. "Children are learning a different story," he commented, "today he [Riel] is recognized as a true 'Father of Confederation'."

Métis youth were represented at the ceremony by PCMNO Postsecondary Representative Jennifer Henry. Representative Henry spoke about the value and importance of post-secondary education in insuring a strong future for the MNO. She also explained that we must "teach our youth the stories of our past," and



(far left) **Lawyer and Riel descendant Jean Teillet.**
(left) **PCMNO Youth Rep Jennifer Henry.**

Fiddler Alicia Blore provided the march with Métis music.



(top) **MNO President Gary Lipinski presents Harvey Horlock with a Queen's Jubilee Medal.** (middle) **MNO President, Gary Lipinski; Chair of Métis Studies, University of Ottawa, Brenda MacDougall; and, Métis author and activist, Maria Campbell.** (bottom) **Raising the Métis flag.**

▲ (1) **MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride.** (2) **The Honourable Chris Bentley.** (3) **Michael Prue MPP for Beaches-east York.** (4) **The Honourable Dave Levac, Speaker of the Ontario Legislature.**

▲ **Senator Joesph Poitras and MNOVC President Joesph Paquette lay wreaths on the Northwest Rebellion Monument.**

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for this “we look to our elders.” Representative Henry spoke eloquently in tribute to one of the MNO’s great elders, Senator Earl Scofield, who had passed away earlier in the month. She declared: “His [Senator Scofield’s] spirit lives on in the Métis Nation.”

As in most past years, the MNO was honoured with the presence of Jean Teillet at the Queen’s Park Ceremony. Ms. Teillet is the great grandniece of Louis Riel and is the famous Métis rights lawyer who took the Powley Case to the Supreme Court of Canada and won. Chair Picotte commented when introducing Ms. Teillet that by defending Métis rights in the courts, “she has taken on the family business to

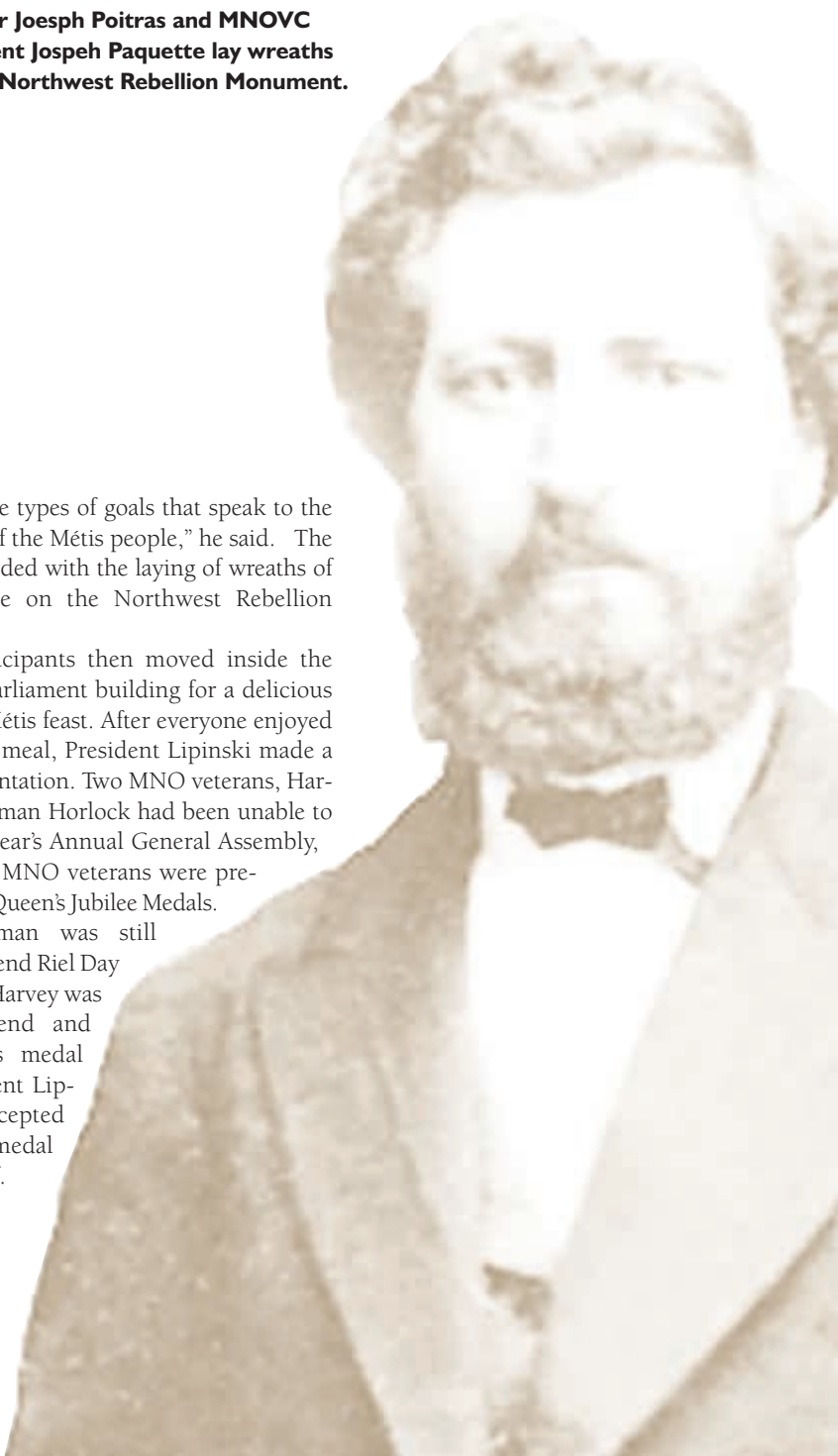
make sure the Nation is vibrant and alive.” In her remarks, Ms. Teillet focused on the improvements the Métis have seen in the last decade. “We are not fighting that house anymore,” she said, referring to the Ontario Parliament only a short distance away. “Things have changed dramatically from the days when people took up arms; from the days full of disgrace.” She added, “we have worked hard and the yardstick has moved forward.” She concluded her remarks saying: “The fact that we are here [at this ceremony] over a 100 years later, is a testament to the power that his [Riel’s] image has created for us.”

The final speaker was MNO President, Gary Lipinski. President Lipinski said that Riel sacrificed himself for his dream so that the Métis might take their rightful place in Confederation. Referring to his execution, President Lipinski said: “It was a travesty that should not have happened. Think of the Canada we could have built if his ideas would have been embraced. When Louis Riel was executed, all Canadians lost a great leader.” President Lipinski then highlighted how the MNO is working to fulfill Riel’s dream. “Providing Métis children and youth with the opportunity to be the best they can be,” he stated, “is a key priority.” He also described the MNO plans to build economic self-sufficiency so the MNO will no longer be dependent on government funding.

“
You are loved and remembered. Your spirit lives on through all of us.
”

“It is these types of goals that speak to the aspirations of the Métis people,” he said. The ceremony ended with the laying of wreaths of remembrance on the Northwest Rebellion monument.

The participants then moved inside the Provincial Parliament building for a delicious traditional Métis feast. After everyone enjoyed an excellent meal, President Lipinski made a special presentation. Two MNO veterans, Harvey and Norman Horlock had been unable to attend this year’s Annual General Assembly, where other MNO veterans were presented with Queen’s Jubilee Medals. While Norman was still unable to attend Riel Day in Toronto, Harvey was able to attend and received his medal from President Lipinski and accepted Norman’s medal on his behalf.



COMMUNITY RIEL DAY EVENTS



▲ **SUDBURY** -- MNO Sudbury Métis Council flag raising at Sudbury City Hall for Louis Riel Day.

Remembering Riel

Chartered MNO community councils organize Riel Day events in their communities

In Sudbury, Louis Riel Day events drew around 120 people of all ages and backgrounds. Students from both the French and English school boards participated, as did pre-school-age children and adults.

The Métis flag was raised and workshops were held on Métis music, the sash and culture. “We prayed for our next generation,” said MNO Sudbury Métis Council Chair, Rick Meilleur, “to learn about their culture and continue to spread the Métis way.”

The MNO Grand River Métis Council held a Métis flag raising ceremony at Guelph City Hall and during the ceremony presented a sash to the Mayor of Guelph. The ceremony also included Métis fiddler, Rajan

Dornan-Anderson, who was accompanied by his mother Dr. Kim Anderson.

The MNO Credit River Métis Council held a Louis Riel Day celebration with the participation of MNO Chair, France Picotte, and MNO Vice-chair, Sharon McBride. The event included Métis fiddling and jigging, finger-weaving, a delicious feast and MNO displays. Louis Riel Day events sponsored by the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council in Fort Francis included jigging and spooning workshops and demonstrations.

The MNO Niagara Region Métis Council held flag raising ceremonies at both the St. Catharines and Welland City Halls and presented sashes to the Mayors of each city.



▲ **FORT FRANCES** -- MNO Sunset Country Métis Council celebrated Louis Riel Day with a Jigging and Spooning Workshop.



▼ **GUELPH** -- Rajan Dornan-Anderson plays fiddle accompanied by his mother Dr. Kim Anderson at MNO Grand River Métis Council Louis Riel Day event.

▲ **OTTAWA** -- MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council flag raising event at Ottawa Police Headquarters.



▲ **Flag raising in St. Catharines, Ontario.**

LAW SOCIETY OF UPPER CANADA



▲ **Brenda MacDougall, Chair of Métis Studies - University of Ottawa.**

Talking Métis Law

The state of Métis law, research and self-government in Canada

Shortly after the provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony at Queen's Park, the MNO partnered with the Law Society of Upper Canada to host a seminar on The State of Métis Law, Research and Self-Government in Canada. The seminar is held annually as part of the Law Society's Equity Initiative Program that delivers a series of public education events throughout the year to promote awareness, education, and discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing Aboriginal, Francophone and other equality-seeking communities.

This year's seminar featured a panel discussion with Métis lawyers Jean Teillet and Jason Madden, as well as Dr. Brenda MacDougall, the Chair of Métis Studies at the University of Ottawa. The panel was moderated by Métis lawyer Margaret Froh and included comments from Law Society of Upper Canada “Bencher”, Susan Hare, and MNO President, Gary Lipinski.



In her presentation, Ms. Teillet recounted how some Aboriginal and Métis rights were finally included in *The Constitution Act, 1982*. She spoke about the results of this achievement, as well as those hopes that remain unfulfilled.

Mr. Madden reviewed some of the significant legal cases influencing Métis rights currently in front of courts in Canada. He demonstrated that the various legal cases being fought across the Homeland are starting to “colour in the map,” as more and more territory is added to areas where Métis rights are being recognized.



▲ (top) **Métis author and activist Maria Campbell.** (bottom) **Rebecca Cuddy.**

photos: Richard Cuddy

Dr. MacDougall provided some personal examples of the issues that her legal colleagues had addressed by looking at the history of the Métis Laframboise family. She demonstrated that this Family, in many respects, typifies the Métis experience.

Following the panel discussion, the seminar participants enjoyed a performance from Métis singer, Rebecca Cuddy, and a reading by Métis writer, Maria Campbell, from her book *Stories of the Road Allowance People*.

VOLUNTEERS | QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDALS

Dedication & Service

MNO Community Council members awarded Queen's Jubilee Medals

Three members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) chartered Community Councils were recognized recently for their contributions to their community councils and to the Métis Nation. These included Stephen Quesnelle, the outgoing President of the Niagara Region Métis Council; Derrick Pont, the newly elected President of the Niagara Region Métis Council; and Doris Evans, the Secretary-Treasurer of the MNO North Bay Métis Council.

Doris Evans

Doris Evans received a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal from Nipissing Member of the Provincial Parliament Vic Fedeli. Doris is not only the Secretary-Treasurer of the MNO North Bay Métis Council but also a local Métis Elder. She was nominated for working to forge ties between local Métis and area communities, and her active promotion of Métis culture and heritage.

Doris was surprised with the medal presentation at the Métis flag-raising at North Bay City Hall marking Louis Riel Day.

"Since relocating to North Bay 15 years ago after a lifelong career serving others in nursing, Doris has truly made a difference in many lives here," said Fedeli. "It's wonderful that Doris was nominated for this recognition by

the community."

Stephen Quesnelle

Stephen Quesnelle was presented with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal by Malcolm Allen, the Member of Parliament for Welland, at a ceremony held at the Welland Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Stephen was one of 30 recipients from the area and the ceremony was attended by over 200 people. The medal recognizes his more than 13 years of volunteer work promoting Métis culture and serving in various capacities on the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council and its predecessor the MNO Welland Métis Council. As President of the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council between 2010 and 2012, Stephen raised the profile of the Métis community in the district through Louis

Riel Day flag raising events in several Niagara Region cities, participation in Canada Day events, Remembrance Day ceremonies, and local parades. He formed a very successful partnership with the Welland Historical Museum and served on Aboriginal housing and education committees. Stephen has actively and enthusiastically represented the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council at school and college presentations. He also recently spoke at the Ontario

Museum Association Annual Conference and initiated discussions with Niagara College that led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the College and the MNO.

Derrick Pont

Derrick Pont was presented with a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal by Niagara West Member of the Provincial Parliament Dean Allison on November 13. He was recognized for over 25 years of volunteering, which began with a long and successful association with the Scouting movement.

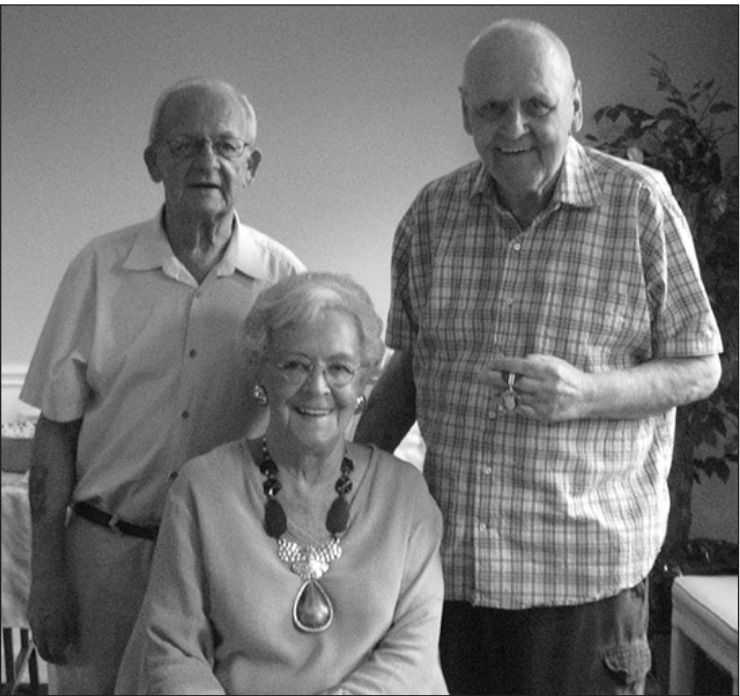
Derrick joined the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council in 2008 and prior to being elected president this year, served as Chair and as a member of the Consultation Committee. He is passionate about Métis education and has presented to many schools in the Niagara region, teaching students and teachers about Métis history, culture and way-of-life. He believes it is very important to educate the public concerning the misconceptions about Métis people and his dedication to Métis rights has enlightened and inspired many.

Doris, Stephen and Derrick are all worthy recipients of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and their dedication and service makes them excellent role models for Métis youth.



▲ (top) Doris Evans (fifth from the left) with members of the MNO North Bay Métis Council. (above left) MP Malcolm Allen presents Stephen Quesnelle (on left) with a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. (above right) Derrick Pont (on left) receives Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDALS



▲ Executive Senator, Reta Gordon, is flanked by brothers Senator George Kelly (left) and John Kelly holding the Diamond Jubilee Medal.

All in the family

Three Métis siblings honoured with Queen's Jubilee Medals

Recently, three members of the same Métis family each received Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals. The recipients are Senator Reta Gordon and her brothers, twins, John and George Kelly. George Kelly was recently chosen as "Senator of the Métis Nation of

Ontario Veterans' Council" (see *Voyageur* 72, page 22). John and George are both Métis veterans who served in the Canadian Navy and in that capacity attended the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in London in 1953.

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MIDLAND | DISCOVERY HARBOUR

Métis culture celebrated at Discovery Harbour

On August 11th, 2012, visitors to Discovery Harbour enjoyed a serving of Métis heritage and culture during the seventh annual Métis Day Bo'jou Neejee. ("Bo'jou neejee" is a combination of the French greeting "bonjour" and the Ojibwa word for friend, "neejee" and was a common greeting during the fur trade era in Canada.) Discovery Harbour has a strong historic connection to the Métis people who were part of the military migration from Drummond Island to the original Penetanguishene base in 1828 following the War of 1812.

New this year was the Kwikikwe Métis Women's Drum Group, who performed morning and afternoon. The C and C Métis Sisters presented "The Métis Traditional Sharing Cache", a theatrical-style performance that focussed on the Métis tradition of sharing and caring. The Métis Fiddler Quartet, renowned for their mastery of both traditional and Métis old-style fiddle playing, appeared three times throughout the day. Rounding out the day's entertainment with more great toe-tapping tunes were popular fiddler Alicia Blore and the music and vocals of La Famille Lefaive.

Métis culture was also cele-



▲ Learning to finger-weave at Discovery Harbour in Midland during their annual Métis Day - Bo'jou Neejee.

brated through displays and demonstrations: traditional sash weaving; fur trade trapping; beadwork, and moccasin making. Visitors were able to hear Michif--the traditional language of the Métis, see a voyageur encampment, and learn about life in the wilderness. Rug hooking, historic tailoring, leather bag-making, and cooking

demonstrations that included the traditional "three sisters' soup" and bannock, illustrated domestic life. There was even a horse-and-wagon ride that transported visitors from the admission area to displays and activities.

HEALING & WELLNESS

Aboriginal health programming under siege

Funding cuts make it difficult for Aboriginal organizations to participate in health research

By **Paul Christopher Webster**
Toronto, On

The federal government is deliberately undermining capacity to generate accurate Aboriginal health data and circulating discredited health data so as to downplay the severity of the Aboriginal health crisis in Canada, critics charge.

The strategy includes attempts to undermine national data-gathering capability; publishing data that understates infant mortality and suicide rates; and slashing funds for Aboriginal associations that were involved in data gathering and research, the critics add.

“My fear is that the government is reverting back to generating Aboriginal health policies without input from Aboriginal researchers,” says Claudette Dumont Smith, President of the Native Women’s Association of Canada. “We no longer get to participate in health programs, including many with research components. We’ve been silenced.”

National Aboriginal health data is “shabby”, Dr. Michael Kramer, professor of pediatrics, epidemiology and biostatistics at McGill University in Montréal, Quebec, says, adding that the government’s decision to abolish the mandatory long form census casts serious doubt on its commitment to generating reliable data on Aboriginal health conditions.

Several others concur. “This appears to be a concerted effort by the government to diminish the collection of data about Aboriginal health conditions,” notes Peggy Taillon, President of the Canadian Council on Social Development, a nongovernmental association in Ottawa which has filed a lawsuit against the government for abandoning its responsibility to collect data on Aboriginal and other disadvantaged communities.

“If you don’t ask the question you don’t get the data. And if you don’t have the data you

don’t have to respond to the health needs,” she says, adding that the association is equally disturbed by discontinuation of such initiatives as the Aboriginal Children’s Survey.

Among the most egregious elements of the campaign is the publication of inaccurate infant mortality data, charges Dr. Janet Smylie, associate professor of family medicine at the University of Toronto in Ontario and research scientist at the Keenan Research Centre of the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael’s Hospital.

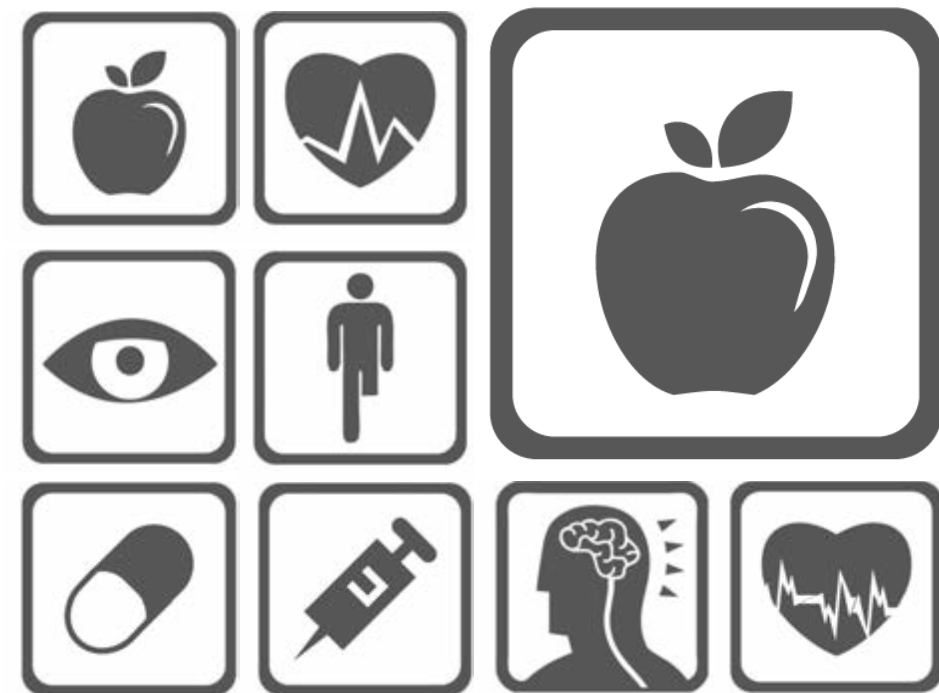
Public Health Agency of Canada (phac) data asserts that the infant mortality rate on Aboriginal reserves is 7 deaths per 1000 live births, about 40% higher than the national average.¹

But Smylie’s studies, conducted under the rubric of the Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System, indicate that the rate is at least double the national average (Can J Public Health 2010;101:143–48). “The government continues to dodge the facts on Aboriginal infant mortality,” she says.

The cuts to Aboriginal research capacity, meanwhile, pose a long-term threat to evidence-based Aboriginal health care, warns Dr. Marcia Anderson DeCoteau, assistant professor of community health sciences at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg and past President of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada. “What gets measured gets done.”

Smylie’s evidence that Aboriginal infant mortality rates are incorrect is likely typical of other indicators of Aboriginal health status that are either misreported or unknown, DeCoteau adds. “Life expectancy among Aboriginal people is also a contested core indicator. I believe the official figures underestimate inequities in life expectancy by at least 30%.”

At least 10 Aboriginal bodies have had their health research funding recently cut by the government, including the Native Healing Foundation, the National Aboriginal Health Organ-



ization, the First Nations Statistical Institute, the Native Women’s Association of Canada, the Métis National Council and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

“We’re seeing a systematic rollback in Aboriginal health research capacity,” says Bruce Dumont, President of the Métis Nation of British Columbia, and Minister of Health for the Métis National Council. “These cuts could well be terminal for Métis-led health research, which was in its infancy.”

Similarly, Terry Audla, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, argues that the cuts impair the ability to “meaningfully engage” in health research at a time when life expectancy among the Inuit is 15 years shorter than the Canadian average, while suicide rates are 11 times higher, and infant mortality rates 3 times higher, than the national average.

The money the government saved through such cuts “will be lost many-fold as the flow of information and the creation of new knowledge and capacity with which Aboriginal peoples were addressing their health inequities ceases,” argues Sylvia Abonyi, Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Health at the University of Saskatchewan.

Health Canada has also slashed intramural funding for a host of Aboriginal programs, including ones to address diabetes, fetal alcohol syndrome, youth suicide, infectious diseases and maternal and child health. The cuts prompted Thomas Dignan, Chair of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Aboriginal Health Advisory Committee and acting community medicine specialist for Health Canada’s First Nations and Inuit Health Branch in Thunder Bay, Ontario, to decry that “the state of Aboriginal health is a national embarrassment and leadership is needed now more than ever”.²

For its part, the federal government says it is now examining the accuracy of infant mortality data and is shifting aboriginal health research funding under the rubric of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), according to PHAC spokesman Sylwia Gomes and Health Canada spokesman Gary Holub.

Gomes says the agency is aware that the figures it publishes on Aboriginal infant mortality have been challenged and notes that Health Canada’s First Nations and Inuit Health Branch “is currently addressing the quality of First Nations and Inuit infant mortality data through regional engagement with provinces, territories, and Aboriginal peoples.”

Holub explains that as part of a government-wide administrative overhaul, federal aboriginal health research funds “will primarily be administered through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, while Health Canada focuses primarily on overseeing the First Nations and Inuit Health program.”

CIHR has invested \$151.5 million in health research related to Aboriginal peoples’ health since 2006, including \$31 million in fiscal 2010–11, Holub notes. He adds that CIHR launched a \$25 million initiative aimed at understanding how to reduce Aboriginal health inequities.

But Malcolm King, scientific director for the CIHR’s Institute of Aboriginal People’s Health, believes that many of the Aboriginal health organizations that have been defunded by Health Canada played an important role in helping CIHR-supported researchers establish community-based research programs. The cuts “certainly make it more difficult for Aboriginal organizations to participate in health research,” he notes.

1 www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cphorsphc-respcacsp/2008/fr-re/cphorsphc-respcacsp06c-eng.php
2 www.royalcollege.ca/portal/page/portal/rc/common/documents/news/2012/naho_media_release_e.pdf

VISUAL ARTS

MNO Healing and Wellness staff take part in Diabetes Expo

Richard Aubin, of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Healing and Wellness Branch in Timmins, and Julie St. Onge, of the Canadian Diabetes Association, co-chaired the fourth annual Diabetes Expo on October 18 and 19 at the Centre Cultural LaRonde in Timmins.

Aubin commented that the two day event has increased its reach to professionals and the general public by at least 50 percent.

“We have a great committee dedicated to this event and some really wonderful sponsors who I want to thank for their support,” said St. Onge.

The two-day event included expert speakers; a series of workshops; a “kids’ program”; and a professional event held at the Porcupine Health Unit that provided an on-site workshop to local health care professionals in attendance, and to health

care workers in Kapuskasing, Kirkland Lake, New Liskeard, North Bay, Moose Factory, Fort Albany and Hearst through live teleconferencing using the Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN).

Right: **Richard Aubin (far left), of the MNO Healing and Wellness Branch in Timmins, co-chaired the fourth annual Diabetes Expo.**



ARTS & CULTURE

Métis crooner climbs charts

There's a new Métis singer/songwriter lighting up the adult contemporary charts. Franklin McKay, a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario for about ten years, now lives in Toronto, but he was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and grew up surrounded by nature.

Franklin recalls a childhood filled with fishing, hunting for partridge and moose, raspberry picking, swimming, biking, canoeing, and sitting around the nightly camp fire. He loved the outdoors and spent his summers as a child and teen on Lake Superior in Haviland Bay. In the winter it was cross country skiing and playing hockey on the lake.

McKay says he still has close friends in Garden River, Ontario, and continues to be fascinated by the fact that most First Nation languages do not have a word for "goodbye" but instead say "See you later". He carries with him a deep respect for nature and the Creator.

Franklin's love for music began early, so around the age of six his mother introduced him to piano lessons. Unfortunately, he rarely practiced and would rather be playing street hockey with his friends; not being a great piano student didn't stop his love for creating. From a

very early age he wrote his own songs and in high school (the Bawating Collegiate and Vocational School) where he sang in the choir, he often attempted to record them in the studio. Neil Diamond, Barry Manilow, Robbie Robertson and Elton John were among his favourite artists.

Although McKay moved to Toronto in the late 90's to attend the University of Toronto where he studied political science and sociology, his love of music has persisted. Over the last couple of years it has become a fulltime endeavour. He finds writing music very therapeutic and often writes from real life experience.

His efforts are beginning to show results with close to 200 radio stations in Canada playing his music, including CBC. Franklin McKay is on the Aboriginal Music Countdown charts as well as the US Billboard AC charts--at #32 and #30 respectively.

There are plans to tour once his album, *Just Sayin'* is complete, and a Juno submission for Aboriginal recording is also in the works. All of the songs are available on iTunes and news updates can be found at www.franklinmckay.com.

▲ Franklin McKay is an MNO citizen from Sault Ste. Marie pursuing a music career in Toronto.

Photo: www.franklinmckay.com

“ [Franklin] recalls a childhood filled with fishing, hunting for partridge and moose, raspberry picking, swimming, biking, canoeing, and sitting around the nightly camp fire. ”

VISUAL ARTS



▲ Kristy Cameron with her painting *Grandmother Spider*.

Métis artists' work featured at Atikokan gallery

The artwork of Kristy Cameron, a Councillor on the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Atikokan and Area Métis Council, was recently displayed at the Pictograph Gallery in Atikokan.

Kristy is a well-known artist who has collaborated in the past with writer David Bouchard by providing illustrations for his books. Most recently, she has contributed to *Dreamcatcher* and *The*

Seven Deceivers, the second in a series of young people's books exploring traditional Aboriginal beliefs.

Based on a story from the Atikokan Progress (www.atikokanprogress.ca).

Fier d'être Métis

Par Raymond D. Tremblay, Ottawa

Finalement j'ai découvert qui je suis.
Ivre d'espoir, je n'ai plus aucun ennui.
En toute vérité, je me suis senti emballé.
Réclamant mon héritage, j'ai vu mon passé.
Dieu savait que mes ancêtres aimaient la nature.
Être descendant d'une Huronne, quelle riche culture!
Tout à coup, j'ai ressenti une grande fierté bouillir en moi.
Rien ne pouvait m'empêcher de crier ma joie sur tous les toits.
Et oui, mon sang chaud de Métis circulait au sein de tout mon être.
Ma vie ne serait jamais plus la même. Je chante la vie de mes ancêtres.
Émerveillé par mon héritage de Métis, je plonge dans mes traditions.
Trappeurs, cultivateurs, chanteurs et musiciens; quelles vocations!
Inspiré par leurs vies exemplaires, je m'élance dans l'aventure.
Sur mon honneur, je suis fier d'être Métis; soyez-en très sûrs.



MÉTIS MUSICIANS

Roots rock

Métis-lead band releases new music

In the last edition of *Métis Voyageur* we introduced our readers to Métis artist Ryan Guay and his four-piece reggae rock band, Street Pharmacy (see page 8). On September 25, the band released a new EP, "Alimony", marking a fan-driven return to its reggae rock roots. Alimony is available for download on the band's Founding Fan site and iTunes.

ABOUT THE NEW EP

Six new songs were recorded for *Alimony* over six days at Catherine North Studios in Hamilton, Ontario. Highlights include the title track "Alimony", which tackles the crumbling institution of marriage in today's society. The first track, "Step Outside", has anthem-like qualities similar to their 2007 release, *Free Delivery*, with a country-inspired bridge that is new to Street Pharmacy.

The second track is a unique reggae version of Blind Melon's "Change" that fuses intrinsically folk instrumentals with reggae grooves and tight vocal melodies. Lead singer, Ryan Guay, demonstrates his strong but youthful pipes throughout the challenging vocals, staying true to both the original song and Street Pharmacy's distinctive reggae sound. Songs like "Twenty One" and "Shepherd's Pride" add more experimental song structures and arrangements to the band's distinctive sound.

The final song, "It Ain't That Crazy", is a reggae-infused hip hop track that features verses from Welland-based rapper Sosa and A Plus from Hieroglyphics/Souls of Mischief, one of the band's main musical influences. A Plus anchors the final verse with his signature hieroglyphics west coast flow, taking the EP to an unexpected, ener-



▲ Street Pharmacy lead singer Ryan Guay.

gized level. The track was produced and engineered by Adam Tune of live hip hop remix act "KEYS N KRATES". Tune has worked with Street Pharmacy since its inception in 2006. All of the other tracks were recorded and mixed by moon:and:6 and Marcone at Catherine North Studios, and produced by moon:and:6 and Ryan Guay.

To experience Street Pharmacy visit any of the media below:
www.youtube.com/streetpharmacymusic
www.streetpharmacy.com

BOOKS

Time & Tide

“In Time” saga continues with release of third book

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, Karole Dumont's newest book, *Tides of Time* is now available. This is the third book of the “In Time” saga.

In this book, the Siksika Wolf and Buffalo tribes struggle to keep their loved ones safe and the Blackfoot territory free of tribal warfare, fur trade and whiskey wars, mountain men, settlers, and the hated Coyote Nation.

Michael and Lee Ann prepare their children to carve their own place in history and to fulfill their own destinies as the keepers of the freedom they so nobly defend. Sometimes, they laugh over their family's antics; other times, they cry for those who make the ultimate sacrifice.

Their journey takes them to Scotland's Highlands so that Michael can claim his castle and his title of “Lord Blackwell”. Lee Ann dis-



covers a side of her big guy that strengthens her love for him. She married the intrepid fur trader, raised her children with the fearsome head chief, and now discovers her ancestral heritage with her noble highlander.

Sadly, not everyone returns to their paradise in the Rocky Mountains. Lee Ann's elation turns to heartbreak under hardships a mother should never suffer. The battle the Blackwell, White Eagle and Montour clans waged to protect their families, their land, their way of life, and their culture, created a bond they hope will survive the chaotic *Tides of Time*.

Tides of Time is available online:
WWW.METISPUBLISHING.CA

When asked about her writing and the creative process, Karole had this to say...

I've often been asked to describe where my ideas come from when I write. They say, “write about what you know”. Well, I spent most of my life learning about Canadian history, the fur trade, and the Aboriginal people. I also live my culture every day. I don't set a special time aside to write; I let it come to me and welcome it with joy. I created my main characters in the first book of the saga: *Rainbows in Time*; gave them life; threw them in a situation, and then sat back and watched them. At times, the story evolved so quickly I could barely keep up writing it down.

Mists of Time (Book 2) and *Tides of Time* (Book 3) flew off my pen the moment *Rainbows in Time*, was published, and so well received by my readers. In *Mists of Time*, Lee Ann and Michael had the children and the family they both wanted more than anything else in the world. The love they were deprived of in their youth now filled their hearts. Watching the little ones being born and grow was fun for me. Their antics and pranks literally spilled onto the paper. The more I wrote, the livelier the characters became. Each child's character was developing before my eyes, almost like a movie. Then Ben went to the Great Sand Hills. It wasn't planned, it just happened because no one lives forever. That scene was very difficult to write because it sprang from the heart and the fact that I still miss those I've lost over the years.

Tides of Time unravelled in twists and turns that explore our deepest emotions at times. Lee Ann and Michael face happiness and devastation that I hope will make the readers wonder how they would handle the situation. Their experiences will sometimes challenge our strongest beliefs and convictions. Like Lee Ann, the readers will not always agree with Michael's actions, but he is doing what he believes is best for his family, his tribe and his people.

Taking their family to Scotland meant a little more than half a year

in canoes and a sailing ship just to get there, with eight children and two young wards. Every day, I imagined what it was like for them on that journey--a journey that thousands of our white ancestors made. Although difficult, the voyage was also a time for the couple to strengthen their connection to each other and to their children. Lee Ann also discovers her own heritage on that journey.

When tragedy strikes a family, its members either rally together or walk away from each other. The Blackwell, Montour and White Eagle families will face that very challenge. *Tides of Time* packs a punch that will shake some readers to the core, but life was harsh in those days; it often hung by a thread. That was the reality our Aboriginal ancestors faced everyday while defending their way of life, their culture and their land.

In the creation of these novels, I was very fortunate to have wonderful people who believe so much in the success of the “In Time” Saga that they spend endless hours revising and editing my work out of the goodness of their hearts. I name and thank those guardian angels at the beginning of each book because their selfless generosity is a true gift to all of us.



▲ In Time series author Karole Dumont-Beckett signing books at the MNO AGA in Sault Ste. Marie.

I created my main characters in the first book of the saga: *Rainbows in Time*; gave them life; threw them in a situation, and then sat back and watched them. At times, the story evolved so quickly I could barely keep up writing it down.

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GEORGIAN COLLEGE



SENATORS SPOTLIGHT

This Hardy Bunch

By **Reta Gordon**
PCMNO Executive Senator

Many of us Ontario Métis have the good fortune of descending from the voyageurs. This hardy bunch knew well the rigours of hard monotonous work. The excitement of starting out or the pending completion of a long trek was quickly pushed aside by the hard work at hand.

It was no easy job to be a voyageur. Their lives were filled with adventures, hardships, ever-changing situations, loneliness, separation from loved ones, great physical stress, and most times the rewards were small. Why did they do it? To achieve a better life would be the simple answer.

With every AGA, the Métis Nation of Ontario has the excitement of “starting out”--like our voyageur ancestors we must battle the elements and ever-changing situations. Often, going against the current can seem overwhelming, portages and unexpected events can threaten to tip our canoe as we strive to reach our ultimate destination and objective.

The excitement of the voyage can sometimes turn to frustration and we appear to make little headway; we are conditioned in today's world to expect everything immediately.

“The excitement of the voyage can sometimes turn to frustration and we appear to make little headway...”

We know from history that the voyageurs paddled for set periods of time, pacing themselves, then resting, taking stock of what needed to be done and then carrying on. After the “high” of an AGA, we return to our communities with renewed vigour and try to run with ideas that have been planted in our minds. Often we stumble, overcome by the weight of the burden of trying to create change and to move ahead.

Let us remember to stop; take time to reflect; make certain we are on track, and after a brief time, move ahead. Sometimes we may even have to make that portage over rough terrain before we reach smooth water.

Let us not get bogged down or lose the path. Let us learn from history; regroup; reflect; re-energize and move ahead.

I wish all of you many pleasant blessed voyages in your lifetime.

IN MEMORIAM



Ralph Earl Scofield

WWII Veteran, Métis Senator Dies at 87
1925-2012

By **Linda Lord**

Ralph Earl Scofield was born in Margo, Saskatchewan on February 26, 1925, to Ralph William Scofield, a drover and farmer, and Clara Marie Chartrand, the daughter of Marie Cecile Ducharme and Gaspard Chartrand. In about two years, the family moved to The Pas, where Earl's sister "Claire" was born.

After the separation of their parents, the children lived with their maternal grandparents, Marie and Gaspard Chartrand in The Pas where they attended Sacred Heart Catholic School. Grandfather Gaspard was a Métis fiddle player and a great step-dancer. He was employed as a fur buyer for the Northwest Fur Company and Revillion Frères Fur Company.

At about eight years of age Earl moved to Winnipeg with his sister, his mother, and her new partner, Bernard William Engman (BW). They were only in Winnipeg for about a year before moving to Timmins, Ontario, so that BW could look for work in the gold mines in the Porcupine area.

This was the time of The Great Depression and, as Senator Earl remembered: "We were squatters, and lived in an old bunk house near Fulham Creek by the Desantis Mine. When B.W. found work, he built a tar paper shack as the family home located near the cemetery on Pine Street in Timmins. There, my sister and I attended Central Public School.

"B.W. walked every day, summer and winter, looking for work at the local mine. My mother played the piano at local dances and my sister and I picked potatoes on Mr. M.J. Tinkiss' potato farm, near Cooks Lake on the edge of town. Around 1935, when I was 10 years old, I had four sled dogs that were used to haul wood for our kitchen stove. To feed the dogs, we boiled bones and guts from the abattoir with cornmeal, oatmeal or dry bread, as well as the meat scraps from the butcher shops. On weekends, Fridays and Saturdays, the local grocery stores would take their vegetables and fruits to the city dump and would pass our place. When the fruits and vegetables were thrown in the garbage dump, I would hitch up the dogs and go to salvage what was still usable. My mother would wash everything, cut and peel the fruit to cook and bottle it up. While in the bush getting wood, I would

set a brass snare wire to catch rabbits. Life was very hard in the Great Depression."

At the age of 14 Earl got a job working for an Italian farmer on Nabob Road at the creek. He was paid 50 cents each day, and received room and board. He gave all of his money (\$15 a month) to his mother. It was a hard life: waking before daylight every day. There were plenty of chores to look after, such as cleaning the barn, pumping hundreds of gallons of water out of the creek for three horses, and 20 cows, bulls, pigs, and chickens. He worked on the farm for a couple of years until he was 16 years old in 1941.

Earl's next job was at Pizzali Brothers International Bakery, making Italian bread for 12 dollars per week and one loaf of bread per day. Meanwhile, he attended night school at Timmins High and Vocational School to learn machine shop and other related skills. After completing his courses, Earl found a job at the Dome Mine machine shop in South Porcupine making water pumps for the Navy.

By now, the Second World War had begun and using his step-father's name (Engman), both Earl and BW joined the Algonquin Regiment Militia Reserve Army and began training at Niagara-on-the-Lake. A year later Senator Earl turned 18 and volunteered for the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Ralph Earl Scofield took the oath of allegiance with 26 other men at the theatre in Timmins, Ontario. First, he was sent to Edmonton, Alberta, then Mont Joli, Quebec and attended McGill University in pre-air crew training for the Air Force. As a graduate, Earl went to Three Rivers, Montreal, and Lachine, Quebec, before being sent to England to train on two-engine Wellington bombers, and then to a heavy conversion unit to train on Halifax four-engine bombers.

With this training completed Earl was sent to active duty on squadrons of Halifax bombers. The Halifax weighed 35 tons when loaded with bombs, seven or eight men, and 2200 gallons of 100 octane gas. Senator Scofield completed 17 missions over Germany, bombing targets mostly at night. When he was posted to 415 Swordfish Squadron at Eastmoor, Yorkshire, he found that his mother's brother, Roger Chartrand, from The Pas, Manitoba, was at the same base but he was at 432 Squadron, called "Leaside". During these war years there were four brothers in uniform and on active duty overseas: Earl's brother "Cecil" is buried in Belgium; his step-

brother, Henry Villeneuve, was in the army; Jules Villeneuve was in the Air force, and is buried in England.

"On January 4, 1945, while attempting to take off for a bombing mission", Senator Earl recalled, "We left the runway and passed between stockpiles of bombs. At a speed of over 100 miles per hour, we crashed into the trees on the far side of the aerodrome. At impact, I was thrown out of the tail turret and flew through the air and landed on a fallen tree. I had hurt my legs and my back. I was blown right out of my flight boots, but got up and ran until my legs could no longer support me. Our bomber exploded and burned up. All of our crew got out with only burns and minor injuries."

When the war ended in Europe, Senator Earl was sent home for a month's leave in Timmins before going off to fight Japan. However, the Americans dropped the atomic bombs on Japan and the war was over.

Earl was honourably discharged as a "Flight Sergeant Air Gunner" and began looking for work in the Timmins area. He tried lumbering, but found the mosquitoes and black flies more than he could bear. Earl said: "In that part of our world you are either in lumbering or mining, and...there aren't many mosquitoes underground," so he went back to work at the Dome Mine.

In 1950 Earl moved to the Windsor area where he worked five years for GM and then took a course in electronics and with that new skill went to the Chrysler Corporation until his retirement 28 years later.

Senator Scofield received many well-deserved honours. He was a proud Métis, active with the Métis Nation of Ontario, Windsor, Essex, Kent Métis Council. He attended many MNO Annual General Assemblies (AGA), including AGA 2012, where he was presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

He was also a recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal; was invited and attended powwows where he participated in the Grand Entries carrying the eagle staff in honour of the veterans; was asked to be one of three elders on a dispute resolution committee for Health Canada in Windsor; was a member of the Air Force Club, the Canadian Legion, the National Aboriginal Veterans Association (NAVA) and the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Association (MNOVA).

MNO citizens remember Senator Scofield

WWII Veteran, Métis Senator Dies at 87, 1925-2012

It is with great sadness that I learned today that one of our beloved Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veterans, Senator Earl Scofield, passed away last night (2 November, 2012) in Windsor. I have had the privilege of knowing Senator Scofield for many years. He was an incredible person and a dedicated Métis citizen who had served the MNO in many capacities. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

— Gary Lipinski, President, Métis Nation of Ontario

Senator Earl Scofield, a true friend. I am deeply saddened to know that my dear friend, Senator Earl Scofield is no longer among us. His passing leaves a huge void within the Métis Nation. A kind and generous man of the highest order, his devotion and affection for those he cared for was unsurpassed. I am eternally grateful to have known and felt that kindness and loyalty. He was a dignified but joyful and lovely man. I will miss him, his strength, and his sense of purpose. But I will find warmth in feeling the continuing presence of his spirit.

— Tony Belcourt, Founding President, Métis Nation of Ontario

Métis Senator/Veteran Earl R. Scofield, WWII Veteran, also known to his friends as "Boots", always took time to share his stories and had a special relationship with the MNO Youths--always with words of encouragement and a smile. He will surely be missed by the Métis Nation of Ontario.

— Joseph Paquette, President MNOVC

Earl was the most charming, witty, honest, brave and generous man I have ever met. I will never forget the lessons and wisdom he has taught me over the past few months. I will miss his emails and phone calls in which I would always hear his hearty laugh and his "I love you!" at the end. I am so thankful to have known Earl. He was such a beautiful and loving person who has contributed so much to our country as a WW2 vet and a long-time passionate member of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Thinking of you always Earl, I promise to pass down the wisdom you have taught me to my future students. RIP my friend, I love you Boots!

— Jennifer Henry

I am very sad to hear of the passage of our friend Earl Scofield. At the last AGA, right after the election of the PCMNO Senators, I was speaking with Earl and asked him to pray for me that I might be a benefit to the Métis people as a PCMNO Senator. And, being the type of person that he was, he started to give me words of encouragement which helped me a lot. Then we started to talk about God--you could surely tell that this was a man who loved his

Creator, and now he is with him. As a veteran, he contributed so much to his country and he was such an encouragement to all who got to know him. We are grieving because we will miss him, but we can also celebrate his life because of the impact he has left on every one of us. This is not a sad ending for Earl Scofield, this is a happy beginning for him. He is at peace and at rest with his Creator. We are praying for his family and his loved ones that God will strengthen them as they go through this great loss. Knowing him has made a positive difference in my life. God Bless.

— Rene Gravelle, PCMNO Senator

As we grieve the passing of Senator Earl Scofield we know he is in a better place, at peace with his Creator. I have learned through experience: it is those left behind that grieve, not for the Senator but for ourselves. They make such an impression on us we do not want to see them leave. As all of us know, Senator Scofield did just that, left us with memories, his knowledge, humour and of course his dedication to the Métis people. My recollection is of the Senators' meeting when Senator Reta Gordon asked him to say the closing prayer; it was straight from the heart; he stated it would probably be his last closing prayer as his health was failing. A little verse I read somewhere: "When we are born, we come into the world crying as people standing around us laugh for joy, as we leave this world, we leave smiling with joy as people around us cry" My deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Senator Scofield.

— Verna Porter, PCMNO Senator

I met Senator Earl at my first AGA in Thunder Bay, in 2007; we connected right away. He treated me as a veteran despite the fact that I never served overseas. In my time, unlike today, women did not serve in missions, especially not in conflict areas. I was very honoured to be present at the 2007 AGA, when, amongst six deserving veterans, Earl received his eagle feather from an Elder at the Sacred Fire, and when he received a cap, a veteran ceinture fléchée, and a sketch of himself that all the senators signed; he was truly touched by that. Earl was always there to answer my questions when I was a rookie senator; he was very patient, gracious and always friendly. He will be sorely missed by his family, his fellow veterans and senators, his Métis family and the Nation as a whole. Earl you may have lost your boots during the war, but you certainly passed into the spirit world with them on; rest in peace my dear friend.

— Senator Alis Kennedy

I'm very saddened by the passing of a good friend. Always gave me knowledge and traditional values. His smile brought sunshine even on rainy

days. On behalf of the Sudbury Metis Council and myself send our thoughts and prayers to the family.

— Senator Kempton Gravelle

Last night the Spirit, Creator, called home a great man of the Métis Nation, Senator Earl Scofield-Veteran, Elder, Friend is now in the arms of the spirit. On behalf of the MNOYC I want to offer our sincerest condolences to the Scofield Family. Let us take time to reflect on the things the Senator brought to us in his life. Let us take time to remember how important it is for us to spend time with our elders and teachers while we can. My sadness is not for the Senator who is now at peace and exploring the realm of the spirits, but for us and our Nation who have lost a great teacher, a compass for us to all take guidance from. A tireless advocate for Métis youth we can all learn so much from him and his actions.

Prayers will be sent out tonight and for the next 4 nights for the Senator 'Boots' as he crosses through that western doorway, for his family, friends, the Métis Community in Windsor and for the entire Métis Nation at this time. We will miss you greatly Boots, but we will never forget you or your work. Weweni.

— Mitch Case, PCMNO Youth Rep

Creator You have called our warrior to your protection. Let his spirit like an eagle soar with the spirits of the four directions. He has done with his time on earth. He is gone to his welcoming home on the other side, wearing his badge that speaks of his inherent goodness, his quiet attention, his respect for others and his dignified behaviour. Great Mystery, in life you provided our Senator and Air Force veteran with strength to overcome the biting winds, light to guide him on the path he chose, warmth along the roads he walked, and then you smiled on him and guided him to a different flight. Send your blessings down like a gentle autumn rain falling on Mother Earth, as she cradles our brother in her arms.

Mother Earth, let winter's snowy blanket rest lightly, so that his spirit may be on its way like an eagle soaring homeward. His Spirit is free from troubles as he makes his journey. We offer our prayer of thanks that you will always be at Earl's side on his way to his new home. Bless those he leaves behind, with the strength of eagles' wings to help them through this unpredictable and unavoidable time. May the songs of winds in the trees sweep the void from their hearts. Hear our thanks for the time with Earl. Amen.

— Joseph Poitras, PCMNO Senator



▲ Senator Scofield served in the Royal Air Force in WWII.

A Prayer for well-known and much-loved Senator

Executive Senator, Reta Gordon, reminisced about Senator Earl and what a major presence he was among the MNO Senators, the MNO Veterans, and the MNO as a whole. "He always called me, 'ma petite soeur Métisse' (my little Métis sister) and I always called him, 'mon grand frère Métis' (my big Métis brother)." Reta recalled his arrival at the

Great Creator, you have called our brother Earl to you.
We ask that you welcome our brother.
I offer this sacred tobacco, as I offer the prayer for the fallen warrior as
He has gone on his long trip across the dark waters.
His spirit is now free from all that has pained him. We thank
Grandfather from the east who gave Earl the light to guide him on his path.
We thank Grandfather from the south who gave him the warmth
Along the different paths that Earl chose throughout his life.
We thank Grandmother Moon who protected him
With her soft moonbeams as he slept.
We thank Grandmother Sun who helped to nourish him
And allowed him to grow strong.
Oh Great Creator, may you send down the blessing of the rain, the soft
Summer rains to fall upon Mother Earth so that the little flowers may
Spring up to shed their sweet fragrance above Earl's resting place.
May Mother Earth be soft under Earl as he rests upon it, tired at
The end of his days.
May Mother Earth rest softly over you Earl, that your spirit
May be out from under it quickly and up and on its way to the Creator.
Long rest dear brother. You have earned it.
Hay ya! Hay ya! Tashay!as



EDUCATION & TRAINING

MNO represents Métis Nation at Indigenous Education Summit

On October 4, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, spoke on behalf of Métis National Council (MNC) President, Clément Chartier, at the Indigenous Education Summit held in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

The conference attracted hundreds of delegates from across Canada, including the Honourable Paul Martin, former Prime Minister of Canada, and Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, both of whom spoke at the conference. The majority of delegates came from Aboriginal governments, organizations and communities, or were representatives of other governments, post-secondary and K-12 educational institutions, or researchers. In addition to President Lipinski, the MNO was also represented by Jennifer St. Germain, Director of the MNO Education and Training Branch, and Dr. Chris Paci, MNO Manager of Education. Director St. Germain and Dr. Paci presented on improving transitions for Métis learners from high school to post-secondary institutions.

In his address, President Lipinski explained the efforts being made by Métis governments across the Métis Homeland to improve educational opportunities for Métis people, and touched on several significant successes. He also drew the

delegates' attention to areas where progress has been slow or impeded by the jurisdictional barrier between federal and provincial governments and compounded by problems of social and economic disparity--including poverty, poor health and inadequate housing--that to this day result in lower than average education and employment outcomes for Métis.

Despite difficulties, however, President Lipinski made it clear the Métis Nation is succeeding. "We are moving beyond federal inaction," he told the audience. "Jurisdictional wrangling will not block progress to the detriment of Métis people and all Canadians. We will continue to use our relationship with the federal government under the Métis Nation Protocol and our relationship with the provinces through the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group to advance this process. If Ottawa and the provinces are truly committed to improving living conditions for Métis people, it is time to abandon excuses for not working with us and instead build on our successful track record of delivering results."



▲ MNO President Gary Lipinski speaks at the Indigenous Education Summit in October.

“If Ottawa and the provinces are truly committed to improving living conditions for Métis people, it is time to abandon excuses for not working with us and instead build on our successful track record of delivering results.”

EDUCATION KITS



Métis education kits flying off the shelves

By Chris McLeod
MNO Education Officer / Analyst

Education Kits are flying off the shelves! The MNO Education and Training Branch has had an increase in demand for Education Kits from teachers, school boards and community members. Several school boards have ordered dozens of copies of the Education Kit as a resource for every school within their board.

“The MNO is producing another set of kits this fall and will be distributing them throughout the year.”

The Education Kit is continuously being improved with new resources and better tools for educators. In addition, the MNO Education staff will begin working with teachers this school year on Professional Development sessions that highlight the Education Kit and provide information on Métis in Ontario. A *Teachers Guide* is currently in development to enhance the usefulness of the Education Kit and to give teachers lessons they can use in their classrooms.

The MNO is producing another set of kits this fall and will be distributing them throughout the year. If you are a Métis educator interested in learning more about the kit or getting your hands on one, please contact us!

Chris McLeod
MNO Education Officer/Analyst
705-499-5451
chrism@metisnation.org

INFINITE REACH STUDENT SOLIDARITY NETWORK

Reaching out to Métis students

Helping first-year Métis students adjust to post-secondary life

With support from the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities, the Infinite Reach Network officially began last September (2011) with Infinite Reach facilitators at a number of colleges and universities. Each of these facilitators engaged first-year Métis students and helped them adjust to student life. Over the course of the last year there were approximately 25 separate cultural activities and information events run by our Infinite Reach facilitators, each of which helped to create a culturally safe space at their schools and encouraged Métis students to proudly identify with our culture and traditions.

September, 2012, marks the start of the Infinite Reach Network's second year and even more colleges and universities are involved with both returning and new facilitators—a positive sign that the network will continue to succeed and grow.

In July, facilitators were brought together for the Infinite Reach intake and orientation. This first meeting was spent discussing the various roles and responsibilities of facilitators and exploring strategies for engaging Métis students, particularly those in their first year. If you or someone you know is a Métis student at one of the colleges or universities listed you are invited to contact the facilitator at your school. Together, we can build a community of Métis learners that will work to support Métis students as they navigate postsecondary studies.

If your school is not listed and you are interested in becoming part of the Infinite Reach network, please contact Benny Michaud (bennym@metisnation.org).

2012 Infinite Reach Facilitators

Tegan Mandeville	Loyalist College	teganmandeville@loyalistc.on.ca
Marie-Louise Lariviere	Wilfrid Laurier University	lari5480@mylaurier.ca
Christine Skura	Ryerson University	cskura@ryerson.ca
Tera Beaulieu	University of Toronto	tera_beaulieu@yahoo.ca
Tammy Porter	Nipissing University	tlmpor@live.ca
Janine Landry	Lakehead University	j9landry@tbaytel.net
Gabrielle Victoria Fayant	Carleton University	gvfayant@live.ca
Brad Lafortune	University of Ottawa	brad.lafortune@gmail.com
Sahra Maclean	University of Ottawa	sahra.maclean@yahoo.com
Nikki Doucette	Sault College	nikki_giggles@msn.com
Melody Chislett-Morris	Sault College	melodymorris@hotmail.com
Phoebe Mandry	College Boreal	phoebe.mandry@monboreal.ca
Sylvie Forest	Cambrian College	sylvieforest@hotmail.com
Genevieve Routhier	Cambrian College	G_routhier@hotmail.com
Jada Whalen	Fleming College	lilerzhow_15_@hotmail.com
Ryan Dinsmore	University of Toronto	Rye.dinsmore@mail.utoronto.ca
Kevin King	University of Guelph	kingkevin322@hotmail.com
Maddy Arkle	Western	arkle.maddy@gmail.com
Mitchell Case	Algoma University	mitch.case@hotmail.com
Emilie Bouffard	Queen's University	emilie.bouffard@queensu.ca

A career with just rewards

Aspiring Métis lawyer passes the bar with a little help from the MNO

By **Kelly Honsberger**
TORONTO

For Trevor Winter, the decision to become a lawyer was a matter of finding joy and purpose in his work, but becoming a lawyer can be daunting in more ways than one. In Canada, any practicing lawyer must complete the bar exam—one of the most difficult and exhaustive exams in any chosen career. As Trevor said, “The amount of material that you have to learn for each exam and the amount of time it takes to write each exam is almost like running a mental marathon.”

The financial obstacles, as well as the stress of preparing for what

amounts to two full days of exams (six hours each) that test one’s knowledge on the many complexities and facets of Canadian law, would be difficult for anyone. Trevor sought out the MNO to see if any assistance was possible and was more than relieved to learn he would be approved for the funding he needed to enroll in a preparatory course for the challenging exam.

“The money I received from the MNO was for the Bar Admission Course that is done by the Law Society of Upper Canada. By completing this course and writing the two bar exams it will allow me to be called to the bar.”

Trevor recounts just how trying

“**The money I received from the MNO was for the Bar Admission Course that is done by the Law Society of Upper Canada. By completing this course and writing the two bar exams it will allow me to be called to the bar.**”

that time was: “To properly study for the bar exams I had to sacrifice almost an entire summer. I locked myself in the windowless library of our building so that I couldn’t see what I was missing outside. I would study from 9:00 A.M. until about 9:00 or 10:00 P.M. To overcome the stress I would make sure that I ran every morning before I studied, spending what free time I did have with my wife.”

Difficult as it was, Trevor is unflinching in his appreciation for the people who believed in his goal and his ability to reach it. “The support of my wife and family really helped me during the most stressful times.”

That support paid off. After successfully passing his bar exam, Trevor found employment with the Ministry of the Attorney General. The importance he places on maintaining a close connection with his heritage and community led him to his involvement with Aboriginal Legal Aid, where he now sits on the board of directors.

He says: “The reason that I chose this career is because I love how the law works and how it can shape our lives. There are so many intricacies to the law that you are always learning something new and being challenged. The most rewarding aspect of my career is knowing that I am making a difference.”



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www.metisnation.org

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada.  

Education is the new buffalo

New horizons opening up for Métis people

By **Shayn Porter**

I am the lucky recipient of a \$200 bursary, awarded to me to assist with my studies here at Brock University as I go through my part time studies, working towards a subsequent degree, in the Bachelor of Education (Adult Education) program.

Last spring I became inspired by the Aboriginal people I teach at Niagara College in their pre-apprenticeship programs and I knew that the direction my career would take, would be to work with my commu-

nity, my culture of learners, and help them become strong to make positive changes for their future.

Recently I have heard the term “Education is the new Buffalo”, and this couldn’t be more true. Aboriginal people have been ready for a long time to embrace this idea, and opportunities are beginning to open themselves up, and I need to be a part of that. This degree I am working towards now, helps me to be able to continue down a path of educating others and helping them achieve successes. Thank you again for this bursary.

Aspiring actor/teacher

An opportunity and a promise

By **Joshua Berard**

My name is Joshua Berard and [I] was selected to receive the \$200 bursary for Métis students. I am from Renfrew Ontario, located in the Ottawa Valley. I live in a family of five including myself, my mother and father and my brother and sister who are both done university and well on their way and structuring their lives. My parents are both extremely supportive but cannot help me financially as my father cannot work as he will undergo chemotherapy to cure his condition; both my parents have native blood in their ancestry.

I went to St. Joseph’s Catholic High-school and ever since I took drama I immediately fell in love with the program. My teacher in fact wanted me to drive to Toronto to be in a university student film when I was in grade 10, but sadly, I could not make the drive; now I study drama while planning to get my teaching degree although at heart I want to be a famous film actor.

I am still amidst my studying and just getting out there; so far without committing to the field fully I have already taken part in two pilot university run episodes and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. I plan on building it much more before I graduate so I have a strong portfolio when I become part of an agency/ACTRA.

“**My parents are both extremely supportive but cannot help me financially...**”

This bursary has made a huge difference. I had a misunderstanding with my OSAP and every little bit helps. I plan on using this to make a payment towards my Brock account to slowly pay it off before the year’s end. This bursary is a huge help to all students of Métis descent. I promise this bursary will not go to waste and you will be happy to have given me this opportunity.

Investing in the future

By **Yannick Lieber**
Niagara College

Please accept this letter as a sign of my appreciation for your considerate assistance to helping me fulfill my schooling. I am so grateful to have received such a generous gift that has already helped me to a great extent. With the amount of effort and time required to perform well, the financial assistance you’ve granted me will surely enable me to to focus on my studies.

Though pursuing post-secondary studies may be a substantial investment, I am positive that it will benefit my future success. Your support in helping me reach my goal of having an active career in business is of such great value to me. Thank you.

Help to achieve education goals

By **Janna Loyer**
Brock University

Thank you very much for the bursary you have awarded me. My goal is to be an occupational therapist and I am enrolled in the Kinesiology program here at Brock University.

Although I will be qualified to work when I graduate, I am interested in further education to increase my knowledge in the field. That is why I have decided to come back for another semester to take more classes and improve my eligibility for a Masters of Occupational Therapy.

Being awarded this bursary helps me achieve those goals. The money you have awarded me will be very useful to use towards my books and tuition so I can work less hours and focus on school more in my last semester of my undergrad degree. I am proud to be Métis and I would like to thank you for supporting me.

EDUCATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

MNO and Niagara College enter into education partnership

A commitment to forge lasting relationships between post-secondary institutions and MNO

On September 30, 2012, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Niagara College signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The MOU is intended to strengthen and formalize the long-standing positive working relationship between MNO and Niagara College. This document establishes several key areas for collaboration and partnership. These include increasing Métis participation in, and access to, Niagara programs and services; engaging in joint Métis research initiatives; and, promoting Métis content across the curriculum.

MNO President, Gary Lipinski, said, "Niagara College is the thirteenth post-secondary institution in the province to recognize and address the unique needs of Métis and to agree to work in partnership to ensure that programming offered at the college addresses those needs."

The MOU with Niagara College is part of a larger relationship building process of bilateral partnerships with post-secondary institutions that includes a MOU signed between the MNO and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. According

to President Lipinski, "this MOU is a significant achievement for the Métis people in Ontario because it demonstrates a commitment to forge a lasting relationship between post-secondary institutions and the MNO. The agreement with Niagara College builds on the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, which the province signed with the MNO over two years ago."

Niagara College has a longstanding commitment to fostering leadership and development with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students, and to advancing the understanding of Aboriginal cultures, heritage and languages within the college and broader communities.

"We're very pleased to have citizens of the Métis Nations of Ontario as current standing members of our Aboriginal Education Management Circle, and as part of our growing population of students and graduates," said Dr. Dan Patterson, President of Niagara College. "This agreement allows both institutions to work together as partners in the development and delivery of post-secondary education and training programs for Aboriginal students."



About Niagara College

Niagara College offers more than 100 diploma, bachelor degree and advanced level programs at campuses in Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Niagara Falls, as well as more than 600 credit, vocational, and gen-

eral interest Continuing Education courses. Areas of specialization include food and wine sciences; advanced technology; media; applied health; and, community safety, all supported by unique learning enterprises in food, wine, beer, horticulture and esthetics.

▲ **Métis Nation of Ontario President Gary Lipinski and Niagara College President Dr. Dan Patterson sign a Memorandum of Understanding on September 30th, 2012.**

ÉCOLE FRANCOPHONE

Tissés des liens avec les écoles francophones de l'Ontario

Le secteur de l'éducation et formation de la NMO a fait ses débuts auprès des conseils scolaires francophones.

Le développement des relations entre les conseils scolaire et les conseils communautaires Métisse à entamer des discussions de partage incluant : les intérêts que nous avons en commun, de faire le tour des questions ou des défis

que nos étudiants métisses font face, le succès et la rétention des élèves, l'auto identification, pour en nommer que quelques 'un. Les conseils scolaires francophones sont ravis d'avoir la chance de créer des partenariats avec les citoyens de la NMO et de faire connaissance des ressources disponibles qui ont été développées avec du contenu spécifiquement

Métis.

De plus, les conseils scolaires sont invités à communiquer avec le secteur de l'éducation lors de leur recherche de gens disponibles pour les présentations dans la salle de classe. Nous sommes fières de faire la promotion des connaissances et la sagesse inestimable de nos sénateurs, sénatrices, nos aînés(es), les membres des con-

seils communautaires, les jeunes représentants(es), les animateurs (rices) « d'Infinite Reach » et le personnel de la NMO.

La fierté d'un ou une Métisse est le gage de notre survie et de notre épanouissement. Nous avons un héritage linguistique et culturel d'une valeur inestimable à partager avec tous.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Métis student receives scholarship

Congrats to MNO citizen Thomas Vezina of Timmins, who was the recipient of an \$18,400 scholarship to enter the first year of a three year Denturism program at George Brown College. Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch provides funding for bursaries and scholarships in health sciences such as medicine, nursing, dentistry, clinical psychology, physiotherapy, pharmacy and laboratory research.



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– Julien Dutil-Séguin, Technologie forestière / Forestry Technologist*

* all courses offered in French

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

MNO launches Métis Mining Strategy

A commitment to forge lasting relationships
between post-secondary institutions and MNO

By **Chris Paci**, *Manager of Education*; **Scott Carpenter**, *Manager of Projects and Partnership*; **Jennifer St. Germain**, *Director of Education and Training*

We often read in the papers about government programs in northern Canada that are aimed at getting people trained for jobs, in particular in areas where mines and other large scale developments are occurring. The majority of these programs are limited in scope. We have not seen a large number of Métis men and women involved in the mining sector because there was limited funding for training Métis for the full range of good jobs in the sector. It was rare to meet Métis accountants, geologists, environmental specialists, caterers, or managers working in the mining sector. The industry offers many positions with large companies and increasingly there are very good jobs with small and junior mining companies and their subcontractors.

Thanks to new funding from the Government of Canada, we can now provide assistance through the Métis Mining Strategy. Statistics Canada predicts that the aging labour force in Canada will result in labour shortages in the not too distant future in a host of occupations. At the same time, the average age of the Métis population in Ontario is around 26. Ours is a young and growing population and if we are to take advantage of the wave of skilled job shortages, we need to make sure the community has the skills to meet future needs. The time is right for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to launch this new innovative program to assist Métis men and women to become aware and train for these good jobs.

Through the Métis Mining Strategy, the MNO will connect companies with stu-

dents looking for careers in the mining industry. The MNO will provide participating employers with key information and assistance:

- Access to a talent pool of students who are pursuing a wide range of areas of study, including those enrolled in Master and Ph.D. programs;
- Support in identifying students that meet a given company's labour market needs;
- Wage subsidies for student placements for 30 hour/week for 12 weeks.

At the same time, MNO will seek out Métis students who are aware of all the opportunities the mining sector affords. We will try to match students to mining companies where they can get exciting on-the-job work experience. The Métis Mining Strategy will be able to assist with tuition, books and other costs related to the higher education of Métis students. Students will be enrolled in degree and diploma programs throughout Ontario, and work placements will take place at mine sites and corporate offices throughout Ontario.

The MNO is looking for mining industry partners and 90 students over the next three years. Shortly, we will have staff and an advisory committee in place for the program, which will include representatives of the mining industry, colleges and universities. If you're digging it, you can get more information on this great opportunity by contacting: Scott Carpenter, *Manager of Projects and Partnership - MNO Métis Mining Strategy*, at 705-527-9363 or scottc@metisnation.org.



THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Métis Mining Strategy

Building a **stronger** & more
diverse Labour Market for
the Mining Industry

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Métis Mining Strategy offers opportunities to students looking for careers in the mining industry.

Potential areas of study may include:

- Chemistry
- Geology
- Research Sciences
- Engineering
- Culinary Arts
- Surveying
- Accounting and Finance
- Environmental Protection and Monitoring

- Occupational Health and Safety
- Communications and Public Relations
- Archeology
- Business and Administration
- Human Resources
- Any many other mining related fields of study

Program supports may include:

- Employer wage subsidies for student placements
- Tuition, living allowances and other eligible program related assistance

For more information on this great opportunity contact:

Scott Carpenter
Manager of Projects and Partnerships

Métis Nation of Ontario
Métis Mining Strategy
Ph: 705-527-9363
E-mail: scottc@metisnation.org



This project is funded by
the Government of Canada.

Canada the Métis
Nation of
Ontario

metisnation.org

Committee Members needed

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

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

If you are interested in this position
or would like to know more please contact:

Guyline Morin Cleroux
guyline@metisnation.org
1-800-263-4889

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FEEDBACK TO OUR
COMMUNITIES