



AN UPDATE ON MÉTIS RIGHTS

# Advancing our Rights Together

By MNO President **Gary Lipinski**

Pages 11-14



ISSUE No. 69, **WINTER 2012**

# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR



MÉTIS RIGHTS IN THE COURTS:

## Voices of Ontario Métis heard at Supreme Court

◀ **Métis Lawyer Jean Teillet,** (second from left) **answers media questions at the Supreme Court of Canada.**

**O**n December 13, 2011, the Supreme Court of Canada heard the voice of Ontario Métis in the most important case concerning Métis rights since the historic Powley decision of 2003. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was an “Intervener” in the hearing of *The Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada* (the “MMF case”), which was heard by a full panel of the Supreme Court in Ottawa.

The MNO along with the Métis National Council (MNC) and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) had Intervener status in this critical case as well as the opportunity to make oral submissions before the judges. Intervener status is granted to a party that is not already involved in an existing lawsuit but that has a

vested interest in the outcome of the case and wishes to make its interests known to the Court by joining with either the plaintiff or the defendant.

This landmark MMF case has taken over 20 years to reach the Supreme Court, and is based on the claim of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) that Canada breached its fiduciary and constitutional obligations owing to the Manitoba Métis by failing to provide the benefit they were promised as aboriginal negotiating partners in Confederation. These promises are embedded within sections 31 and 32 of *The Manitoba Act, 1870*, which are part of Canada’s Constitution.

More specifically, these constitutional promises were meant to secure for the Manitoba Métis their existing land base in the 1870s (s. 32) as well as protect their future by providing 1.4 million acres of lands to the children of the Manitoba



***This landmark case has taken over 20 years to reach the Supreme Court, and is based on the claim of the Manitoba Métis Federation that Canada breached its fiduciary and constitutional obligations owing to the Manitoba Métis.***



Métis (s. 31). The MMF argues that the promises of sections 31 and 32 were not achieved and, as a result, the Manitoba Métis remain a landless people in the province they helped create. The MMF’s goal with this litigation is to spur negotiations with Canada and Manitoba in order to finally realize the promise of sections 31 and 32.

The MNO and MNA intervened to offer their complete support to the MMF and because the case raises important issues to the Métis Nation overall as well as Ontario and Alberta Métis specifically, since it is the first case to reach the Supreme Court to deal with the obligations of the Crown to fulfill

land related commitments made to the Métis Nation. For example, in Ontario, Crown representatives made promises to the Métis in the historic treaty making process that have never been fulfilled. In Alberta, the Crown’s legislative promise of a Métis land base through The Dominion Lands Act was never achieved because the Métis scrip system that was implemented, ultimately robbed prairie Métis of their homelands.

“This case provides the Supreme Court its first opportunity to build on the historic Powley case,” explained MNO President Gary Lipinski, “this time, in relation to land related promises made to the Métis people. Ontario Métis, like the Manitoba Métis, never wanted

*continued on page 3*



### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ‘12

Planning for the 2012 AGA in Sault Ste. Marie are already under way.

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### MÉTIS YOUTH

Métis youth make their voices heard on Parliament Hill.

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### MNO ELECTIONS

Details on the upcoming province-wide MNO elections.

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### HEALING WARRIORS

Métis helps soldiers cope with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NEW ARRIVALS



### Ethan

On December 8, 2011, Cara and Jason Wright welcomed their son, **Ethan Wright**, into the world. He weighed 7 lbs 1 oz. Mom and baby are healthy and doing well.



### Hanna Lily

On December 12th, 2011, Jennifer St. Germain and Carey Calder welcomed a beautiful baby girl named **Hanna Lily** into the world. She weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz.



### Drew David

Ten little fingers, and a cute little nose, everything's perfect from his head to his toes! Tracy Bald (MNO Community Wellness Coordinator, Midland) and Brad Sinclair are excited to introduce their son, **Drew David Sinclair**. Drew was born on September 4, 2011. Proud grandparents are Yvonne and Andre Bald of Penetanguishene and Dave and Betty Sinclair of Copper Cliff.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### We are proud of you, Alex

Congratulations to **Alex Soucie** on becoming an Ontario Provincial Police Officer on January 6th, 2012. Mom, Dad and the family are very proud of you.



### A Diamond Anniversary

Congratulations to **Senator Audrey Vallee** and Georgian Bay Métis Council past-President, **Allan Vallee**, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on December 29, 2011.

### Congratulations times 3!

Congratulations go out to **Robert McKinnon** who turned 65 on December 13th, 2011. On January 1st he retired from The Beer Store where he had been

employed for 43 years. On February 19th, Robert and his wife Carol celebrate their 40th anniversary. Best Wishes on all three events.

## Congratulations Métis Nation of Ontario Citizens

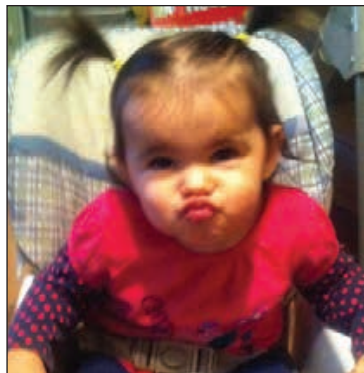
Over 1400 people responded to the MNO Healing and Wellness Branch health survey that appeared in the previous edition of the *Voyageur*!

The information from this survey will be compiled and

will help the MNO advocate for better health services of Métis people.

The survey is now complete and the Healing and Wellness Branch would like to thank everyone who participated!

## MÉTIS BABIES



### Jasmin & Justice

Amanda Dale (Pimapitone Nibe Awayte Mino Asin / Running Water Over Sacred Stone) and Strength of Two Buffalo Dale are pleased to announce the arrival of their children **Jasmin Miah Konoronhkwa (Deep Caring) Dale**, born August 22, 2010, weighing 7 lbs. 9oz., and **Justice Atathsennowanaht (Honour Oneself) Dale**, born December 3, 2011, weighing 8lbs 7oz.

Both children are Métis / Six Nation Mohawk and to honour our First Nations heritage we have ensured that they both have their Native names on the birth registrations. We are proud to honour all three cultures--Métis, European and Mohawk!

## OBITUARY

### Fernand Lemieux 1919-2011

**Fernand Lemieux** passed away peacefully at the Hospice Cornwall on December 5, 2011. Fernand Joseph Lemieux of Cornwall age 92 years was the beloved husband of the late Berthe (Bourdeau) Lemieux; cherished father of Pierre Lemieux (Nicole) of Gatineau, QC, Claire Redmond (Shaun) of Cornwall and Gisele Lemieux (David Martin) of Newmarket. He was Grandfather of

five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren and is fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents Raoul and Natalie (Mose) Lemieux; his sister Desneige Roy and four brothers, Hilaire, Alcide, Conrad and Rhéal.

Mass of Christian Burial was held in Ste. Croix Church on December 10, 2011. Interment took place at St.

Viateur Cemetery, Limoges, ON.

As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations payable to the Hospice Cornwall, 1507 Second Street West, Cornwall K6J 1J5 or on-line at [www.cornwallhospice.com](http://www.cornwallhospice.com) would be appreciated by the family. Messages of condolence may be left at [www.lahaiesullivan.com](http://www.lahaiesullivan.com)

Mr. Lemieux was the father-in-law of Métis veteran Shaun Redmond.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Victims of Sixties Scoop seek redress in courts

I am a claimant in the 60's Scoop Class Action Suit. The reason I have taken a stand is that aboriginal children are still being removed from their homes at a higher rate than children of other nations. These children are orphans

of our land and do not have a voice of their own yet. I am concerned about what is happening to our aboriginal orphans with prescription addictions.

We live in a day of medication where children are being diagnosed

with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). I realize that for many children this is because the school system, another private institution, convinces parents that their children are too emotionally disturbed to learn in a school environment and that medication would calm them and increase their ability to learn. Many parents refuse to accept this philosophy and refuse to medicate their children.

Many aboriginal orphans do not have this consistent parental love and understanding from the Children's Aid

Society (CAS) system. Many orphans are leaving the system addicted to medication. We, as citizens of Ontario, accept the words of "cop-out" that CAS uses by saying "orphans slipped through the system."

Why do we accept these words? Children today have more rights than we did in my generation and children of our land know it.

Is it possible our aboriginal orphans recognize their rights and are now being abused by medication which is distorting their identity in society?

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## THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

WINTER 2012, No. 69

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**The next  
Voyageur deadline:  
March 1st, 2012**

**PUBLICATION #:  
PM 40025265**





INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS | Agreement is first-of-its-kind between a mining company and a Métis community

# Detour Gold concludes Impact and Benefit Agreement with MNO

Detour Gold concludes Impact and Benefit Agreement with Métis Nation of Ontario

Detour Gold Corporation (TSX: DGC) (“Detour Gold” or the “Company”) and the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”), as represented by its President Gary Lipinski and the MNO’s Regional Consultation Committee for the James Bay-Abitibi/Temiscamingue areas are pleased to announce that they have finalized an Impact and Benefit Agreement (“IBA”) with respect to the development and operation of the Company’s Detour Lake gold mining project in northeastern Ontario. A formal signing ceremony will be held in the near future.

The IBA includes provisions on how the Métis community will benefit from the development of the

Detour Lake project and throughout the life of the mine, including employment and business opportunities, training and education initiatives and financial participation in the project. The IBA also establishes a Métis scholarship and bursary program at Collège Boréal and Northern College. Further details about the scholarships criteria will be released in partnership with the colleges in their student handbooks. The IBA reflects Detour Gold’s commitment to protecting the environment and wildlife, and supporting the community’s social and cultural practices in a spirit of continued cooperation.

Gerald Panneton, President and CEO of Detour Gold, stated, “We are very pleased with our working relationship with the MNO and to have this agreement in place. It is exciting that they have partnered with us to create the Métis scholar-

“We applaud Detour Gold’s leadership in working collaboratively with the Métis community on environmental issues and ensuring it will benefit from the Detour Lake project.”

ships and bursaries at the colleges that will provide educational financial support to Métis youth for the next two decades.”

MNO’s President, Gary Lipinski, commented: “This IBA is the first-of-its-kind between a mining company and a Métis community. It represents a significant step forward in relations between the mining industry and Ontario Métis. We applaud Detour Gold’s leadership in working collaboratively with

the Métis community on environmental issues and ensuring it will benefit from the Detour Lake project.”

Marcel Lafrance, Chair of the MNO Regional Consultation Committee for the James Bay-Abitibi/Temiscamingue areas, highlighted: “This IBA could not have been achieved without the support and engagement of the Métis community as well as cooperation amongst the community councils in the region.

We look forward to continuing to work with Detour Gold for the benefit of our citizens and the future success of our youth.”

## About Detour Gold

Detour Gold is a Canadian gold exploration and development company whose primary focus is to advance the development of its Detour Lake gold project, located in northeastern Ontario, towards production. Detour Gold’s shares trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the trading symbol DGC.

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COVER STORY | The Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada

# Voice of Ontario Métis heard at Supreme Court

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to be a landless people in the second largest country in the world. We hope this decision will provide a framework for future negotiations between the Crown and the Métis with respect to fulfilling broken promises.”

“We are pleased that Alberta Métis will be able to lend their voice in support of the Manitoba Métis Federation in this appeal,” stated MNA President Audrey Poitras. “The Alberta Métis experience, through the creation of the Alberta Métis Settlements, demonstrates that land is key to the future of the Métis people, just as it is for First Nations and Inuit. We intend to convey our position that reconciliation, as required by Canada’s Constitution, is not happening with the Métis. This must change.”

The MNO was represented at the Supreme Court by Métis lawyer Jean Teillet (Pape Salter Teillet). Teillet, who is descended from Louis Riel’s brother, was the chief lawyer in *R v. Powley*, which established Métis Harvesting Rights. The MMF was represented by Thomas Berger; the MNA was represented by Métis lawyer, Jason Madden (JTM LAW); and the MNC was represented by MNC President, Clément Chartier. Métis from all over the homeland gathered at the Supreme Court on December 13 to witness history, including a large contingent of the MNO leadership and other MNO citizens. The decision of the Supreme Court will not be made for several months, but regardless of its outcome, Ontario Métis can be proud that their voice was heard!

A video of the entire hearing before

| 34 Index to North-West Half-Breed Supplementary Claims,<br>Authorized by chap. 54, sec. 90, sub-sec. F., R. S. C., and Order-in-Council of the |         |                                 |          |
|--|---------|---------------------------------|----------|
| NAME OF APPLICANT.   | DATE    | NAMES OF PARENTS.               | APPROVAL |
| Louise Peter Jr.   | 11/1/91 | Peter Louche & Edna Platt       | 11/20    |
| " Henry  | 13/1/96 | Peter Louche & Carlina Fournier | 11/20    |
| " Mabel Elean  | 6/1/96  | " "                             | 11/20    |

▲ Promises by the federal government contained in the *Manitoba Act* were supposed to confirm the possession of land held by the Métis settlers along the Red and Assiniboine Rivers.

the Supreme Court can be viewed on the MNO website at [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org).

## The Case for the Manitoba Métis

- The case involves two great figures, Sir John A. Macdonald and Louis Riel, and the promise of land for the Métis people.
- It goes back to 1869-70 and the negotiations between the Government of Canada and the Provisional Government established by the Métis of the Red River Settlement, headed by Riel.
- In 1870 the Red River Settlement had 12,000 people; 10,000 were Métis. Seven thousand of the Métis were children.
- Promises by the federal government contained in the *Manitoba Act of 1870* were supposed to confirm the possession of land held by the Métis settlers along the Red and Assiniboine Rivers.
- The federal government also assumed the responsibility to appropriate 1.4 million acres and

to distribute it among the 7,000 Métis children.

- It was on the strength of these and other promises that the Métis laid down their arms and agreed that Manitoba should enter Canada.
- The Métis established at the trial of the case that the distribution of 1.4 million acres to the 7,000 Métis children was delayed for a decade and more. Indeed almost a thousand children received no land at all.
- The Métis lands were traditionally held by extended families along the Red, Assiniboine and other rivers, but no provision was made for the children’s lands to be contiguous or clustered together. Instead, Ottawa ordered the land to be distributed by lottery in each parish. The result was that each child’s land might be 10, 20, 30 or 40 miles from their parents and their siblings.
- The Métis rely on what Sir John A. Macdonald and his colleague, Sir George Etienne Cartier told

the House when piloting the legislation through Parliament.

- Macdonald told the House of Commons on May 2, 1870, that the grant of 1.4 million acres was “for purposes of settlement by their children.” On May 4, he said, “No land would be reserved for the benefit of white speculators, the land being only given for the actual purpose of settlement.”
- A year later, Sir George-Etienne Cartier told the House on April 13, 1871, that “Until the children came of age the government were the guardians of the land, and no speculators would be suffered to get hold of it.”
- The Liberal government of Alexander Mackenzie, in office from 1873 to 1878, took the same position: Sir Richard Scott, Secretary of State, told the Senate on March 14, 1877: “The Government were the guardians of these people, and it was their duty to see that they were protected in their rights to their properties.”
- The trial judge and the Manitoba

Court of Appeal held that these provisions of the *Manitoba Act* were intended to provide a “head start” for the Métis against the influx of new settlers.

- But in the meantime a great influx of settlers from Ontario had entered the new province. They received their land without delay. There was no “head start” for the Métis. In fact they did not get to the start line for ten years or more.
- By the time the grants were finally issued in the names of the children, the Métis had been in Macdonald’s phrase, “swamped by the influx of settlers.” The Métis had become marginalized and were now, to a great extent, a landless minority. It may be that half the Métis population had left Manitoba by 1881.

## The Argument of the MMF Case

The Manitoba Métis Federation, in showing that there was an inexcusable delay in implementing the original promises, argues that there was a breach of fiduciary obligation by Canada, which left the Métis a marginalized minority in the province. The breach by Canada was a breach of a constitutional obligation.

The Manitoba Government then passed a series of laws which the MMF alleges were designed to ensure the children’s grants passed from Métis ownership to non-Métis ownership. The MMF says that these laws were unconstitutional.





▲ Delegates to the Métis Nation Constitution workshop in Ottawa enjoy a break.

## Métis Nation Constitution workshop gathers leaders from across the Homeland

On December 11th and 12th, 2011, the Metis National Council (MNC) hosted the Métis Nation Constitution Workshop that was attended by its governing members and their respective boards of directors or provincial councils. Over the two days, a variety of presentations addressed a range of issues under consideration as the Metis nation continues to develop the framework for a Metis Nation Constitution.

In a keynote address, President Chartier outlined why a constitution was needed and spoke about the importance of the process that would result in achieving this goal.

Presentations on the Territorial Integrity of the Metis focused on the Manitoba Métis Federation's land claim lawsuit, which was heard in the Supreme Court of Canada on December 13th; whereas the boundaries of the Metis nation and a strategy for restoring a land base provided insight to the foundations of the Constitution.



A series of panels examined the priorities of Métis Nation governments and how these could be included in a constitution. These items included language and culture preservation and promotion; child and family health services and supports; education and training; and economic development. Throughout the workshop there was open discussion amongst the panellists and delegates.

Also heard was a presentation called, "A Constitution for the 21st Century" which allowed the delegates to examine a series of graphics that illustrated the current structure of the Metis National Council and

its governing members and how this may be influenced by the adoption of a constitution. In addition, a series of worksheets identifying key questions that need to be addressed as the Metis Nation moves towards the 2013 Constitution Convention and the adoption of a Metis Nation Constitution were distributed for further review and feedback from the delegates.

Delegates also heard from two other special speakers during the workshop: Former Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Metis, and good friend of the Metis Nation, Chuck Strahl was asked to offer his thoughts on the importance of the Metis Nation developing a constitution and some suggestions that should be considered to ensure success. The second special speaker was the President of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Peru (CONAIP) Hugo Tacuri who delivered a keynote speech on international indigenous rights.

### 2012: The Year of Métis Nation Culture and Language

*At the Métis Nation Constitution Workshop on December 11-12th, I was pleased to announce the theme for 2012: Métis Nation Culture and Language. As we all know, the glue that holds our nation together is our cultural practices, including the Michif language.*

*This year should be a celebration of our music, dance, language, poetry, art, foods, clothing, beadwork and symbols. Our nation is rich in traditional cultural practices that will be showcased. Métis pride in Métis culture, traditions and language: this is our year.*

— Clément Chartier

*All of the presentations and workshop materials are posted in the 'Constitutional Reform Portal', which can be accessed through the Metis Nation Gateway at [www.metisportals.ca](http://www.metisportals.ca).*

### IN THE COURTS

## Alberta Court of Appeal Agrees to Hear Métis Harvesting Rights Case

On January 23, 2012, Madame Justice Constance Hunt, of the Alberta Court of Appeal granted leave to appeal in *R. v. Hirsekorn*--the Métis Nation of Alberta's (MNA) Métis harvesting rights litigation.

The *R. v. Hirsekorn* case was initiated as a test case as a part of the Métis Nation's "hunt for justice." This hunt for justice was launched in response to the Stelmach government's cancellation of a province-wide Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement (IMHA) that was negotiated between the MNA and the Klein government in 2004. Since the cancellation of the IMHA in July, 2007, Alberta Métis have taken to the courts in order to ensure the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *R. v. Powley* is meaningfully implemented in Alberta.

"We are extremely pleased that the Alberta Court of Appeal rejected the Alberta Government's arguments to deny leave to appeal and that the Court has agreed to hear this important case for all Alberta Métis. In her *Reasons for Judgment*, Justice Hunt clearly recognizes that this is a case about fulfilling the promise of section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982* to Alberta Métis. We wholeheartedly agree with this conclusion," said Audrey Poitras, MNA President.

A hearing date has not yet been set, but it is hoped that the appeal will be heard in the Court of Appeal's upcoming spring, 2012, session.

## Métis Senator receives Citizenship medal

On December 14, at the Ontario Legislature, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator, Alis Kennedy, was presented with the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship (OMC) by Lieutenant Governor David Onley. Eleven outstanding Ontarians received the medal in 2011, in recognition of their exceptional long-term contributions to the quality of life in Ontario.

"These individuals are shining examples of citizenship in action. Throughout their lives they have consistently made outstanding contributions to their community and to this province. I am pleased to invest them with the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship for their laudable service," said Lieutenant Governor Onley.

One of Senator Kennedy's many achievements was her participation, as a commercially licensed pilot, in a video titled: "Women in Science." Produced by York University, the video encouraged young women to pursue careers in science and was



viewed by all Ontario high school students in the mid 1980s.

Senator Kennedy was recognized for over 35 years of volunteering on three continents and in four countries. Her contributions to the MNO and other organisations were also highlighted. As a volunteer she worked on some projects for months

at a time, on a full-time basis. This was the case when she was in Peru and South Africa. One such project where she volunteered full-time was with an organization in Africa that educated South Africans and tourists

about the plight of cheetahs. This project also involved working with the endangered big cats.

Senator Kennedy was selected to represent all the OMC recipients in a response to the OMC Chair's toast.

◀ **MNO Senator, Alis Kennedy,** (front row far right) **with Lt. Governor David Onley and the other 2011 recipients of the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship.**

Prior to this, she was one of the two recipients interviewed by Citytv. Throughout these ceremonies and events, she made everyone aware of her Métis identity. "I proudly wore my Métis flag/sash, which I beaded myself" said Senator Kennedy. She indicated she wore this item to honour a past OMC recipient, the late MNO Senator, Helen Bradley. "I adapted the sash design from a pattern created by Senator Bradley," explained Senator Kennedy. "Dr. Olive Dickason, who served on the first Board of the MNO Cultural Commission, was also a past OMC and Order of Canada recipient."

For more information about the 2011 OMC recipients visit this web site.

[www.news.ontario.ca/mci/en/2011/12/ontarians-honoured-with-medal-for-good-citizenship.html](http://www.news.ontario.ca/mci/en/2011/12/ontarians-honoured-with-medal-for-good-citizenship.html)



SENATORS

## STARS

### An Open Letter from the Executive Senator

By **Reta Gordon**  
Executive PCMNO Senator  
OTTAWA

Have you ever gone out on a dark night and gazed up at the stars? Their brilliance shines through and illuminates the entire sky. Within the Métis Nation of Ontario we also have bright stars, and like the stars in the sky, they shine across our Homeland. Before GPS, navigation was based upon the stars and our Métis voyageurs used them to determine directions.

Our senators are our shining stars. Our Nation can navigate by their steadfast illumination; they are beacons for all of us. At times, some stars seem to shine more brightly than others, but as the world turns, others capture that glory. As we travel the circle of life we find ourselves turning again and again to those shining stars for guidance. Like a star, each senator has his or her own unique quality and character; each shines radiantly.

“

**Our senators are our shining stars. Our Nation can navigate by their steadfast illumination; they are beacons for all of us.**

”

I would like to praise the MNO Senators, even though they do not seek recognition or prominence. They quietly shine, knowing that with their combined brightness they become our points of reference and light our way.

May our Nation take the time to look up and see the light our stars have to offer. The knowledge and leadership of each one is magnified by the collective brightness of the Senators as a whole.

To each senator I say, “Thank-you”, and humbly request that our Nation look to your expertise to guide us through this complex world.

I thank the Creator for the gift of our Senators. They have pointed the way in the past and will continue to do so in 2012.

MÉTIS YOUTH | SENATE COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDED BY MÉTIS YOUTH

# The voice of Métis Youth heard on Parliament Hill

The voice of Métis youth was heard on Parliament Hill on November 23, 2011, in a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples. The meeting was a chance for the senators to hear what the priorities and challenges are for youth today.

The Senate Committee meeting was attended by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Youth Council member, Mitch Case, and Métis National Council Communications Officer, Adrian Mrdeza. An overview of activities and youth involvement was provided to the committee. It outlined the importance of access to post-secondary funding and the need for the current primary funding source for Aboriginal youth to be examined and revised so the funds are more easily available to serve the youth and promote cultural engagement.

Senate Committee members questioned youth panellists on economic development issues, education and training initiatives, and what the reality of being a

“youth” is today. The Métis Nation stressed the importance of pursuing post-secondary education and pointed out that the key barrier to higher learning is the lack of adequate funding. Although the Métis National Council’s governing members have endowment funds set up, they can only use the interest income on these funds to aid Métis students. It was recommended that these endowment funds be “topped-up” so that more Métis will have the chance to achieve their educational goals.

Following the official meeting, the youth were invited to take a tour of the Senate Chamber and have one-on-one time with a handful of senators to ask questions, share ideas and receive advice. It was an opportunity few have had, and the Métis were there beside the First Nations and Inuit youth representatives providing insight on the realities that youth face. It was a discussion that has opened the door to a broader dialogue to be had on Parliament Hill.



Senator Don Meredith joins MNO Youth Council member, Mitch Case, in the Senate Chamber following the meeting with the Canadian Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples.

Original story Posted on Métis National Council website:  
[www.metisnation.ca/index.php/news/metis-youth-voice-heard-on-parliament-hill](http://www.metisnation.ca/index.php/news/metis-youth-voice-heard-on-parliament-hill)

TIMMINS | COMMUNITY PARTNERS



▲ Ian Ross (centre), Regional Manager for Union Gas, presenting one of the laptops donated by Union Gas to Natalie Durocher, President of MNO Timmins Council (left), and MNO staff member Kirk Fournier (right) at the MNO Timmins office.

## Union Gas donates computers to MNO Timmins office

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is happy to announce the opening of a new computer lab in the MNO office in Timmins. The computers for the new lab, which is available for use by community members, were generously donated by Union Gas. The computer lab will give the Timmins Métis community access to the Internet and soft-

ware, including a genealogy program for individuals seeking their Métis ancestry. Thank you to Union Gas for donating the laptops, and for visiting the Métis Nation of Ontario Timmins office. Specifically, thank you to Mr. Ian Ross, Regional Manager for Union Gas, whose support for the MNO is invaluable and much appreciated.

### GET THE MNO WEBSITE ON YOUR SMART PHONE!



Over the past few years you may have noticed that more posters and publications have these square symbols on them. These are called QR Codes which stands for quick response code. With the proper application (app) a smart phone can scan a QR code and then decode the information into a web address, instantly opening the website on your phone. If you have a smart phone use your regular app service to download a QR code reader and your phone will be able to use QR codes.

The MNO has just acquired a QR code that will begin appearing in the Métis Voyageur and in our other publications. Give it try!

#### Step-by-step Instructions for Scanning a QR Code



1. download a QR code reader from your app store and open the app



2. hold your phone over the QR code. The reader will then decode the info. and open the site



3. enjoy the ease of viewing the MNO site on your smart phone!



# Sisters share culture

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator, Cecile Wagar and her sister Claire Kearns have been sharing Métis culture with students over the past two years through school presentations. The duo's presentations are funded by the Ontario Arts Council's Aboriginal Artists and Elders in the Schools Program.

Their Métis presentation has been primarily given to grade three and grade six students in French immersion schools in the Durham area. Métis presenters in English, Michif and French are in high demand in schools across Ontario. Cecile and Claire have been able to share their stories of being Métis with interactive presentations to over 1,300 young people since April 2010. The sisters have occasionally been joined by MNO citizen, Janet Huttman, and Oshawa and Durham Métis Council Secretary, Frances Harris.

Sharing Métis culture with school age audiences is part of the effort to educate Ontario students. The sisters have developed a program of cultural stories, plays and costumes for each of their visits. Children are shown how to jig and crafts include dot-art bookmarks, which teach them about beadwork. The women also have a display which showcases furs, Métis tools and historical photos.



▲ MNO Senator Cecile Wagar with her sister Claire Kearns bring Métis culture to the classroom.

"It was a lot of fun, but also a lot of work," said Senator Wagar. "The children loved the jigging and the dot-art piece they did to represent the Métis beadwork. They enjoyed being part of our play. For many it was their first experience in touching real furs!"

Since signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the

Ministry of Education, the MNO has been working vigorously to bring together our Métis community and school boards, developing secondary resources for teaching Métis education in the classroom, and working with both the community and teachers to ensure the highest quality of Métis education for all Ontarians.



▲ The Emerald Ash Borer, which has killed at least 50 to 100 million ash trees, was accidentally introduced into the United States and Canada in the 1990s.

## The Emerald Ash Borer A threat to the Métis Way of Life

By **Art Bennett**  
PCMNO Councillor for Region 4

The emerald ash borer is a green beetle native to Asia. The beetle was accidentally introduced into the United States and Canada in the 1990s. Since then it has joined the list of invasive species and is highly destructive to ash trees. The beetle has killed at least 50 to 100 million ash trees so far and threatens to kill most of the 7.5 billion remaining ash trees throughout North America.

As a Nation the Métis need to be aware of the consequence this

destructive insect could have on our way of life. We use the ash tree for a multitude of things, from traditional medicines to gunnells for canoes and even lacrosse racquets and stretching racks for hides. We need to take action to preserve the existence of the remaining ash trees in our regions, so we can continue to harvest this valuable tree.

We need to take preventative steps and avoid moving any potentially infested ash materials and all species of firewood, to non-infested areas of our regions. If we all work together we can maintain the life of this significant tree.

For more information visit this web page.  
<http://inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/pestrava/agrpla/agrplae.shtml>

### Reaching 10,000 Métis Households

## MÉTIS VOYAGEUR ADVERTISING

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

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

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

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

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

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¾ page - 6.5" x 10.5"  
½ page - 5" x 16" or 10" x 8"  
¼ page - 8" x 5" or 2.5" x 16" or 10" x 4"  
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# COMMUNITY COUNCILS

NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL | MÉTIS EXHIBIT OPENS AT WELLAND MUSEUM

# Our infinite Métis history

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

**I**t all started with a little girl, my granddaughter, Rebecca. In March, 2009, she asked me to make a presentation to her class because she was doing a project on the Métis. With great apprehension I agreed to do it. I thought it would only be for a few grade six students, no big deal. When I got to the school, the teacher asked if she could include another class; I thought: why not? Then I heard that there were two reporters present to cover my presentation, well need I say, I was about to have an anxiety attack. I knew if I could not do this my granddaughter would be embarrassed; I had no choice, but to continue. After the presentation I felt great. I saw the awe in the faces of the children as I spoke about the Métis and how we were a big part of exploring and developing this great country called “Canada”. They had many questions; the presentation had opened their minds to a part of Canada’s history that they were unaware of.

A teacher from St. Elizabeth School in Wainfleet saw the article in the Tribune and called me to ask if I would appear before her grade eight students in March, 2009. After that



Left to right: **Glen Lipinski, MNO Consultation and Community Relations Coordinator; Judy Baxter, NRMCM Secretary Treasurer; Sharon McBride, MNO Vice Chair; Stephen Quesnelle, President NRMCM; Paul Grenier, Councillor City of Welland; Penny Morningstar, Curator of Welland Historical Museum.**

presentation another teacher who had attended, approached me and said that I should contact a friend of hers at the Welland Historical Museum, Penny Morningstar, curator of the museum. She said that Penny might be interested in my presentation. I contacted Penny and a meeting was arranged.

I met with Penny and Cal Bursey, in April, 2009, and discussions were

started to bring about this display. We were very excited about the plans that were being made. I am truly sorry that Cal is not here to see the finished product of our plans and dreams. One of the things discussed, was for us to do our Métis presentation whenever a class came through the museum, if requested.

An agreement was signed with the museum; the funding was

received, and we got the “ok” to begin.

I must say, there were many times I would enter the museum and think, “we are not going to be finished by opening day”. Penny felt my apprehension, and kept telling me not to worry; the display would be finished in time. I should have known that with the combined knowledge and experience of Penny Morningstar, Nora Reid, Jody Dickinson and Lori Burns, it would be finished in time.

Well, by opening day, November the 19th, 2011, it was completed, and I must admit, Penny was right.

We owe a great deal of thanks to the staff of the museum for all their hard work and dedication; they have done an awesome job on this display.

I would like to thank Judy Baxter for her work with the museum staff and the council (She has been amazing.); Glen Lipinski for all his advice and his help with the set-up of the display; the students and teacher at Jean Vanier High School for the impressive job that they did building a replica of the Red River Cart and the crates for this display; and, Tracey-Mae Chambers, a very talented Métis artist who painted and donated to the council the picture of the canoe that you see, above the Red River Cart.

## Showcasing Canada’s hidden history

**T**he Infinite History exhibit was covered by both *Niagara this Week* and *The Welland Tribune*. The following quotation from the museum’s Executive Director, Nora Reid, appeared in *Niagara This Week*: “We need to know all the cultures who have made the Canadian mosaic; I think it’s wonderful we can showcase a hidden part of Canadian history.”

*The Tribune* noted that Penny Morningstar, Curator of the Welland Historical Museum, had told the crowd that one of the best things about working in a museum is that she has a chance to educate museum visitors about pieces of important Canadian history they may not have known, including the Métis. She added: “Museums don’t sugar coat the truth.”

ATIKOKAN AND SURROUNDING AREA MÉTIS COUNCIL

## Path of the Voyageur

Fur trade history becomes basis for MNO Council’s tourism joint venture

**R**ainy River and Atikokan are trying to think of a way to celebrate the region’s fur trade history in a joint tourism venture. A race using voyageur canoes via Perch and Calm Lakes and the Seine and Rainy River system, is one possibility. The idea ties in well with many regional efforts to brand a tourism route, such as the Atikokan-based “Path of the Voyageur” initiative. The history of voyageur canoes traces back to the fur trade when the vessels were used by Métis fur traders who paddled through the region, and would certainly be a way to capitalize on that.

While voyageur canoe racing attracts international competitors to Métis communities in north-

ern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, it would be new in the Atikokan/Rainy River area, and attracting pro racers would require sizeable cash prizes.

An enterprise that would involve youth was also put forward in lieu of the fact that both Atikokan and Rainy River have high school outdoor education programs.

Marlene Davidson, President of the Atikokan and Surrounding Area Métis Council, pointed out that partnering with Métis communities is crucial because, “these are the descendants of the voyageurs.” Davidson is also a councillor in local government and a “Path of the Voyageur” member. It was noted that retired

voyageurs (although few lived long enough to retire) were given fertile land along the Rainy River as a reward for their years of service.

Davidson added that a Métis partnership would also open additional funding potential for projects.

BANCROFT



(Left to right) **Judy Simpson, Tracey Dale, Tammy Hoover and Robin Davey.**



**Santa greets an admirer at the Bancroft community Christmas dinner.**

## Santa at MNO Bancroft

**T**he Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Bancroft office welcomed almost 200 guests to a community Christmas dinner held in Maynooth on December 14, 2011. A special jolly dinner guest, dressed in red, thrilled children and Elders alike. Santa handed out goodies and of course healthy snacks before enjoying a nice bowl of hot stew with warm kaiser buns, caesar salad and home baked pies for dessert. Meals were packaged and delivered by volunteers and staff to community members who could not attend.

Guests who arrived early learned how to decorate on a shoe string budget using different sizes of marshmallows on the tree branches. These “Charlie Brown Christmas Trees” served as the cen-

tre pieces at all the tables where they were the topic of the night, creating lots of laughter. A large Charlie Brown-style tree greeted guests as they came through the door.

A donation of hand knitted mitts and toques was available to those in need.

The MNO staff at the Bancroft office would like to thank all those who brought home-baked desserts; helped with set-up and take down; and of course to all those who attended. We look forward to sharing another feast with you again next year.

Thank you to Santa too.  
*Best Wishes in 2012 from MNO staff members Tracey Dale, Tammy Hoover, Robin Davey, Judy Simpson and Amanda Cox.*

MIDLAND

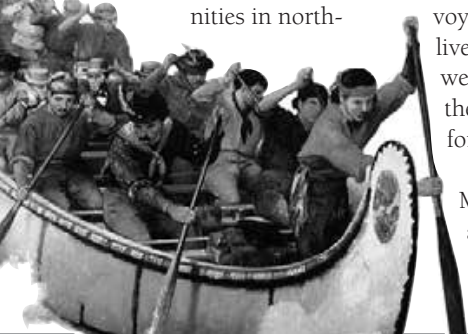
## Generous donation provides holiday feasts

By **Natalie Noonan**  
*MNO - Midland Office*

**D**uring the busy holiday season, one of our wonderful council members found time (despite his 60th wedding anniversary) to acquire and deliver 16 turkeys to our office.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Allan Vallee who was able to obtain the turkeys through Rama Services. Thanks to him 16 more families were able to enjoy a holiday feast, and with leftovers for soup had healthy meals for a while. Many of our clients cannot afford to buy a turkey so this was a timely gift. Thank you to Allan from all of us.

We held our annual Cheer Day Open House in December with a very large turnout. We had an acoustic band and decorations abounded. Each staff member contributed food items which served over 30 people and everyone commented on how good it all was. Leftovers went to some of our low income clients who were extremely appreciative.





## Métis Nation of Ontario Staff



## Christmastime in the Toronto office

By **Beth Honsberger** and **Kate Stewart-McNeil**  
MNO Toronto Office staff

'Twas the week before Christmas and all through the city,  
Not an MNO staffer had a second un-busy.  
Decorations were hung in the office with care,  
Bringing holiday joyfulness into the air.

The employees were nestled all snug at their desks,  
Finishing last minute work to enjoy what comes next...  
Even Lisa with her clients, and Jody making calls,  
And anxiety building about holiday malls.

When from the boardroom there arose such a clatter,  
Kate sprung to her feet to see what was the matter.  
Out of her office Kelly flew like a flash,  
To find an office-appropriate holiday bash.

With garland on the rafters and the boardroom aglow,  
Everyone gathered 'round a moose feast below.  
When what to their wondering eyes should appear?  
But dessert from Tamarra, her best one this year!

Kristin had organized a cookie exchange,  
Which, to a few, seemed a little bit strange...  
But with four dozen cookies each employee, they came,  
And acquired the following cookies: By name!

There was Shortbread, and Thumbprints,  
And Oatmeal Raisin,  
And Peppermint cookies  
That received quite a ravin!  
Every Hermit and Brownie,  
Kiss-cookie and Snowball,  
Was nibbled, and eaten, and enjoyed by them all!

As the sash with its many traditions entwined,  
The group told their stories and wishes in kind.  
So united in holiday spirit they shared,  
And discovered how much each one of them cared.

Then with a twinkle in each little eye,  
They all dreamt of snow, and glanced t'wards the sky.  
Alas, not a flake nor a speck did appear,  
But their friendship, if not snow, would bring them all cheer.

Dressed in tinsel and lights, the city it was,  
A green Christmas could not dampen the holiday buzz.  
The food and conversation were such a delight,  
But the end of the party would soon be in sight.

The tree how it sparkled,  
The music, how merry!  
As they all enjoyed,  
Beth's cake of cranberry!

But then it was time to get back to work,  
For just around the corner, new deadlines did lurk.  
And even though they were all sad to adjourn,  
They knew that from each other they'd continue to learn.

Melanie sprang to her feet, to the team gave a nod,  
And away they all flew to their desks and their jobs,  
But they heard James exclaim as he dove out of sight:

"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

## HERITAGE | PENETANGUISHENE'S OLDEST HOME PROTECTED

# 12 Water Street

This article is based on a story that appeared on [www.simcoe.com](http://www.simcoe.com).

The oldest house in Penetanguishene, located at 12 Water Street, was recently designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. It was built by George Gordon, and is known as "Gordon House", the first permanent residential dwelling in town. For years a volunteer committee called "the Friends of Gordon House" has sought to have the home designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Barbara Turner, a member of Penetanguishene's heritage committee, bought the home with her husband this past November, 2011. "I love the history of the house...and really didn't want to see it go into the wrong hands and be torn down," she said. "If you come in and stand in the living room, there's a feeling there. It's just great."

Background information compiled by the Friends of Gordon House includes a passage from a book by Micheline Marchand and Daniel Marchildon, titled *From the Straits of Mackinac to Georgian Bay: 300 Years of Métis History*, stating that George Gordon moved his house and business to a location on Water Street in 1825. "It was the first permanent house in the town, and still stands," said the book.

The house also has a significant connection with Métis settlers from Drummond Island, as Gordon's first wife, a French Ojibway woman, came from Drummond Island and Gordon's Métis children lived in the house.

Councillor Helen Luzius, who sits on the heritage committee, said thanks to the work done by the Friends group, town officials now believe the home is the oldest or second-oldest house in Simcoe County.

"It was used as a business, a home (and) a place to hold mass for Sunday service," Luzius said, adding



▲ The house at 12 Water Street was the first permanent house in Penetanguishene and still stands today.

although previous councils had the home on a list of properties to consider for designation, that step was never taken.

"The problem with the home is the original logs had been covered up with stucco finish so we can't see them, and the veranda has been covered. There had been enough changes to the house, so, under previous rules, what was existing at the time just missed it," she said. "It wasn't much of a fail, but it was a fail. Now, the home passes with flying colours because of (its) historical value." Designation under the Ontario Heritage Act gives a property special legal status designed to

“Gordon's first wife, a French Ojibway woman, came from Drummond Island and Gordon's Métis children lived in the house.”

protect cultural heritage resources located on the property.

Turner said they have started knocking down some of the drywall, and have uncovered the original logs underneath. They intend to bring the home back as close to its original glory as possible.



## Attention! Métis Parents we want to hear from you...

The Métis Nation of Ontario is interested in hearing from **Métis parents** across Ontario about their experiences with early learning including full-day kindergarten.

Contact: [chrism@metisnation.org](mailto:chrism@metisnation.org)



# Remembering Riel Well

Louis Riel’s battle did not end on November 16, 1885, because we are fighting it today



As Louis Riel Day was marked across Canada, the Sunset Country Métis remembered Riel as the protector of Métis rights and one of the Fathers of Confederation. More than 120 people turned out to enjoy a buffet supper that included a moose roast donated by Captain of the Hunt, Dean McMahon, as well as to hear and dance to music performed by district entertainers.

Amidst the merry-making, the importance of Riel as a Canadian historical figure was also highlighted. “Louis Riel Day takes place on the anniversary of a great tragedy—the execution of Louis Riel on November 16, 1885,” read Theresa Stenlund, Region 1 Métis Nation of



▲ Sunset Country Riel Day musical entertainment was provided by Elmer and Clifford Whitefish (left) and Justin Boshey (right), who got folks jigging and square-dancing.



Ontario (MNO) Councillor, who delivered a message on behalf of MNO President, Gary Lipinski, who was attending Louis Riel Day celebrations in Toronto. “Riel’s only crime was that he defended the rights of his people, our people, the Métis,” Stenlund

stressed. “Although he fought for the Métis rights in the west, his resistance had repercussions for Métis in Ontario, as well,” she noted. “We were labeled traitors and for generations our culture was forced underground. We became the ‘forgotten’ people.

“Over the years, however, we began to assert ourselves and take up the mantle of Louis Riel,” Stenlund added. “We founded the Métis Nation of Ontario, and with Steve Powley we asserted our Métis rights. Every day that we work together as MNO citizens, we are seeking the same rights that Louis Riel defended. “Louis Riel’s battle did not end on November 16, 1885, because we are fighting it today. It is for that reason that Louis Riel Day, November 16, 2011, is a day that celebrates our resilience as a people. It is a day we remember what we have achieved so far, and it is a day we steel our resolve so Louis Riel’s dream can be a reality for our children.” Sunset Country Métis President, Clint Calder, said the message of Riel must be passed on to the youth. He then gave the microphone to Ericka Tymkin, daughter of Sunset Country Métis Women’s Representative,

Michelle Tymkin, who delivered a speech on the history of Riel. Musical entertainment was then provided by Justin Boshey and Elmer and Clifford Whitefish, who got some folks jigging and square-dancing for several songs. Eric Fagerdahl, Ericka Tymkin, Abbey Calder, “Intirely Mac” (Wayne and Danette MacIntyre), the “Sunset Country Chicks” (Brittany Hayes, Charity Rose, and Sandra Allan), and “Distant Legacy Band” (Justin Boshey, Mark Beachey, Brian Kabatay and Glen Tower) also took to the stage. Special guest was John Bonin, Manager of Aboriginal Affairs for Union Gas (Ontario), who had sponsored the fall harvest fish-fry. Bonin said he is a good friend of MNO President Gary Lipinski, and he is always warmly welcomed by the Métis people, and looks forward to coming to Métis events.

Based on an article by Duane Hicks with The Fort Francis Times On-line: original article may be viewed at: [www.fftimes.com/node/247207](http://www.fftimes.com/node/247207)

## Métis Korean War Veterans honoured

Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Dwight Duncan attends

Métis veterans who served during the Korean War were honoured on December 11th in Ottawa at a special commemoration luncheon that was attended by Métis Nation leaders, citizens, friends of the Métis, and special guest, the Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and the Federal Interlocutor for Métis. Honoured Métis Nation Korean War veterans included: Sergeant Les Desjarlas; Chief Warrant Officer John McDonald; Master Warrant Officer Oscar Lacombe; Rifleman Ron Snider; and, Sergeant Jack Cadeau. An honourable mention was given to Corporal John Morrisseau, a leader within the Métis Nation who served Canada from 1958 to 1964. On behalf of the Métis Nation Minister John Duncan presented veterans with a plaque that reads: “The Métis Nation is pleased to extend special recognition and appreciation for your dedicated service in protecting Canada and the World. On this, the Decade of the Métis Nation, we pay Tribute to our Métis Veterans. We reflect upon Louis Riel’s vision for the Métis Nation and your honourable sacrifice as being one and the same in building a solid foundation for future Métis Nation generations. It was your duty to fight – it is our duty to never forget.”

### DRYDEN | NORTHWEST MÉTIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL



▲ THE MNO NORTHWEST MÉTIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL CELEBRATED LOUIS RIEL DAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2011, IN DRYDEN: (Left to right) Senator Allan Roussin; Deputy Mayor, Martin MacKinnon; MNO staff members, Shirley Hanslip and Allysha Antoszek; MNO Northwest Community Council members Vice President, Dan Robinson; President, Alvina Cimon (right, front, wearing sash); Métis youth; Women’s Rep, Patricia Livingston.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY | NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL

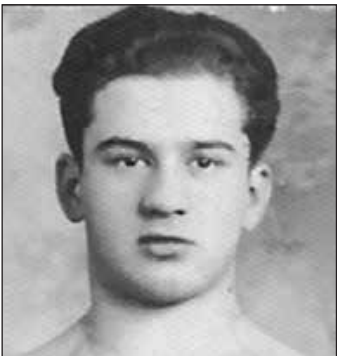
## Métis colours fly in Nov. 11 parade

By Barbaranne Wright

2011 was the first year that the Métis flag walked in the Remembrance Day parade in St. Catharines. We would like to thank the St. Catharines Legion for their help, and the Women’s Auxiliary for the fine lunch served at the Legion Hall after the parade.



▲ The Métis infinty flag flies proudly in the parade.



## Turcotte family remembers a fallen Métis soldier

On November 11th, we remembered with pride our uncle, George Turcotte, Métis war veteran from St. Boniface, Manitoba, who fought and died for Canada in the Second World War. George was a member of the Royal Canadian Regiment and only seven days past his 20th birthday when he died in Italy at the Battle of Ortona, which was won by the Canadians, who sustained incredible losses. George is buried in the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery in the commune of Ortona, Italy. He was so far from the sisters, brothers, mother and father who loved him so very much. We remember how brave he must have been, how scared to be in such turmoil at what must have seemed like the other end of the world to a man so young. We are proud of you George Turcotte and we never forget the freedoms you and others provided us. We will not forget.



# LANDS & RESOURCES

## ENVIRONMENT



## Métis visit proposed waste site at Bruce nuclear

A group of Métis recently toured the Bruce nuclear site to learn about Ontario Power Generation's proposed Deep Geologic Repository Project for the long-term management of nuclear waste

On November 18, 2011, a group of Métis citizens, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) community council representatives and MNO staff visited the Bruce nuclear site to learn about Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) Project for the long-term management of low and intermediate level waste. The visit was carried out consistent with the *Participation Agreement* MNO signed with OPG and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) on the DGR Project. This *Participation Agreement* was developed with the intention of fostering mutually beneficial relationships.

The visit began with a tour of OPG's Western Waste Management Facility (WWMF). The WWMF is the facility that currently manages and provides interim storage for the low and intermediate level waste that is received from Ontario's nuclear generating stations. The group learned that much of the waste that will be placed in the DGR is already at the WWMF--safely stored at surface level in engineered storage structures.

As part of the tour, we heard the following definition provided for 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

continued page 16

## MIDLAND | TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE HARVEST FEAST

# Youth & Elders

Métis leave feast with renewed sense of community and pride

By Katherine Stewart-McNeil  
*Traditional Knowledge and Land Use*

On the 25th of November, a feast that celebrated Métis culture and traditional knowledge was held in Midland, Ontario. It was organized by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) in partnership with the Lands, Resources & Consultations (LRC) Branch of the Métis Nation of Ontario. It saw members of the community come together to share a beautiful meal, and a night of Métis entertainment.

The feast was held at the Georgian Bay Hunters and Anglers Club. The large venue accommodated a group of over a hundred Métis. Many families were among the group in attendance, some of which had three generations present. The diversity of age and experience made the reception to the event especially meaningful. The goal of the feast was to connect elders with youth, and both to their shared heritage, and it did.

Brenda Laurin, Georgian Bay Métis Council President, delivered a warm welcome on behalf of the council, and Senator Dora McInnes opened the evening with a prayer. Region 7 Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Regional Councillor, Pauline Saulnier, brought a regional update to the community, and then everyone feasted! Phil's Catering provided an array of dishes that showcased foods that the Métis traditionally enjoyed, and showed again the lasting appeal of traditional Métis cooking. The meal was enjoyed by all.

After dinner, the MNO GBMC Métis Women Drummers treated the



▲ The MNO GBMC Métis Women Drummers treat the gathering to songs of unity and spirituality.



◀ Lisa McCron (centre) from the MNO Moon River Métis Council shares her knowledge of medicinal plants at a Traditional Knowledge feast in Midland.

group to songs that spoke of unity and spirituality. They were followed by the GBMC Men/Youth Drummers. To everyone's surprise, their stunning performance was in fact their public debut. Both the Women and the Men/Youth Drummers are composed of elders' and youth voices, which beautifully represent the strength of Métis communities.

Continuing the traditional knowledge exchange that the drummers kicked off, Lisa McCron, a knowledge holder from the MNO Moon River Métis Council shared her knowledge of medicinal plants through stories of her experiences. She also set up an arrangement of her salves and poultices, and offered

advice on how to get started reviving the traditional Métis use of plant medicines. Scott Carpenter, Manager of Projects and Partnerships within the Métis Nation of Ontario Education and Training Branch (MNOET), followed with a presentation on the historic importance and symbolism of the Métis flag and the sash.

MNO Forestry Coordinator, Jordan Benoit, spoke on the status of forest co-management strategies that are being developed, and the efforts to ensure that Métis perspectives are taken into consideration. Director of MNO LRC, Melanie Paradis, wrapped up the presentation-section of the evening with a moving

account of local Métis heritage and a brief history of the Drummond Islanders. She concluded with a talk on what exactly it means to be a Métis knowledge holder.

Senator Verna Porter closed with a prayer of thanks, for the successful event and prosperity of the community. By the end of the evening there was also a table of donated non-perishables that promised to share the success of the feast on an even greater scale. The large and varied group that gathered made the event particularly vibrant, and everyone left with satisfied bellies and a renewed sense of community and pride.

## PETERBOROUGH | TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE HARVEST FEAST

# Feast celebrates Métis heritage

By Katherine Stewart-McNeil  
*Traditional Knowledge and Land Use*

On November 26, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council in partnership with the MNO Lands, Resources & Consultations (LRC) Branch hosted a feast in Peterborough that brought the Métis community together to share in good times and great food.

The event was held at the Canadian Canoe Museum, a fitting venue, because the museum preserves examples of the canoes that played such a key role in our heritage. Before the feast, visitors perused the museum and brushed up on their knowledge of the birch bark canoe, and other canoes' histories.

The feast was opened by Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council President, Terry Bloom, and a prayer was led by Senator Andy

Dufrane. Regional updates from the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) were provided by Region 7 Councillor Pauline Saulnier. Following this welcome, food was served! Neil Lorenzen put together a beautiful spread of traditional Métis foods that had everyone's mouths watering. The meal received resounding approval from the community.

During desserts, two presentations were given on issues facing Métis communities today. For the first presentation, Forestry Coordinator for the MNO LRC, Jordan Benoit, spoke to the importance of having Métis input in the management of the forests in our traditional territories, and introduced the forest co-management strategy. He gave a detailed articulation of why a strategy that incorporates Métis voices needs to be developed.

The second speaker posed the



**Sharing traditional knowledge will allow Métis people to shape the future to ensure the Métis culture, traditions and way of life are sources of pride for our children.**

question: *What is Traditional Knowledge?* Melanie Paradis, MNO Director of Lands, Resources & Consultations, focused on local Métis history from the Mattawa/Nippissing/Georgian Bay area. Melanie explained why it is so important to talk about traditional knowledge--the culturally-specific knowledge that is often taken for granted as just being "the way that things are done"--so that it is not lost for future generations. For a long time, Métis heritage was a source of shame. Acknowledging and sharing traditional knowledge will allow Métis people to shape the future to ensure the Métis culture, traditions and way

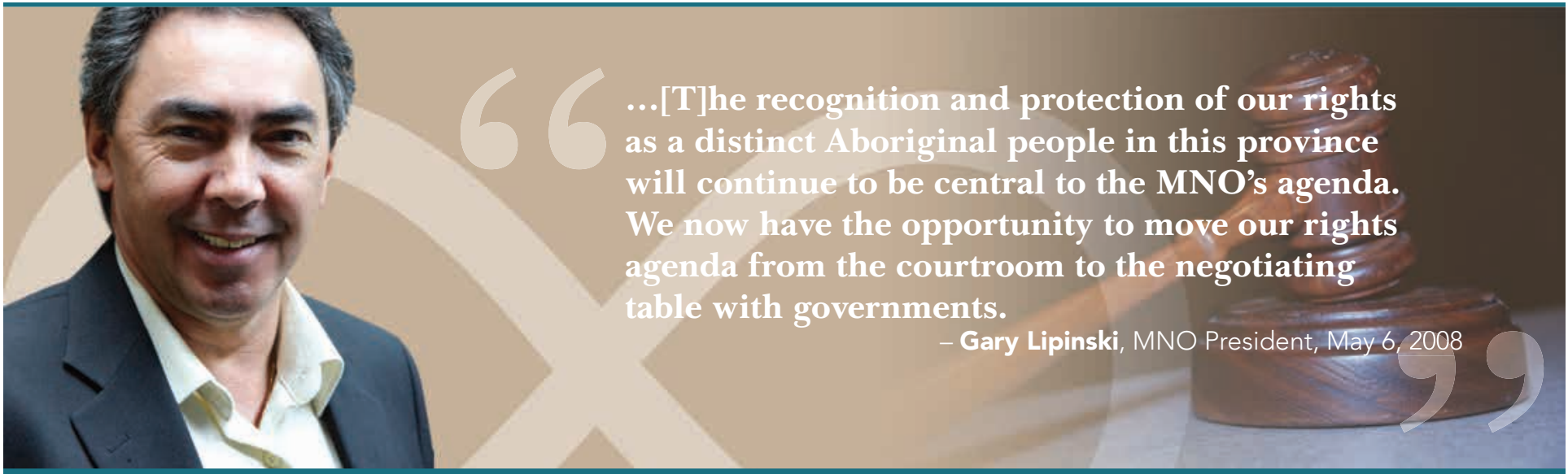
of life are sources of pride for our children.

At the end of the night, the leftover food was brought to the Youth Emergency Shelter (Y.E.S.). Y.E.S. provides emergency housing including meals, support, and guidance to families and all individuals aged 16-24 in need of it.

Many thanks are due to Barbara Card for coordinating this. In all, the event was a huge success. The Métis community came together to celebrate Métis heritage, share a wonderful meal, and learn about the importance of preserving traditional knowledge and promoting the sound management of our forests.



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



“...[T]he recognition and protection of our rights as a distinct Aboriginal people in this province will continue to be central to the MNO’s agenda. We now have the opportunity to move our rights agenda from the courtroom to the negotiating table with governments.  
– Gary Lipinski, MNO President, May 6, 2008”

# Advancing our Rights Together

**An Update on Métis Rights**  
January 2012



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

Our rights agenda has always been central to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). It is the underlying foundation of the *Statement of Prime Purpose*. It is essential to preserving and protecting our distinct collective identity and culture – as Métis. Simply put, it is at the core of who we are – as an aboriginal people.

We have long recognized that while programs and services may come and go at the whim of funders or budgetary restraints, our inherent rights – as a people – are forever. Moreover, since 1982, our rights have been recognized and protected in Canada’s Constitution – the highest law of the land. In *Powley*, the Supreme Court of Canada further affirmed this fact.

It is for these reasons why the MNO remains so committed to advancing and protecting Métis rights. We know that our collective future – as Métis – depends on these rights. Today, we are entrusted with carrying the torch and protecting the rights our ancestors always knew they had, and which they fought hard to protect.

This obligation brings significant responsibilities with it because what we do today will affect our grandchildren and generations to come. As well, since our rights are collective rights, the negative actions of one or a few can be detrimental to many. Similarly, strategic successes can benefit all of us.

It is for these reasons that the MNO has always attempted to bring our people and communities – together – to advance our rights. Our sash is strong when we have our many threads bound together. It is frail and falls apart when those threads are not united. Being together is how we have achieved our successes with other governments and in the

courts. Being apart has always resulted in struggles and setbacks.

It is worthy to note that unlike other “groups” and “organizations,” the MNO has never been unsuccessful in the courts. This is because we only go to the courts when we need to. Further, when we do go to court, we go with the facts and the law on our side. Political rhetoric and false promises will not win in negotiations or litigation. Facts, integrity and reason do. This has been and will continue to be the MNO’s recipe for success.

Over the past decade, our battles in the courtroom have opened up opportunities for us that have never been there before. Consistent with our *Statement of Prime Purpose*, we have welcomed those opportunities in order to benefit our people and communities. Whether through negotiations with government on Métis harvesting, documenting our history through mapping, or signing an Impact and Benefit Agreement with industry, we are advancing our rights agenda today and for generations to come.

Often, our citizens do not realize that all the discussions, interviews, negotiations, community feasts, research and work at the local, regional and provincial levels are just as important as when our lawyers go into the courtroom for us. While the law and the courts are important, our ability to consolidate our wins in the courtroom so they mean something on-the-ground to our people, is just as important. That important work is done by our volunteers, Community Councils, Senators, Captains of the Hunt, Women, Youth, Veterans, the PCMNO and our staff, everyday!

With that said, I want to provide MNO citizens with an overview and update on just some of the MNO’s rights-based work:

“Our sash is strong when we have our many threads bound together. It is frail and falls apart when those threads are not united. Being together is how we have achieved our successes...”



AN UPDATE ON MÉTIS RIGHTS

Lands, Resources & Consultation

In less than 4 years, we have built – together – the only consultation unit in the entire Métis Nation. Through our province-wide consultations back in 2008, which ultimately led to the development of a MNO Consultation Framework and Regional Consultation Protocols, we have been attempting to ensure the Crown’s legal duty to consult and accommodate our communities is fulfilled.

Today, after years of negotiations and work, we have a Lands, Resources and Consultation (“LRC”) Branch that works with communities to ensure Métis rights are protected. While we initially struggled to have governments and industry recognize our unique approach to consultation, we are now witness to dozens of Letters of Intent, MOUs and work plans being signed. Moreover, through this Branch and the work of many citizens we are researching and documenting our people’s historic and ongoing

presence and use on the land. From a landmark study on Métis plant use in southern Ontario to traditional knowledge collection across the province, we are putting Ontario Métis on the map.

Most recently, because of our collective efforts, we are witness to our consultation work moving into a new stage – accommodation. This has been accomplished through the negotiation of a major Impact and Benefits Agreement (IBA) with Detour Gold. This IBA includes financial support for environmental work, cultural activities, bursaries as well as shares in the mining company itself, which will collectively benefit Métis citizens and the regional Métis community that will be impacted by the mine. This is the first Métis IBA to be negotiated with a mining company in Ontario! We look forward to this IBA being the first of many “accommodations” negotiated across the province.



Participants in the Region Eight Protocol Signing (Left to right) ,Toronto and York Region Métis Council President Donna Grenier, Robert Bird, MNO Chair France Picotte, Jim Tolles, MNO President Gary Lipinski, MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride, Richard Cuddy, Credit River Métis Council President Debbie Alves, Senator Ray Bergie.

WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE COMPANY, LONDON

# Harvesting Rights

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The MNO continues to be the only Métis government in Canada to have a negotiated harvesting agreement with a provincial government. While not perfect, the agreement remains the envy of other Métis governments whose citizens continue to be harassed and charged across the Métis Nation. Through this agreement, our MNO Harvester Card holders are able to harvest for food in their traditional territories. The Métis harvest is important to Métis families, Elders and communities.

The MNO’s leadership continues to push for an increase in the number of Harvester Cards it is able to issue each year. It is hoped that progress will be made on this front for the 2012 harvest, and regular discussions are ongoing with MNR. However, one of the key requirements of our MNO-MNR harvesting agreement is for an independent review (audit) of the MNO Harvester Card system, which would validate the integrity and credibility of the system. The review will look to see if our files have adequate supporting documentation which meets the criteria that the Supreme Court of Canada set out in *Powley* in order to exercise a Métis harvesting right. This is the reason the MNO continues to ask harvesters to ensure their files are complete, since the rights and privileges of all harvesters could be negatively affected by a few incomplete files.

Another part of the implementation of the MNO-MNR harvesting agreement committed the MNO to undertaking joint historic research on Métis communities where we have differences of opinion with the province. Over the last few years, we have worked in partnership with Ontario and Canada to develop a comprehensive research project on the Mattawa/Nipissing region. This region was chosen because the area played a pivotal role in the historic fur trade and it continues to be significantly populated by our

citizens today. We are very excited that this project will have the necessary funding, experts and community involvement in order to tell the true story of the Métis in this region.

The goal of this project is to do research and collect information in the region in order to assess it against the *Powley* criteria, as established by the Supreme Court of Canada. One of the most exciting parts of this research is that we will finally have the opportunity to review and translate the Old French documents that have never been looked at in the context of Métis research before. This will be an invaluable source of information. It will be of immense assistance to many Métis families in the region for personal knowledge as well as their Registry applications.

It is also important to highlight that with respect to this project, instead of the MNO having to bear the cost like in the *Powley* case – the research is paid for by Ontario and Canada. Moreover, the MNO is an equal partner with Canada and Ontario throughout the process. We look forward to this type of important research being replicated in other regions across the province, where needed. In addition, the results of this research will not only be of assistance with respect to harvesting rights in the region, but it may also support the need for Métis land rights in the region to be addressed, since the ongoing Algonquin land claims overlap with the areas Métis have used and occupied for generations.

Finally, the LRC Branch and the MNO’s leadership continue to push forward on many key issues of importance to Métis harvesters, including, commercial fishing, trapping, incidental cabins, etc. This has included assistant Métis commercial fishers in their fights against the MNR. It has also included supporting applications to the Ontario Ombudsman in relation to unfair practices towards Métis.



## MNO/ MNR Agreement

1. MNO and MNR agree that MNO will issue a maximum of 1250 Harvesters’ Cards for this year. The number of 1250 is for this year only. A mutually agreeable process for a change in this number will be developed subject to research and evaluation of the Harvesters’ Card system.
2. The MNR will apply the Interim Enforcement Policy (IEP) to those valid Harvesters Card holders who are harvesting for food, within their traditional territories and pursuant to the safety and conservation values set out in the IEP in a manner which is identical with its application to First Nations.
3. This Interim Agreement will be for two years with the intention that it will be extended by mutual consent until a final agreement is in place.
4. Both sides agree that an independent evaluation of the MNO Harvesters’ Card system will be performed based on mutually agreeable terms of reference.



AN UPDATE ON MÉTIS RIGHTS



George McPherson and the family of Sophie Morrisseau, 1872.



Métis in Northwest Angle (Archives of Ontario)



Métis Settlement at Sault Ste. Marie (Archives of Ontario)

# Historic Research on Ontario Métis

**W**e have always said that our existence - as Ontario Métis communities - is confirmed by the facts of history. Our rights claims are based on these facts. Unfortunately, the history of our communities is often overlooked, misunderstood or ignored by governments as well as other Aboriginal peoples. We know that the only way to overcome the deeply entrenched biases and misunderstandings that exist about us is to finally tell the Ontario Métis story.

Increasingly, our Community Councils, through consultation and accommodation activities, are getting access to

resources in order to undertake that type of research. Reports have been or are being commissioned - across the province - to tell the Ontario Métis story. For example, Dr. Arthur Ray (our expert in the *Powley* case) recently completed a study that looked at Métis in the Lake Superior region. As well, the MNO is working with the Chair of Métis Research on a study that looks at Métis kinship connections throughout Ontario. All of this work will be invaluable for future Métis rights claims. As well, in order to ensure all Métis citizens have access to this work, these reports have been posted to the MNO's website at [www.metisnation.org/registry/historicresources.aspx](http://www.metisnation.org/registry/historicresources.aspx).

# MNO - Ontario Assistant Deputy Minister Working Group

**B**ased on direction from repeated MNO AGAs and the MNO leadership's interventions, Ontario has agreed to engage in a time-limited, senior policy and legal Working Group that will attempt to develop common understanding of Métis rights-bearing communities in the province.

The high-level Working Group includes Assistant Deputy Ministers from the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Energy, the MNO Chief Operating Officer and Ontario and MNO legal counsel.

The results of these efforts will better inform Ontario's approach to Métis rights and policy development related to Métis communities, as well as Métis consultation and accommodation.



# MNO Intervention at the Supreme Court

**O**n December 13th, 2011, the MNO intervened in the historic Manitoba Métis land claim that was before the Supreme Court of Canada. Similar to *Powley* for the MNO, the Manitoba Métis Federation has funded this significant litigation for almost 30 years. The MNO was there to show its support for Métis rights, but we also intervened because there are significant legal principles at issue within this case that will impact the entire Métis Nation, which includes Ontario Métis.

In particular, the MNO intervened to raise issues around

the importance of the Crown keeping its promises to Métis. Similar to Manitoba Métis, promises were made to Ontario Métis that remain unfulfilled across the province. We hope the Supreme Court will signal that the honour of the Crown requires these promises must be fulfilled. Moreover, we anticipate that this case will provide direction to governments that reconciliation needs to move forward with the Métis - just as it has with First Nations and Inuit peoples. Ideally, the case will challenge the current exclusion of Métis from modern day land claims agreements and negotiation processes.

(Left to right) MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, Métis Lawyer Jason Madden, Métis Lawyer Jean Teillet, and MNO President Gary Lipinski at the Supreme Court for the historic Métis Land Claim Case on December 13.





## AN UPDATE ON MÉTIS RIGHTS

# REGISTRY CONSULTATIONS PROCESS

| 1. START PHASE I<br>Fall/ Winter 2010:  | 2. COMPLETE PHASE I<br>2011 Annual General Assembly:   | 3. START PHASE II<br>Fall/Winter 2011:  | 4. COMPLETE PHASE II<br>2012 Annual General Assembly:   |
|---|--|---|---|
| Province-Wide Community Consultations on Métis Registry and Identification Issues | Release <i>What We Heard</i> Report from Community Consultations with Identified Options for Future Discussion and Consideration | Province-Wide Community Consultations <i>What We Heard</i> Report on the Identified Options for Future Discussion and Consideration | Consideration and Adoption of Options from Consultations for Implementation in the MNO Registry |
| start   | 2011   | 2012  | completion  |



## Registry Consultations

Our MNO Registry is key to advancing our rights agenda. In *Powley*, the Supreme Court of Canada directed Métis governments to ensure their identification systems were objectively verifiable and credible in order to support Métis rights assertions. Specifically, the Supreme Court said,

“As Métis communities continue to organize themselves more formally to assert their constitutional rights, **it is imperative that membership requirements become more standardized** so that legitimate rights-holders can be identified. [emphasis added]”

MNO President Gary Lipinski speaking to MNO citizens at a 2012 Community Consultation on Métis Identification and Registration in Welland, on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The message from the court is clear: if you want to assert Métis rights you need to have a credible Registry. It is worthy to note that even before the Supreme Court gave these directions to us, successive MNO AGAs directed the MNO to strengthen the credibility and integrity of its Registry, and over the last decade we have done just that.

While these directions were provided by various MNO AGAs, the MNO never had the resources or opportunity to undertake province-wide consultations on these issues. So, based on the direction of the 2010 MNO AGA, a multi-year consultation process was developed and is currently ongoing. Phase II of the consultations are now underway and information about the consultations is available on the MNO website or through your Community Councils or PCMNO representatives. The MNO's leadership is encouraging all MNO citizens to attend these important sessions because our rights agenda goes hand-in-hand with a strong and credible Registry.



## Other Litigation

The MNO continues to watch a Métis harvesting rights “test case” in Alberta that deals with Métis mobility. The case, *R. v. Hirsekorn*, deals with whether Métis can move between settlements in the Métis Nation without losing their harvesting rights. This issue is of great importance to the MNO because, if Alberta Métis are ultimately successful, it could provide new law to enable the MNO to incorporate harvester mobility into its Harvesting Policy. It is very likely that this case will ultimately end up in the Supreme Court.

As well, the MNO continues to watch other litigation that is ongoing across Canada, including, consultation and accommodation cases as well as a Métis harvesting rights case that is proceeding in Quebec.

## Conclusion

As you can see, from these few examples, much is happening on our rights agenda. I encourage all citizens to attend our community consultation on Métis identification and registration where more information about Métis rights and all MNO activities will be made available for discussion.

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

Get the **latest** MNO News **faster!**  
subscribe to the MNO's electronic newsletter  
on our home page at: [metisnation.org](http://metisnation.org)



## HEALING & WELLNESS

# Connecting the generations

MNO Healing and Wellness Branch staff in Sudbury are as busy bees

By **Desneige Taylor**  
*Community Wellness Coordinator*  
SUDBURY

Staff members of the Métis Nation of Ontario Healing and Wellness Branch in Sudbury were busy bees before the holidays.

During the month of November a pink and purple cancer awareness party was held for women. Dale Xilon Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children (AHBHC) worker conducted car seat inspections for parents prior to the holidays to ensure everyone a safe and secure Christmas vacation. The AHBHC worker also partnered with Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre for a day of diabetes awareness with a Métis perspective; attended one of the local high schools to complete a Métis presentation to a cooking class and was able to share a traditional meal with the class.

In December, MNO staff conducted a “Connecting the Generations” workshop. This involved traditional meals, crafts, recipes, songs, and stories. We want to thank everyone who participated in this cultural exchange. One of the participants

expressed concern that there is no safe way to enter the Sudbury office. The only entrance involves a flight of stairs which may be problematic for our Elders, clients and citizens with walkers, wheel chairs, or other physical complications, when they want to join workshops and events held at the office. It was also mentioned that these same people cannot always attend council meetings because some locations only have stair access.

The Healing and Wellness Sudbury Branch would like to apologise to those who have been inconvenienced by this situation. We are sorry and do try our best to find suitable locations. Unfortunately, for financial reasons we cannot always accommodate this need, but wish we could.

In January we went to a local elementary school to share some Métis culture with the younger children and partnered with the local university to do a bit of snowshoeing.

We look forward to spending more time with our community and sharing the Métis culture. I hope everyone has had a safe and pleasant holiday and we wish you a happy New Year.



▲ Nancy Martel, Florence Lortie, and Melanie Pilon.



▲ Suzanne and Armond Trottier.



▲ Monique and Laurier Boulard.



▲ Randel Wilson.

## Healing Warriors

Métis woman helps soldiers and others cope with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

By **Lance Holdforth**  
*Story is re-printed with the generous consent of The Barrie Examiner*

A yoga program helping American soldiers cope with traumatic stress has come to Barrie, and it's the only one of its kind in Canada.

For 10 years, Nicole Taylor has seen the positive effects yoga has on the human body, and now, being the only “Yoga Warriors” instructor in the country, she's preparing to see how it affects the mind.

“People get prescribed all kinds of things,” Taylor said. “Pills don't solve everything.”

The program was initiated at the Worchester Vet Centre in Massachusetts and has helped thousands of soldiers get through post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) which sparked classes to spread to U.S. military bases, Taylor said.

“In the States, I could not believe the huge movement behind this; just about every (military) base has a Yoga Warriors class,” she said. “It's been a lot of work, but now it's starting to take flight.”

Taylor took up yoga to relieve the stress of her job as an operating nurse at the Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, and now teaches people how to do the same.

“The goal is not to bend yourself into a pretzel. It's more passive yoga

with stretching,” Taylor said. “We work a lot on the spine and just releasing tension from your hips, shoulders and the neck.”

Veterans from the Gulf War, Afghanistan and Vietnam have all taken part in classes and reported improvements in stress conditions and sleep deprivation, Taylor said.

When Taylor heard the program was helping soldiers, she went to the Boston-area vet centre where she was the only Canadian in the training class.

“I said that I was from Canada and they couldn't believe it,” she said.

“She (the trainer) said they would like me to come back in the winter time to train to be a trainer and to get it (the class) going right across Canada.”

Classes will be offered at Studio Bliss, 72 Dunlop St. E., starting Nov. 23 from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., and Taylor is opening the doors to anyone with severe job-related stress.

“It would be so great for first-responders like firefighters who go into burning buildings or police officers with trauma,” she said. “I've opened the Yoga Warriors program to soldiers, past and present, police, fire and EMS paramedics.”

Taylor lives at CFB Borden with her husband where she teaches yoga classes, but said the Warriors program differs by focusing on unique types of stress and healing.



▲ Nicole Taylor leads a class of first-responders and military personnel through a class of yoga at the Bliss Studio in downtown Barrie. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BARRIE EXAMINER.

“There's a whole science behind it. It is primarily for past and present serving vets,” she said. “Basically they're all high-stress areas. They're all dealing with a lot of the same issues.”

The program's goal is to relieve war-related stress, and developers of the class removed the term “surrender to the mat” because the word “surrender” may act as a trigger of PTSD.

“Even the lingo this program has

developed is amazing,” Taylor said. “It's also a lot of meditation components because these guys are usually very active.”

Although the class will offer three free sessions to start and it may not be as intense as other classes, Taylor said even those in good shape are surprised with the results.

“When I get soldiers in my class—and they're fit—they find they can let go, but see that yoga isn't that easy,” she said.

### Signs and Symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

- **Recurrent re-experiencing of the trauma** (for example, troublesome memories, flashbacks that are usually caused by reminders of the traumatic events, recurring nightmares about the trauma and/or dissociative reliving of the trauma)s
- **Avoidance** to the point of having a phobia of places, people and experiences that remind the sufferer of the trauma or a general numbing of emotional responsiveness
- **Chronic physical signs of hyperarousal**, including sleep problems, trouble concentrating, irritability, anger, poor concentration, blackouts or difficulty remembering things, increased tendency and reaction to being startled and hypervigilance (excessive watchfulness) to threat.



# Métis visit proposed waste site at Bruce nuclear

from page 10

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.”

Following the WWMF tour, MNO visited the proposed DGR site to see firsthand where the repository is proposed to be located on the nuclear site. Next, the group travelled to the DGR (Rock) Core Storage Facility to enjoy lunch with our hosts and to receive an overview presentation on the DGR Project, including a separate presentation put on by the project’s Senior Geoscientist, Jim McLay, who is also a Councillor on the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council.

We learned that the DGR facility would manage about 200,000 cubic meters of low and intermediate level waste. 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. The Bruce site is ideally suited for the DGR because of the natural attributes of the rock. A number of key elements provide confidence in the safety of the DGR. They include:

- The DGR is isolated from surface and drinking waters;
- Low permeability rock formations under and above the DGR provide multiple natural barriers to safely isolate and contain the waste;
- The 450 million-year-old rock formations have remained stable through tectonic events, climate changes and several ice ages, and are expected to remain stable for at least the next few million years;
- The DGR site is within the tectonically stable interior of the North American continent, which is a region characterized by low rates of seismicity;
- The radioactivity in the low and intermediate level waste will decay with time; most of the waste volume contains primarily shorter-lived radionuclides; and
- The properties of the host rock and shaft seals will limit the movement of radioactivity to very slow rates.

The presentation concluded with information on the DGR Environmental Assessment (EA) results and the DGR regulatory process’s next steps. The conclusion of the EA is that the DGR Project will likely not result in any significant adverse environmental effects. Detailed findings of the DGR EA are presented in the *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) and Technical Support Documents. These documents, along with the Preliminary Safety Report (PSR) were submitted by OPG to federal authorities in April 2011 and can be accessed at [www.opg.com/dgr](http://www.opg.com/dgr) or [www.nwmo.ca/dgr](http://www.nwmo.ca/dgr).

In terms of next steps, a three member Joint Review Panel (JRP) will be appointed to consider the environmental assessment and license application for site preparation and construction of the proposed project. Once the Joint Review Panel is appointed they are expected to shortly thereafter announce the start of a six month public review period, followed by a public hearing.

For further information, contact:  
**Melanie Hamilton**  
*Nuclear Waste Liaison, MNO Lands, Resources & Consultations*  
380 9th Street East  
Owen Sound, Ont. N4K 1P1  
Tel: 519-370-0435  
[MelanieH@metisnation.org](mailto:MelanieH@metisnation.org)



## Calling all Métis Students Métis Summer Cultural program opportunities

- ∞ Are you interested in Métis culture and history?
- ∞ Would you like to become more involved in community events and activities?
- ∞ Are you looking to gain valuable summer employment experience?

If so we encourage you to contact:  
Tammy Webb, *Manager of Labour Market*  
[tammyw@metisnation.org](mailto:tammyw@metisnation.org) or **1-800-263-4889**

Further details on the summer program will be posted at:  
[www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)

### POETRY from Our Readers

#### Our Métis Flag *Submitted by Senator Reta Gordon*

What does it mean to you?  
A fallen down figure eight?  
Is it a symbol of the road of life?  
Does it mean what goes around come around?  
Does it mean to the Aboriginal people “come back again”?  
Come back to your people  
Come back to your roots  
The background of the flag is blue like the heavens above  
Blue, like the rivers, lakes and oceans  
Definition of infinity “the state of being infinite”  
The infinity of the Creator  
That which is infinite equals endless, timeless  
Such as the infinity of space  
The infinity of the Creator of the universe; infinite unity  
Horizontal figure eight is the symbol of our flag;  
Hundred and fifty years older than the present flag of Canada

# Infinite ∞ Reach March Break Camp

Do you know a MÉTIS STUDENT in *grade 10 or 11* who would benefit from learning about all the opportunities in postsecondary education?

This 4 day retreat is designed to engage young Métis students interested in college or university. The Infinite Reach March Break Camp will take place **March 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2012** at Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay. Selected students will participate in an all-expense paid retreat that will focus on the benefits of college and university education. Students will also learn about Métis history and be involved in cultural activities throughout their stay.

For more information or to receive an application package e-mail:  
[bennym@metisnation.org](mailto:bennym@metisnation.org)



the Métis  
Nation of  
Ontario

Attention  
all Secondary  
School Teachers!

Embrace your culture  
jump start your future!



## EDUCATION

# MNO leadership key to Circle of Light conference

By **Dr. Chris Paci**  
MNO Manager of Education

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) worked with the Ontario Ministry of Education and the federal Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to plan the third *Circle of Light* Conference, November 13-16, 2011, in Toronto. The *Circle of Light* is important because it brings together a thousand delegates including educators, school board members, government officials and students to discuss and share Aboriginal education “best practices”. The MNO played a prominent leadership role in organizing this event and MNO presenters enjoyed a high profile during the conference.

The opening prayer was led by MNO Senator, Dr. Alis Kennedy, and MNO President, Gary Lipinski, provided the opening address. In his remarks, President Lipinski highlighted the successful partnerships the MNO has been building with school boards and with the

“  
**The growing interest in Métis education province-wide will be part of the on-going improvement in our Métis way of life.**  
”

Ministry of Education and how this work advances educational opportunities for Métis youth. MNO Senator, Reta Gordon, opened the second day of the conference in a very good way by reminding delegates of the importance of commemorating Louis Riel Day.

The MNO hosted three workshops run by MNO Director of Education and Training, Jennifer St. Germain and Postsecondary Education Analyst, Benny Michaud; Edu-

cation Officer, Chris McLeod; and Manager of New Projects, Scott Carpenter. In addition, Administrative Coordinator, Guylaine Morin-Cleroux staffed an information table and Senator Gordon and Métis youth, Mitch Case, presented on the Elders’ and Senators’ panel. The session was facilitated by MNO Manager of Education and Training, Dr. Chris Paci. Other Métis presenters included noted canoe builder, Marcel Labelle; a key note presentation by Métis author, Joseph Boyden; and, Jessica Contant (see below) and Jennifer Henry participated in a youth engagement panel.

The MNO has seen growing recognition and acceptance in Métis workshops for teachers at the *Circle of Light*. Participation of community members and staff is contributing to improved partnerships with school boards across Ontario. The growing interest in Métis education province-wide will be part of the on-going improvement in our Métis way of life.



▲ MNO President Gary Lipinski providing opening address at the Circle of Light Conference in Toronto.

WINNIPEG | MNO EDUCATION AND TRAINING

## MNO speakers present at National Aboriginal Conference

On December 1st-3rd, 2011, at the University of Manitoba, in Winnipeg, the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada’s (CMEC’s) Educators’ Forum on Aboriginal Education brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including educators, academics, government officials as well as representatives from Aboriginal governments and organizations, to discuss what works for Aboriginal learners in early childhood education and K-12 education.

Three Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) speakers, Dr. Chris Paci, MNO Manager of Education; Scott Carpenter, MNO Manager of Projects and Partnerships; and, Benny Michaud, MNO Postsecondary Officer/Analyst, presented on the Métis Education Kit as a MNO resource that engaged learners and improved classroom practice. They also spoke about transforming educational pathways; in this part of the presentation they described the success of the MNO’s Moccasin Camps and the strong relationships the MNO has forged with community councils, school boards, and the development of Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network.

The Métis Education Kits were a big hit and the MNO speakers raffled off kits to the participants



▲ MNO presents at Canada Educators’ Forum on Aboriginal Education in Winnipeg: (left to right) Scott Carpenter, Benny Michaud and Dr. Chris Paci.

“  
**We were very pleased to be invited and have the opportunity to share the MNO’s success with educators from across Canada.**  
”

and presented a kit to the Right Honourable Paul Martin, past Prime Minister of Canada, who was among the speakers at the conference.

“Being part of this forum demonstrates a high regard for the MNO’s education programs,” stated Dr. Paci. “We were very pleased to be invited and have the opportunity to share the MNO’s success with educators from across Canada.”

MÉTIS YOUTH | CIRCLE OF LIGHT CONFERENCE

## Métis Youth make voices heard at Aboriginal education conference

Jessica Contant, a grade 12 student at Cochrane High School, was one of two students chosen from the District School Board Ontario North East, to go to the Circle of Light Conference held in Toronto during November, 2011.

The conference was on education for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students. Jessica is seen below delivering her presentation, titled, “Who are the Métis?”

She also had the pleasure of meeting and being photographed with Susan Aglukark, one of the keynote speakers at the conference.

Jessica is the MNO Youth Representative for Region 3 and the granddaughter of a very proud Senator, Eugene Contant.



▲ Jessica Contant, a grade 12 student at Cochrane High School meets Susan Aglukark at the Circle of light conference.



▲ Jessica Contant delivering her presentation, titled, “Who are the Métis?” at the Circle of Light conference.



## MNO | EMPLOYMENT IN ENERGY PROGRAM



▲ Jasmine Juneau and Dawn Cadeau on a field trip to the Kortright Conservation Centre.

## MNO training program a high voltage success

By **Shawna Snache***Employment in Energy - South*  
and **Kirk Fournier**  
*Employment in Energy - North*

In our educational and career pursuits, success is at times difficult to define. Building on previous success of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) *Employment in Energy Program* has once again been instrumental in assisting participants embark upon their chosen careers in the energy sector.

With the addition of a second site running out of Northern College in Timmins, the *Employment in Energy Project (EEP)* has been able to establish new partnerships, expand on existing ones, and offer the program to Métis and other Aboriginal learners in two separate locations this past year.

Building upon the successful partnership established with Georgian College-Barrie Campus, the *EEP-South* was enhanced with the addition of a new course, “General Engineering”, to bring the Technology Foundations course load up to seven courses over the semester. Fifteen students, the majority of them Métis participants, began the program at Georgian in August, 2011. It is worth noting that more women have been showing interest in this program, and four Métis women had the distinction of completing the course last November and earning their Certificate of Achievement.

In addition to regular in-class training, the 2011 *EEP-S* class explored field trips including one to the Kortright Conservation Centre as well as hosting several guest speakers from both mainstream and the emerging green energy sector. Five members of the class even received sponsorship to attend the 23rd annual Association of Power Producers of Ontario (APPRO) Conference in Toronto where they met with industry and made contacts in the field. Two EEPs students were interviewed by the media and their interviews can be heard at [nationtalk.ca](http://nationtalk.ca).

Upon completion of the 16 weeks of study, the *EEP-South* was successful securing work placements for students with Ontario Power Generation, Valard Construction, Acute Electrical, The Great

Canadian Wiring Co Ltd., Georgian College-Midland Campus, and Tower Enterprises. Work placements are scheduled for up to 16 weeks. One particular student, Aaron Sallows, knew he wanted to work on power lines from the beginning of the program and now as a Valard employee is working with the fly crew recently featured on the *Rick Mercer Report*. Aaron is enjoying his dream job as a linesman and is a prime example of how this program has been successful changing the lives of participants.



▲ Aaron Sallows, at work on the tower lines.

The *EEP-North*, in partnership with Northern College-Porcupine Campus, in Timmins, recently wrapped up the academic component of the project. Twenty Métis and other Aboriginal participants engaged in 16 weeks of condensed learning. The project goal was to combine rigorous in class learning with hands-on energy and multi trade experience. Participants were also exposed to guest speakers from energy leaders like Hydro One and Union Gas. Field trips to view green energy components such as wind turbines and solar panels, gave students a view of this vastly growing entity in the energy sector. Most important, participants from both sites were able to attain transferable post-secondary credits that can be applied to future post-secondary opportunities.

The *EEP-North* proved very effective for two particular participants. Mathieu Leblanc had always had an interest in trades. He viewed the *Employment in Energy Project* as a

means to investigate that interest. Mathieu's interest in trades and the project convinced him to pursue a job within northern Ontario's strong mining community. As of December, 2011, Mathieu is gainfully employed with GoldCorp. Mines in Timmins. He states the interest gained through the project motivated him to this goal. He is also very proud of the post-secondary credits he attained while in the project.

Jeff Portelance came to the project very apprehensive as he had not been involved with education for many years. Through diligence, he endured through the project. Jeff's strength paid off as he sought work with Hydro One as a sub-contractor. Jeff now works in remote areas for Hydro One as a line cutter. He credits the confidence he gained while in the project with giving him the courage to pursue his employment goals.

On January 9, 2012, the *Employment in Energy-North* participants began their placement experience. We are proud to include Barrick Gold, Electrical Service Solutions – Timmins, D & H Electrical, Con's Electric, 5 Nations Energy, and Northern College Porcupine Campus, as project employers for this round. We know our participants will get a fulfilling and well-rounded experience with these energy sector employers.

In consultation with our partners the Métis Nation of Ontario *Employment in Energy Project* was developed, when the Métis Nation of Ontario became aware of an emerging need within the energy sector. As the population ages, the number of trained, skilled, workers is diminishing rapidly. Who will fill these positions as they vacate? The MNO's answer is “strong and capable Métis people”.

The EEP strives to support positive, lasting change for current as well as future participants of all the MNO *Employment in Energy* projects.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS |

## Family seeking service dog for autistic son

William Plummer is a ten year old Métis boy, who was diagnosed with autism in the spring of 2011. He was born with congenital nystagmus, a neurological condition of the visual motor cortex of the brain that causes involuntary eye movements, among other things. Over the next ten years William exhibited a variety of symptoms and was subjected to a battery of tests.

In effect, the congenital nystagmus was masking another problem and William was finally diagnosed—after ten years—as high functioning autistic. It answered a lot of questions for his parents. Autism is a socialization and communication disorder that affects 1 in 150 children and the number is rising at an alarming rate. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a life-long, neurological developmental disorder. It is extremely complex and can present itself in many different ways. The most common characteristics of autism are: significant delays; impairment to social development; delayed and or unusual communication; and, repetitive, ritualistic behaviour. No two children with autism are alike.

Now that the Plummers have a diagnosis they are better able to work with William. His speech is getting better and he goes to a mainstream school, with an educational assistant for support. He loves music and was even learning to play the fiddle until his instructor moved away.

William's parents' greatest fear is what they call his “staring spells”. They are a form of shutdown. He has fallen off his bike and gotten lost in the mall. In these situations he becomes catatonic and unresponsive to sight, touch or sound. He cannot even say his name. “We



▲ William Plummer and friend.

have learned that the best thing to bring him out of his shutdown is to gently touch his arm to let him know we are there and give him space and time to relax from the stress,” says his father.

The Plummers would like to get an autism service dog for William, but the cost of a specially trained dog is \$18,000. “The service dog would be able to give him the gentle nudge he needs to come out of his shutdown at school and calm him when he is stressed or anxious, as well as help guide him with his poor depth perception. The brain compensates for the vibration of his eyes but it takes him longer to process what he sees,” says Chris Plummer.

As for William, he says he would love to have a service dog; he would be able to go to the mall and feel safe. He could pick out his own clothes and go to the grocery store. He'd like to go to the book store or library so he could pick out his own book.

The Plummers are asking for help in raising the funds needed to bring a dog home for William.

A donation of any amount would be greatly appreciated.  
If you are able to help, you can donate by going to:

**[www.canadahelps.org/gp/13588](http://www.canadahelps.org/gp/13588)**

Tax receipts are issued from Canada Helps (**[www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)**)

For more information on autism service dogs visit this site.  
**[www.autismdogservices.ca](http://www.autismdogservices.ca)**

## MIDLAND | MÉTIS CULTURE AND CRAFTS



▲ Pamela Tremblay, artisanat-Métis-artisan and Noreen Kruzich, author, proudly learn the square-stitch basic beading style during a December beading class in Midland provided by the Métis Nation of Ontario.



COLLEGE BOREAL | MÉTIS IN THE CLASSROOM



▲ left to right: **Denis Hubert-Dutrisac, President of Collège Boréal; France Picotte, Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario and member of Collège Boréal’s Board of Directors; Marie-Claire Vignola, Elder on campus, citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario; Éric Dupuis, Coordinator of Aboriginal and Métis Projects, Collège Boréal.**

# Collège Boréal marks first anniversary of Centre Louis-Riel

On November 15, 2011, representatives of the Métis Nation of Ontario attended a celebration at Collège Boréal to recognize the first anniversary of its Centre Louis-Riel, located at the heart of the college’s main campus in Sudbury. This event was part of a week-long program which the college unveiled on the eve of the day commemorating the death of Louis Riel.

On this anniversary, Collège Boréal’s President, Denis Hubert-Dutrisac, emphasised the centre’s main accomplishments: “After just one year of activity, Centre Louis-Riel has met its challenge by offering our Aboriginal and Métis students a vast array of services and an environment that is sensitive to their cultural identity and conducive to their academic success. Collège Boréal’s significant participation in the Northern Aboriginal Festival,



the awarding of \$11,000 in bursaries and the construction of a traditional canoe are some of the highlights of a year that has been particularly rewarding for our Aboriginal and Métis students.”

France Picotte, Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario and member of Collège Boréal’s Board of Directors, recalled the context in which Centre Louis-Riel was created: “In August, 2009, the Métis Nation of Ontario and Collège Boréal signed their first memorandum of understanding with the aim to better serve the specific needs of the Métis people in Ontario. Two years later, I am pleased to see Col-

lège Boréal’s many accomplishments for the benefit of Métis students and the concrete impact they have for the recognition of our people.”

Éric Dupuis, Coordinator of Aboriginal and Métis Projects at Collège Boréal, discussed a new asset provided by Centre Louis-Riel. Since October 19, Marie-Claire Vignola, an Aboriginal Elder and a member of the Métis Nation of Ontario, welcomes Boréal’s students and personnel every Wednesday in individual and group meetings. She encourages and guides Aboriginal persons while sharing the unique cultures with visitors in an atmosphere of openness and mutual respect.

Collège Boréal has recently constructed a traditional Métis canoe. A story about the canoe was featured in a news story on TFO’s program “Relief”.

## So, You Think You Know Mining?

### :: Video Contest ::

You could win up to \$5000 by creating a video about the benefits of mining to society. You can work alone or get a group of friends together and work as a team. Your school can benefit as well. If you are declared the winner in the “Best Overall Video” category, your school will receive \$500 for video equipment. As of this year, schools that produce three or more eligible entries will be entered into a random draw for \$2,000. Teachers, here is your chance to expand your budget!

Entries close at midnight March 15, 2012

For all the details visit:  
[www.oma.on.ca/en/contestpages/index.asp](http://www.oma.on.ca/en/contestpages/index.asp)

MÉTIS YOUTH | CIRCLE OF LIGHT CONFERENCE

## Métis youth recognized by Minister of Education

Jessica Drouin-Contant from École Secondaire Cochrane High School has received recognition from Minister of Education, Laurel Broten.

Jessica addressed trustees and administration at the January 17th board meeting about her experience at the Circle of Light conference, held November 14-16 in Toronto. Circle of Light 2011 provided an opportunity for educators in both provincial and First Nation school systems to participate in joint professional development. Jessica’s presentation was about the Métis people.

Congratulations Jessica!



▲ **Jessica Contant.**

TORONTO | MNO EDUCATION AND TRAINING

# The newest member of Toronto’s Finest

By **Tamarra Shepherd** and **Kelly Honsberger**

Jon Burns, a self-identified Métis from Durham Region, describes his decision to become a frontline constable with the Toronto Police Service as “nothing short of a wake-up call”. Now one of the newest members of Toronto’s finest, Jon sees his new career as full of possibilities, but it wasn’t too long ago his future was more than uncertain.

A General Motors (GM) production technician for twelve years, Jon had begun to feel firsthand what the threat of an economic downturn would mean--consecutive layoffs

and then the ultimate shutdown of the GM plant when the company declared bankruptcy.

It was after the suggestion of a friend that Jon decided to enroll as an officer with the Toronto Police Service. His seven years experience as a volunteer firefighter gave him valuable insight as to what his new role might involve, but even when Jon was certain a change in careers was what he wanted, he knew there would still be many challenges to come. He explains: “Having been laid off, money was tight.” Jon applied for funding through the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Education and Training Branch and described what it felt like to learn

“This helped immensely, as I was able to focus on my training without having to worry about the financial burden that would be placed on my family.”

His application was accepted: “This helped immensely, as I was able to focus on my training without having to worry about the financial burden that would be placed on my family.”

After three months of training in Aylmer, Ontario, at the Ontario Police College, which included vigorous sessions of physical and pro-

cedural preparation, Jon was able to realize his goal of becoming an active member of the Toronto Police Force.

As hard as he worked, he credits much of his support to his family and especially his daughter who played a special role in his success. He explains: “particularly, having a daughter in high school [helped] me study, and provided me with the techniques to be a successful student.”

With this unwavering base of support and the financial assistance of MNO, Jon was able to change the course of his own life, his family’s and untold others he will affect in his new career.



▲ **Constable Jon Burns.**



## ARTS

# Rowin' Nolan

Métis children's author encourages teachers, parents and children to read out loud

By **Linda Lord**

**T**ina Nichol's new bilingual book for young children is now available. *Rowin' Nolan* was inspired by Tina's eldest son and is dedicated to him. His name just happens to be "Nolan". As he grew, she could not help but notice how much time he spent with books--looking at them and talking about them with other kids his age. Tina read to him every night until he could read for himself and wanted to create his own book. Together they created the story and the "wild wild song".

In this tale, Rowin' Nolan discovers that Mother Earth speaks to the right listener. The story aims to help children understand the order of life among all living creatures. It also has a strong message for everyone on how our presence can affect the environment around us.

Tina might have made a book with her son and left it at that, but she wanted to share her story with other children. She discovered that, "the biggest barrier to any project or initiative you're working on is money.... It takes many people to create one book. The designer, the editor, the writer, the illustrator, etc....It gets quite costly when you think about hiring all these people to help get your book to press." However, not everyone had to be paid. Claire Kearns, Cecile Wagar, and Louise and Gilles Poitier, retired teachers who volunteer with the Métis Nation of Ontario in their communities, helped out of pure Métis kindness. "The sisters guided



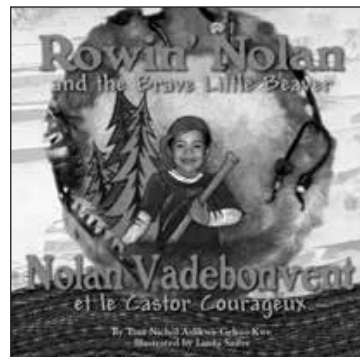
me through the translation of the book to French, and helped through the English text as well. They must be honoured," Tina said.

In order to secure funds to go ahead with the project, Tina applied to the Métis Nation of Ontario Training Initiatives self-employment program and was able to get approval to start her own business.

Another barrier Tina Nichol encountered was the need to manage her time. "Although you keep plugging away, your sense of commitment to the work can be hard to find....It was hard sometimes to pause in between work and the kids. There are so many steps to

properly developing a book and the author always has to multi-task to get to the final production of the book. This process can also take time, which delays the book from going to press."

The book is charming in two languages and the illustrations are part of that charm. Illustrator, Linda Roberts-Sailer lives off the grid on an abandoned silver mine. After years as a graphic artist in Montreal and Toronto, Linda left it all to pursue personal and spiritual health and eventually settled in the "Near North". The illustrations are simple enough to be recognized by young children yet so well executed that



**ROWIN' NOLAN AND THE BRAVE LITTLE BEAVER**  
**Nolan Vadebonvent et le Castor Courageux**

By Tina Nichol and Linda Sailer  
Baico Publishing  
2011

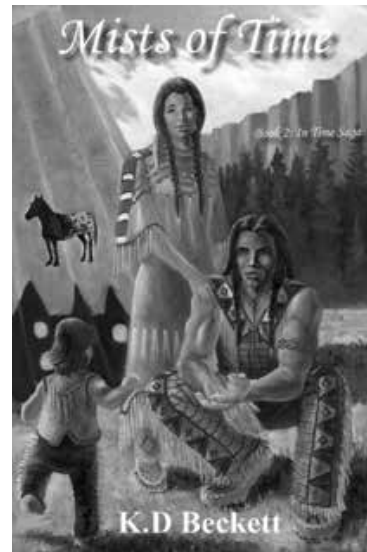
Rowin' Nolan is available at:  
[www.treebarkbooks.ca](http://www.treebarkbooks.ca)

▶ **Tina Nichol and the real-life "Rowin' Nolan", her son.**

the adult reader might like to just look at the pictures.

While planning for at least two more books, Tina spent an entire day at Ecole Publique Des Navigateurs in New Liskeard, Ontario, reading to grades 2 through 8. Her presentation included her book on the projector screen, Tina the storyteller, and the children in costumes playing the characters in the book.

"I enjoyed every minute of it," she said. "My goal is to encourage teachers, parents and the children to read out loud. Have fun with reading. It is the best skill to have out there...."



## Métis author launches second book of saga

Métis Publishing announces the launch of Métis author K.D. Beckett's second historical novel: ***Mists of Time*** (Book 2 of the "In Time" saga).

### Plot Synopsis:

A search for her missing grandfather in 2010 Ontario led Lee Ann Grayhawk, a Métis search and rescue expert, into 1793 Athabasca. When she married her handsome Scot-Blackfoot fur trader, Michael Lee Blackwell, she did not realize she was really uniting her life with Ómahkapi'si, a Siksika warrior and head chief of the Wolf tribe.

Although there is a side of her fierce husband she fears, she supports his alliances with prominent chiefs of the Káínaa, Pikáni, Sarsi and Siksika Nations, and the North West Company. While she abhors violence, Lee Ann understands that Michael, his blood brother, Chief White Eagle, and Métis fur trader, Julien Montour, must lead the war on the Coyote Nation and the Hudson's Bay Company in order to protect the Blackfoot's culture and freedom.

By agreeing to lead the Siksikáwa, her blood people, to a valley far into the Canadian Rockies, Lee Ann forsakes her own time and her own world. Her search for Ben Grayhawk is over, but her destiny as a medicine woman and wife of a powerful head chief is just beginning--deep in the *Mists of Time*.

**To order a copy:**  
[kdbeckett@live.ca](mailto:kdbeckett@live.ca)  
or [karoled@live.ca](mailto:karoled@live.ca)

Book 1: *Rainbows in Time*: \$20  
Book 2: *Mists of Time*: \$20  
Free delivery in Ottawa. Mail delivery outside Ottawa is \$6 per book or \$10 for both.

[www.RainbowsInTime.ca](http://www.RainbowsInTime.ca)

MÉTIS MUSICIAN | **SHY-ANNE HOVORKA**

## The gift of music

**S**hy-Anne Hovorka, a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen from northwestern Ontario, has come a long way from her childhood in foster care.

The winner of the *Female Entertainer of the Year* Award at the 2010 Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards (APCMA). She has released a video in honour of her late friend, Claudette Magne, who died of a sudden heart attack. Magne's lasting wish for Shy-Anne was that she use her talent to bring attention to the deadly problem of texting and driving. "One of the biggest killers for youth right now all over North America is texting and driving. She wanted me to write a song about that, so I did," said Hovorka.

Hovorka says that the City of Thunder Bay helped by sponsor-



ing the video for the song, bringing in real paramedics, and closing off a street to facilitate the filming. The result is realistic and powerful.

To add to the list of Shy-Anne's accomplishments, she was also selected by Lakehead University as one of the three most successful graduates in the last decade and is now part of their nationwide branding campaign for her musical and educational accomplishments.

Right now, Shy-Anne is more concerned about the youth in north-

ern communities. Her concern was sparked by a comment from a young Aboriginal child who said: "Did the people forget we are here? They help the kids in the other countries."

Using her gift of music to positively affect youth, Shy-Anne's tours now include a youth talent search. A winner from each community--someone that exhibits talent, stage presence and a positive message--is brought to Thunder Bay every fall. Here they perform and five are chosen to return once again. Shy-Anne then selects one of the five to come on tour as a paid artist for two weeks for the start of the next round of touring.

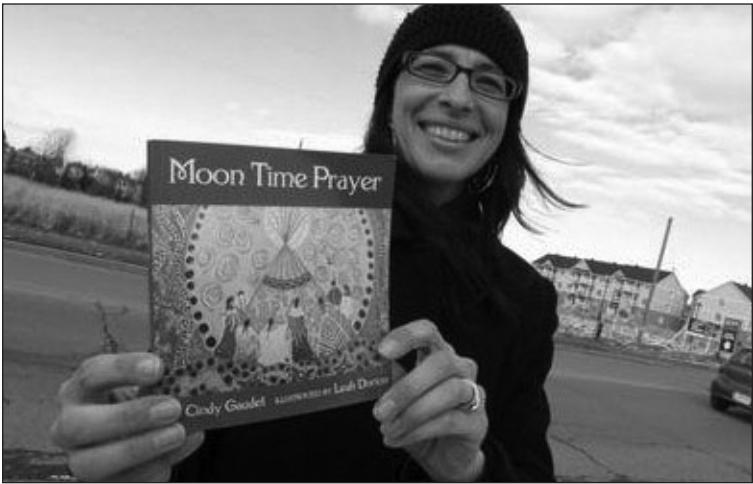
This young Métis musician is using her gifts and accomplishments to make the world a better place. Dreams can come true with a bit of work, determination, self-confidence and a healthy path in life.

Shy-Anne's music is available on iTunes.





MÉTIS WRITERS



▲ Writer Cindy Gaudet with her new book *Moon Time Prayer*.

# Small book with big teachings

**M**oon Time Prayer is the debut offering from Métis author Cindy Gaudet. True to her belief in the power of community and her commitment to building and sustaining sisterhood, *Moon Time Prayer* is a shining example of what women can create when they work together.

The book is beautifully illustrated by self-taught Métis artist Leah Dorion, and launched in December, 2011. The opening ceremony took place at the Great Canadian Theatre Company (corner Holland and Wellington), and included 16 local First Nations and Métis women artisans who shared a wide range of traditional and contemporary products.

The story itself chronicles the initiation of a young girl, Sparrow, into a young woman as she learns of the rich mythology and the history surrounding ‘moon time’. She is mentored by her grandmother and her auntie who teach her the importance of this transition in a girl’s life, and the power and responsibility that naturally come with this rite of pas-



sage. *Moon Time* shares spiritual teachings which consider the power of the moon, the earth, and their connection to women as sacred beings.

*Moon Time Prayer*, a small book with big teachings, is distributed by Moon Lodge Canada and retails for the introductory launch price of \$12. The CD, including the audio of the book, songs, women’s teachings by Grandmother Isabelle Meawasige and meditation is available for \$18.

For more information or to order your copy, visit [www.moonlodge.ca](http://www.moonlodge.ca). Books are also available at Mother Tongue Books in Ottawa and the CD is available on iTunes.

POETRY from Our Readers

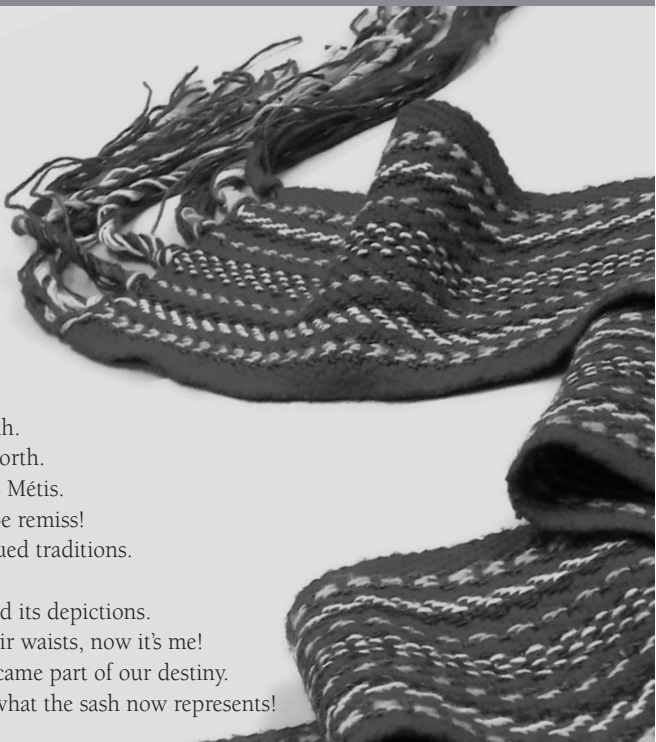
## My Métis Sash

By Raymond D. Tremblay

Magic seemed to surround my waistline.  
Yes, it filled my entire being with sunshine.

Memories of my vivid past slowly sprang forth.  
Eager to learn more, I visited my family up north.  
This is when I discovered that my family was Métis.  
Instantly, I longed to know more; if not, I’d be remiss!  
Setting my sights high, I learnt about my valued traditions.

Several times I heard about the Métis sash and its depictions.  
Ah, my ancestors proudly wore it around their waists, now it’s me!  
Symbol of our colourful Métis heritage, it became part of our destiny.  
Harmony, hope and connectedness – this is what the sash now represents!



Canadian Aboriginal Writing and Arts Challenge  
**For Aboriginal Canadians between the ages of 14 and 29 years old**

This is an opportunity to have your writing reviewed by the foremost Aboriginal storytellers. You could even win a cash prize and have your work published in a national magazine.

Artists are also eligible to win cash prizes, have their work reviewed by the foremost Aboriginal artists, and exhibit in a gallery!  
**The deadline is March 31, 2012.**

For more information visit:  
**[www.our-story.ca](http://www.our-story.ca)**  
**[challenge@historica-dominion.ca](mailto:challenge@historica-dominion.ca)**  
**416-506-0300**  
or **1-866-701-1867**

43 Front St. E. Suite 301  
Toronto, ON  
M5E 1B3

LETTERS from Voyageur Readers

## Victims of Sixties Scoop seek redress in the courts

from page 2

It does not matter what system we look at in society every one of them has a generation to it. Previous orphans hold a lot of history that could be shared to build public awareness and hopefully make change for the younger generation.

I, like many other adult orphans, have accepted the fact that the CAS system was our parents in a sense. We are not on a sympathy trip. We have long forgiven the wrongs of the past. However, since orphans share a common parent “the CAS” we must take these stands to protect aboriginal orphans and perhaps our voices could put the CAS system on to healthier paths so our aboriginal children are truly protected.

Many people talk about “Children’s Aid kids” in newspaper articles and in conversations. All my life I looked for a “CAS kid” and I have never seen one. I did

not grow up with “those animals” and I have no idea where the CAS housed them. I grew up as an orphan with many other orphans. An orphan is a child who has been or is being deprived of parental care for whatever reason and has not been adopted.

For an orphan who is removed from all family members and placed and moved to many homes in new locations to be raised it is like an emotional death of the orphan’s self. Many foster homes are first generation immigrants and have strong cultural beliefs from their own country. Therefore, orphans are forced to adapt to being Ukrainian, Italian, English, Dutch, and so forth. Religious beliefs are just as numerous. Only another orphan could understand the emotional upheaval, the grief, loneliness, insecurity, shame, isolation, guilt and the true loss of their own identity. Many orphans commit suicide. Pre-

scription medication many times is being blamed for the suicides.

I believe that we as citizens of the land should take stands for social injustices, especially when it involves the human rights of children, our future generations.

I cannot express the fact enough that our aboriginal voices are still not heard. Recently I tried to respond to an article printed in the Toronto Star that had to do with this class action suit but they would not print my response. The reason they gave was that my submission was not chosen for print.

I hold great respect for the aboriginal media, *Voyageur*, APTN, *Turtle Island News*, *Wawatay News* and so many others that print stories on behalf of aboriginal people. Our voices are still not heard in mainstream society. This is not our choice. We offer our stories but seldom are they chosen to be in print.

POETRY from Our Readers

## A poem for Sebastien

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



### A Miracle of Life

By Grandpapa Ho Ho Raymond D. Tremblay  
for Sébastien Daniel Thomas Tremblay born on October 19th, 2011

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

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

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



TENTATIVE POLL STATIONS MNO ELECTION 2012

March 1, 2012

REGION 1

FORT FRANCES POLL STATION

Sunset Country Métis Council  
426 Victoria Ave., **Fort Frances**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Black Hawk
  - Birchdale - Border
  - Barwick
  - Emo
  - Couchiching
  - Northwest Bay
- Government Landing
  - Vallee
  - Pinewood
  - Rainy River
  - Sleeman

DRYDEN POLL STATION

Northwest Métis Nation of Ontario Council  
34 B King Street, **Dryden**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Red Lake Road
  - Vermillion Bay
  - Minnitaki
  - Eagle Lake
  - Rugby
  - Oxdrift
- Borups Corners
  - Dymont
  - Dinorwic
  - Wabigoon

KENORA POLL STATION

Kenora Métis Community Council  
70 Park Street, **Kenora**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Malachi
  - Ingolf
  - Kejick
  - Clearwater Bay
  - Sioux Narrows
  - Keewatin
- Minaki
  - Redditt
  - Jones
  - Jaffray-Melick
  - Longbow Lake

REGION 2

THUNDER BAY POLL STATION

Thunder Bay Métis Council  
226 May Street South, **Thunder Bay**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Shabaqua Corners
  - Finmark
  - Lappe
  - Kakabeka Falls
  - Murillo
  - Stanley
  - Nolalu
  - Hymers
- South Gillies
  - Rosslyn Village
  - Cloud Bay
  - Neebing
  - Grand Portage - Border
  - Wild Goose
  - Shuniah

REGION 3

TIMMINS POLL STATION

Timmins Métis Council  
347 Spruce Street South, **Timmins** Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Timmins
  - Schumacher
  - Gold Centre
  - Dome
  - South Porcupine
  - Hoyle
  - Connaught
  - Barbers Bay
  - Shillington
- Porquis Junction
  - Nellie Lake - Border
  - Tunis - Border
  - Frederick-House
  - Porcupine

REGION 4

SAULT STE. MARIE POLL STATION

Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council  
26 Queen St. East, **Sault Ste. Marie**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Gros Cap
  - Pointe aux Pins
  - Kentvale
- Echo Bay
  - Garden River
  - Sault Ste-Marie

REGION 5

NORTH BAY POLL STATION

North Bay Métis Council, 101 Worthington St. East, Unit 243, **North Bay**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Temiscaming - Border
  - Thorne
  - Eldee
  - Tilden Lake
  - Crystal Lake
  - Sturgeon Falls
  - Garden Village
  - Callander
  - Nipissing
  - Restoule
  - Commanda
  - Trout Creek
- Powassan
  - Astorville
  - Corbeil
  - Nosbonsing
  - Bonfield
  - Rutherglen
  - Redbridge
  - Golden Valley - Border
  - Field - Border
  - Klosk - Border
  - Dokis - Border
  - South River - Border

SUDBURY POLL STATION

Sudbury Métis Council  
260 Alder Street - Upstairs, **Sudbury**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Cartier - Border
  - Lively
  - Bigwood - Border
  - Alban - Border
  - Noelville
  - Estaire
  - Mudrup
  - Sudbury
  - Hagar
  - Warren - Border
  - Markstay
  - Garson
- Wahnapiatae
  - Val Caron
  - Chelmsford
  - Capreol
  - Desaulniers - Border
  - Coniston
  - Copper Cliff
  - Hanmer
  - Val Therese

REGION 6

OTTAWA POLL STATION

500 Old St. Patrick St., Unit D  
**Ottawa**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Kanata
  - Stittsville
  - Richmond
  - Manotick Station
  - Metcalfe - Border
  - Greely
  - South Gloucester
  - Edwards
  - Blossom Park
  - Carlsbad Springs
  - Cassleman
  - Navan - Border
  - Blackburn
  - Orleans
  - Rockcliffe Park
  - Notre-Dame-des-Champs
- Crysler
  - Dunrobin
  - Embrun
  - Limoges
  - Nepean
  - Rockland
  - Russell
  - Vanier
  - Winchester
  - Ottawa

REGION 7

MIDLAND POLL STATION

Georgian Bay Métis Council, 355 Cranston Crescent (off of King Street), **Midland**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Sawlog Bay
  - South Bay
  - Honey Harbour
  - Cedar Point
  - Toanche
  - Port Severn
  - Thunder Beach
  - Penetanguishene
  - Paradise Point
  - Victoria Harbour
  - Waubauskene
  - Fesserton
  - Midland
  - Perkinsfield
  - Wyebridge
  - Coldwater
  - Vasey
  - Waverley
  - Moonstone
- Orr Lake
  - Elmvale
  - Hillsdale
  - Fergusonville - Border
  - Wahnekewaning Beach
  - Cawaja Beach
  - Balm Beach
  - Ossossane Beach
  - Wymbolwood Beach
  - Wendake Beach
  - Bluewater Beach
  - Deanlea Beach
  - Woodland Beach
  - Hillsdale
  - Port McNicoll
  - Tiny
  - Wyevale

OWEN SOUND POLL STATION

Grey Owen Sound Métis Council  
380 9th Street East, **Owen Sound**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Kemble
  - Clavering
  - East Linton
  - Hepworth
  - Shallow Lake
  - Balmy Beach
  - Leith
  - Annan
  - Park Head
  - Meaford
  - Springmount
  - Owen Sound
  - Woodford
  - Allenford
- Alvanley
  - Jackson
  - Kilsyth
  - Rockford
  - Bognor
  - Keady
  - Chatsworth
  - Walters Falls
  - Desbero
  - Williamsford - Border
  - Holland Centre - Border

REGION 8

Mail-Ballots for all of Region 8

REGION 9

WELLAND POLL STATION

Niagara Region Métis Council  
46 King St., **Welland**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Homer
  - Jordan Stn.
  - Jordan
  - Lincoln
  - St. Anns Bismark
  - Willanport
  - North Pelham
  - Fenwick
  - Ridgeville
  - Effingham
  - Fonthill
  - Pelham
  - Winger
  - Chambers Corners
  - Wainfleet
  - Ostryhon Corners
  - Lowbanks
  - Long Beach
  - Burnaby
  - Gasline
  - Sherkston
- Ridgeway
  - Dan City
  - Stevensville
  - Welland
  - Snyder
  - Port Robinson
  - South Allanbury
  - Thorold South
  - Chippawa
  - Allanburg
  - Niagara Falls
  - Thorold
  - St. Davids - Border
  - Crystal Beach
  - Fort Erie
  - Port Colborne

HAMILTON POLL STATION

Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council  
445 Concession Street, **Hamilton**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Louville
  - Kilbride
  - Strabane
  - Westover
  - Carlisle
  - Flamboro Centre
  - Millgrove
  - Clappison's Cors.
  - Greenville
  - Rockton
  - Troy
  - Peters Cors.
  - Lynden
  - Flamborough
  - Ancaster
  - Copetown
  - Jerseyville
  - Alberton
  - Duffs Cors.
  - Mount Hope
  - Onondaga
- Middleport
  - Caledonia
  - Binbrook
  - Carluke
  - Fulton - Border
  - Woodburn
  - Elfrida
  - Vinemount
  - Winona
  - Fruitland
  - Ancaster
  - Dundas
  - Aldershot
  - Waterdown
  - Burlington
  - Bronte - Border
  - Hamilton
  - Grimsby
  - Stoney Creek
  - Waterford

WINDSOR POLL STATION

Windsor/Essex Métis Council  
145-600 Tecumseh Rd East, **Windsor**, Ontario

MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.

- Tecumseh
  - St. Claire Beach
  - Puce
  - Emeryville
  - Windsor
  - Elmstead
  - LaSalle
  - Lakeshort
  - Oliver
  - Oldcastle
  - North Woodslee - Border
  - South Woodslee - Border
- Maidstone
  - Paquette Corners
  - Essex
  - McGregor
  - Gesto
  - Malden Centre
  - Amherstburg
  - Willow Beach - Border
  - Belle River - Border

NOTE

All Citizens residing in Communities not listed within the poll station boundaries will recieve a mail-in ballot. A final polling station list identifying the communities to recieve mail-in ballots will be posted on the MNO website on or before April 10th, 2012.

ALL MAIL IN BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE *CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER* AND POSTMARKED BY **MAY 7th, 2012.**



# Annual General Assembly 2012

A large group of people, mostly men, are seated in a long, narrow canoe on a body of water. They are all wearing dark, heavy clothing, possibly winter gear. Many are holding long wooden paddles, and some are actively rowing. The canoe has a decorative circular emblem on its bow. The background is a bright, hazy sky.

With commemorations of the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812, Sault Ste. Marie is certainly the place to be in the summer of 2012. However, it is weddings booked at every venue every weekend in August that has resulted in having to move the start of the AGA back one day resulting in a Sunday instead of the traditional Saturday start to the business meetings.

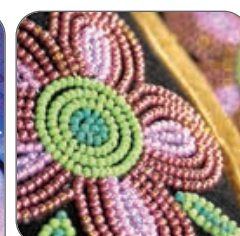
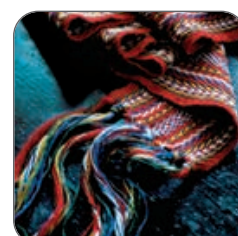
Pre-AGA workshops and meetings will take place Friday, August 24 and Saturday August 25, with the AGA starting on Sunday, August 26, continuing on Monday August 27 and wrapping up around lunch time on Tuesday, August 28.

We hope the seven month advance notice will allow sufficient time to adjust to these new dates which now make it possible to secure excellent facilities and accommodations for AGA events and delegates.

The main AGA venue will be the **Sault Ste. Marie Comfort Inn Suites and Conference Centre**, which is conveniently located near many area attractions including, Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site; Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site; the Agawa Canyon Tour Train depot; and, the Canadian Bush-plane Heritage Centre Museum. The MNO has obtained accommodations at that hotel and at the Garden River camp grounds for those who prefer to be closer to the land.

As always, the AGA will be a chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones while working on the business of the Métis Nation and celebrating Métis culture and heritage.

More information on the 2012 AGA will be announced in the next *Voyageur* and *eVoyageur* as well as on the MNO website, **[www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)**



the Métis  
Nation of  
Ontario

Lakehead  
UNIVERSITY



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ATTENTION ALL CITIZENS OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# ELECTION NOTICE 2012

**Hours of Polling:** 9:00 AM CST - 8:00 PM CST (Region One)  
9:00 AM EST - 8:00 PM EST (Regions Two - Nine)

**Advance Poll:** May 5, 2012  
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (in each relevant time zone)

**Polling Stations:** Tentative list from Chief Electoral Officer or at [www.metisnation.org/governance/2012-election.aspx](http://www.metisnation.org/governance/2012-election.aspx)

**Nominations Close:** April 15, 2012 5:00 PM ET

**DATE OF ELECTION:** MAY 7, 2012

**POSITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATIONS**

All candidates must submit a written acceptance of the Nomination and a statement that the candidate has read the MNO Electoral Code and MNO Bylaws and is eligible to be nominated as a candidate in the MNO election.



| POSITIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO (PCMNO)  |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>EXECUTIVE POSITIONS (PCMNO)</b>  |   | <b>OTHER PCMNO POSITIONS:</b>   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• President</li><li>• Chair</li><li>• Vice Chair</li><li>• Secretary -Treasurer</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>∞ Candidates require seven signatures by registered electors from five of the nine regions</li><li>∞ \$100.00 non-refundable deposit (Certified cheque or money order only. Make payable to The Métis Nation of Ontario)</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9 Regional Councillors</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>∞ Candidates require 21 signatures by registered electors from within their respective region</li><li>∞ \$100.00 non-refundable deposit (Certified cheque or money order only. Make payable to The Métis Nation of Ontario)</li></ul>   |
| <b>MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO VETERANS COUNCIL (MNOVC)</b>   |   | <b>Post-Secondary Representative (PCMNO)**</b>  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• President</li><li>• Senator</li><li>• Secretary</li><li>• Treasurer</li><li>• Woman's Representative</li><li>• Sergeant-at-Arms</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>∞ Candidates require four (4) signatures of electors who are veterans</li><li>∞ A signed Veteran's Affirmation (statement that the candidate is a veteran)</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>** Must include a statement that the candidate intends to be a student at a post-secondary institution in Ontario for at least 2/3 of the term of office.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>∞ Candidates require four signatures of registered electors who reside in each of the nine regions</li><li>∞ \$50.00 non-refundable deposit (Certified cheque or money order only. Make payable to The Métis Nation of Ontario)</li><li>∞ Any registered voter can nominate Post-Secondary Representative</li></ul> |
| <b>MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO YOUTH COUNCIL (MNOYC):</b>   |   | <b>Youth Representative (PCMNO) *</b>   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regional Youth Representative *</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>∞ Candidates must be 16 to 26 years of age on date of election</li><li>∞ Candidates require 4 signatures of registered electors who are over the age of 16 but under 29 years of age as of the date of the election. Signatures must be from electors who reside in the region from which the candidate is nominated.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Must include a statement that the candidate on the date of election will be between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty-six (26) years of age.</li></ul>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>∞ Candidates must be 16 to 26 years of age on date of election</li><li>∞ Candidates require 4 signatures of registered electors who are over the age of 16 but under 29 years of age as of the date of the election, in all nine regions.</li></ul>   |

**NOMINATIONS:**

Will be accepted by the Chief Electoral Officer up to end of the nominations closing date of April 15, 2012, either in person, by mail, email or facsimile. Deposits, where required, must be received by end of closing date. If nomination forms are submitted by facsimile or email, the original forms must be received by mail or in person before the posting of candidates April 22, 2012.

**NOMINATION FORMS:**

Made available through the MNO website @ [www.metisnation.org/governance/2012-election.aspx](http://www.metisnation.org/governance/2012-election.aspx) or by email from the Chief Electoral Officer.

**REMINDER:**

All MNO electors should ensure that the MNO Registry has their current addresses.

**POSTING OF CANDIDATES:**

April 22, 2012.

Upon completing a review of all filed nominations to ensure they meet the necessary requirements, the MNO Chief Electoral Officer will issue an **official candidates' listing**. The listing will also be posted on the website.

**PRELIMINARY ELECTORS' LISTS:**

April 1, 2012 - made available at all MNO Council Offices.

Upon provision of evidence satisfactory to the Chief Electoral Officer of legitimate errors and omissions, names can be added or deleted up to 14 days before the election.

**FINAL ELECTORS' LISTS:**

April 20, 2012 - posted in Council Offices.

**MNO ELECTORAL CODE:**

The procedures and rules governing these elections are contained in the Métis Nation of Ontario Electoral Code: Part A, and will be available through MNO Community Councils and on the MNO website



**For further information or for a copy of the MNO Electoral Code please contact:**

**Paul Devillers**, Chief Electoral Officer  
or  
**John Graham**, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer

**Métis Nation of Ontario**  
500 Old St. Patrick Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9G4

**Tel:** 613-798-1488 | **Toll Free:** 1- 800-263-4889 | **Fax:** 613-722-4225  
**e:** [mnoelection@metisnation.org](mailto:mnoelection@metisnation.org)

