



Remembering the Past

Stained glass window designed by Métis artist Christi Belcourt unveiled on Parliament Hill. **See Page 12**



ISSUE NO. 74, **WINTER 2013**

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

■ NATION

A Victory in the Struggle for Métis Rights

(OTTAWA) On January 8, 2013, the Federal Court Trial Division released its long anticipated judgment in *Daniels v. Canada*, a case originally brought forward in 1999 by Métis leader Harry Daniels. The judgement was largely favourable to the Métis and acknowledged that Métis people fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

In the ruling, Judge Phelan declared that the Federal Government has jurisdiction for Métis under s. 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*. That head of power states that the Federal Government has exclusive legislative authority with respect to “Indians, and Lands reserved for the Indians.” This case effectively finds that Métis are “Indians” within the meaning of s. 91(24). The case also determined that non-status Indians are “Indians”

“[The Federal Court] judgement is part of what Métis people have been fighting for since Louis Riel.”

— MNO President Gary Lipinski

within the meaning of s. 91(24).

Unfortunately, on February 6, 2013, Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan announced that the Federal Government would appeal the judgement to the Federal Court of Appeal, which means the case, which has already dragged on for 13 years, is still not resolved.

continued on page 2

What does *Daniels v. Canada* actually mean?

The most common questions that are being asked about *Daniels v. Canada* are answered on **page 3**

(above)

Daniels v. Canada was initially brought by **Harry Daniels** (1940-2004) a charismatic and accomplished Métis leader. **More about Harry Daniels on page 3.**



CAREERS IN MINING

Métis Mining Strategy open for business & students

Page 11



COUNCILS

Local events and training strengthen Métis Nation of Ontario communities

Page 13



PREMIER WYNNE

President Lipinski congratulates Kathleen Wynne

Page 8



PLANTING THE FUTURE

MNO Citizens help restore Glenorchy Conservation Area

Page 15



THE
MÉTIS
VOYAGEUR

WINTER 2013, No. 74

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CORRECTIONS:

On **page 14** of the previous issue of the *Métis Voyageur* (No. 73, Midwinter 2012) in the bottom left corner, the picture identifies Louis Riel Day events as taking place in Guelph and as being organized by the MNO Grand River Métis Council. Please note this was an error. The events happened in Brampton and were organized by the MNO Credit River Métis Council.

On **page 2** of the same edition, the story entitled "A Great Métis gathering" by Ken Simard should have appeared as a "Captain's Corner" Column.

We apologize for these errors.

FAMILY

■ NEW ARRIVAL

**Welcome
Sophie**

Carol Lévis is thrilled to welcome the arrival of an adorable brand new Métis, born on January 3, 2013, in Timmins, weighing in at 7 pounds 5.5 ounces. She is **Sophie Marie Grandmont**, daughter of MNO citizen Daina Giesler and Matthew Grandmont. Sophie is the first grandchild for MNO citizens Linda and Gary Giesler and first great-grandchild for former Senator of the MNO Grand River Métis Council, Janette Levis, and Marcel Levis and grand-niece to Carol Lévis, current MNO Grand River Métis Council Senator. Carol said: "While I am aware there is no such word as 'grand-niece', I am staking claim to it as this is the closest I will get to being a grandparent."

■ Letter to the Editor

Knitting for community

Collette Martel generously donates hand-knit scarves, socks and other garments to MNO Clients in Sudbury

This letter has been edited due to length. All opinions expressed are those of the writer.

Dear *Métis Voyageur*,

As the MNO Community Support Service Coordinator of the Long Term Care program in the Sudbury office, I would like to personally express a heart-warming thank-you to one special person. This person is my Aunt, Collette Martel.

Since 2007, in the summers, my aunt has knitted many hats, scarves, socks and mittens and when fall rolls around, she will stop by the office with her beautiful supply of hand knitted garments. These beautiful items are donated to the MNO's programs for any clients that could use a nice pair of socks or a nice scarf to wrap themselves in with mittens to match.

Any garments left over are usually brought to MNO events in Sudbury and a sign is posted acknowledging the items were hand knitted, who



Collette Martel with some of the hand knitted scarves and other garments she generously donates to the community.

donated them and that the donations are greatly appreciated. The sign usually states: "It's free, help yourself" and so it does not take long for all the knitted garments to be claimed either by citizens or clients.

Thank-you Auntie Collette! Your hand knitted garments are lovely and you bring so much joy to those

who pick something out for themselves.

Sincerely,

Nancy Martel

MNO Community Support Service
Coordinator - Sudbury

■ Letter to the Editor

Rendezvous dream comes true

This letter has been edited due to length. All opinions expressed are those of the writer.

To All of Our Family, Friends and Honoured Guests: "Chi-Miigwech" and "thank you very much" are not enough for the Clarke family when they reflect upon their Rendezvous, and all the hard work and effort that went into it.

Tobias Clarke recalls: "When my family and I spoke around our kitchen table over a year ago about having a 'Métis Rendezvous' in Port Dover it seemed to be only a dream, but...for us, our dream came true...."

The attendance of MNO President Gary Lipinski and other Métis Nation of Ontario representatives provided support and guidance. Among these special people were Jo Anne Young, President of the MNO Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council, a role model for us all; Richard Cuddy, President of the MNO Credit River Métis Council, and his family; Lisa Scott and Simon Bain, MNO Community Healing and Wellness Coordinators.

The Clarke's met Sharon McBride, MNO Vice-chair, at a moccasin camp in Kitchener-Waterloo and were immediately drawn to her. Sharon helped to make the vision of a Rendezvous a reality.

Hank and Scott Rowlinson went



Members of the Clarke family at the Port Dover Rendezvous.

far beyond facilitating Métis games; they brought laughter and fun to all 236 participants and those who cheered them on. The games represent a unique part of Métis heritage and involved young and old alike—and then there was the Red River Cart.

The crew of the trappers' encampment--Barbaranne, Fritz, Derrick and Garth--brought the past to life with all their treasures. The Fleury families were singled out for their hard work and dedication, as were Doris and Kathleen Lannigan who shared their knowledge, language,

and memorabilia--pieces of our culture. Thanks to the MNO Hamilton/Wentworth Métis Council and the vendors--some of whom travelled from as far away as Moosonee, Cochrane and New Liskeard.

Entertainment was provided by Rebecca Cuddy; Keith Underhill & Gang; Jay Collins; Michael and Katherine Kuchs; and, Jay Bailey on the spoons; thank you a thousand times.

Ian Angus, a Delaware storyteller brought his talent to the gathering. The Trailblazer Drummers gave people a reason to dance upon mother

earth and hearts to beat as one.

Jordan Clarke and Jenny Cain operated the sound system. If not for them many voices would not have been heard and enjoyed. The Port Dover Lions Club graciously opened Silver Lake Park for the Rendezvous. Murray De Koning of Hank De Koning Ltd., prepared the feast--some of the best food ever eaten.

This culture-sharing event, which was intended to inspire youth, inspired everyone. Thanks again, to all of you from all of us.

— Tobias Clarke

NATION

■ IN THE COURTS

Daniels v. Canada

What does it mean to the Métis?

Métis government offices across Canada, including Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) offices have been inundated with calls about *Daniels v. Canada* from citizens and from individuals interesting in applying for citizenship. MNO staff members have answered hundreds of calls and the number of visitors to the MNO website increased by 250% immediately after the Court ruling. To answer questions about the case, Métis Lawyers Jean Teillet and Jason Madden prepared a Plainspeak document summarizing the decision and explaining its significance. The *Métis Voyageur* is pleased to provide its readers with the full text of this document.

■ WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE DANIELS CASE?

The case was initiated in 1999 by well-known Métis leader – Harry Daniels – when he was President of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (“CAP”). Harry is credited with being instrumental in ensuring the Métis were included in s.35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. CAP claims to represent Métis, non-status Indian peoples and status Indians living off-reserve throughout Canada. Harry, CAP and Leah Gardner (a non-status Indian woman from northwestern Ontario) initiated the case (the “Plaintiffs”). In 2005, after Harry’s death in 2004, Gabriel Daniels (Harry’s son) was added as a plaintiff to ensure a Métis representative plaintiff was maintained in the litigation. At the same time, another non-status Indian, Terry Joudrey, a Micmaq from Nova Scotia, was added to the litigation. At trial, the Plaintiffs were Daniels, Gardner, Joudrey and CAP.

The case was against the federal government as represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (now known as the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada) and the Attorney General of Canada (the “Defendants”).

The case was heard and decided by Justice Phelan (the “Trial Judge”) of the Federal Court of Canada (the “Court”).

■ WHAT WAS THE COURT ASKED TO DO?

The Plaintiffs asked the Court to grant them three declarations:

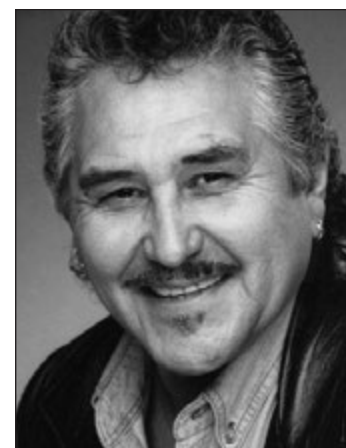
(a) that Métis and non-status Indians are “Indians” within the meaning of the expression “Indians and lands reserved for Indians” in s. 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*;

(b) that the Queen (in right of Canada) owes a fiduciary duty to Métis and non-status Indians as Aboriginal people; and

(c) that the Métis and non-status Indian peoples of Canada have the right to be consulted and negotiated with, in good faith, by the federal government on a collective basis through representatives of their choice, respecting all their rights, interests and needs as Aboriginal peoples.

Litigants ask courts to make a “declaration” to get an answer to a legal question. A declaration is different from an “order.” A court order forces a party to the litigation to do something – pay compensation, etc. A declaration is a remedy that is often sought in Aboriginal rights cases

continued on page 4



Harry Daniels (1950-2004)
PHOTO COURTESY OF
Alex Wightman-Daniels

HARRY DANIELS: A Great Métis Leader

Daniels v. Canada was a court case brought by Harry Daniels (1940-2004) who was one of the most charismatic and accomplished Métis leaders in recent history. In his lifetime he was a social activist, author and actor.

Daniels held a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Saskatchewan, a graduate degree from Carleton University in Ottawa and a Honorary doctorate from the University of Ottawa. Born in Saskatchewan, Daniels played leadership roles among Métis there for many years and also served in several leadership capacities for Métis in Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

Daniels served as President of the Native Council of Canada (NAC) from 1976 to 1981. The NAC represented the interests of Métis and Non-status Indians prior to the creation of the Métis National Council (MNC) in 1983 and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in 1993. In that capacity he asserted Métis rights during the constitution talks of the 1970s. Harry Daniels is widely credited with being primarily responsible for the inclusion of the Métis under Section 35 of *The Constitution Act, 1982*. Aside from Louis Riel, who negotiated Manitoba’s entry into Confederation, Harry Daniels is the only other person to negotiate the inclusion of Métis into the Constitution.

Daniels’ son, Alex Wightman-Daniels was recently asked what his father would have thought about the Federal Court ruling in *Daniels v. Canada*. He stated: “I couldn’t imagine what he would say. He would be jiggling for two weeks straight until he fell down.”

References:

Cheryl Troupe, “Daniels, Harry W.” *The Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* (<http://esask.urgeina.ca>)

Karin Yeske, “Harry Daniels’ legacy unfolds with Indian status court decision,” *News Talk 650 CKOM* (www.newstalk650.com)

■ FRONT PAGE

A Victory in the Struggle for Métis Rights

continued from page 1

“It is disappointing the Government has decided to go the way of an appeal,” stated Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski, “but in no way does that diminish the recognition we received from the Federal Court. Their judgement is part of what Métis people have been fighting for since Louis Riel. By acknowledging that the Federal Government is indeed responsible for the Métis, the Federal Court took us much closer to finding our rightful place within the Canadian Federation.”

For its part, Aboriginal Affairs

Minister Duncan explained the Federal Government’s decision appeal the Federal Court ruling by stating: “Given that the Federal Court decision raises complex legal issues, it is prudent for Canada to obtain a decision from a higher court. After careful consideration of the decision, Canada has filed an appeal, and it would be inappropriate to comment further as the case is before the courts.” He also stated that the services provided to Aboriginal peoples by the Federal Government have to be affordable.

“It is frustrating,” stated President Lipinski, “that the Federal Government continues to work so

“While we still have a long road ahead of us the Federal Court decision was still a victory and put us another step closer towards the full recognition of Métis rights.”

— MNO President Gary Lipinski

hard to deny its responsibilities by not acknowledging its jurisdiction for the Métis. Our progress in areas such as education and health are not being properly supported and no mechanism is in place to deal with Métis land claims and other historic grievances. We would have preferred if the Federal Government had started consultations and negotiations with Métis governments

because much more could have been accomplished working together than continuing to fight these issues in court.”

“While we still have a long road ahead of us,” concluded President Lipinski, “the Federal Court decision was still a victory and put us another step closer towards the full recognition of Métis rights.”

“AFTER 12 YEARS OF PROCEDURAL WRANGLING AND PREPARATION, THE TRIAL FINALLY BEGAN IN MAY 2011.

THE COURT HEARD EVIDENCE AND ARGUMENT FOR 31 DAYS, SPANNING 6 WEEKS. IN TOTAL, THE COURT HEARD FROM 5 EXPERTS AND 5 OTHER WITNESSES. THE EVIDENTIARY RECORD INCLUDED 800 EXHIBITS EXTRACTED FROM OVER 15,000 DOCUMENTS. THE TRIAL ENDED JUNE 30, 2011. THE TRIAL JUDGE RELEASED HIS DECISION A YEAR AND A HALF LATER ON JANUARY 8, 2013.

continued from page 3

in order to settle a disputed legal issue in the hope that it will answer a legal question and facilitate future negotiations, accommodations or settlements between the government and an Aboriginal community or people.

Ultimately, the Trial Judge only granted the first declaration the Plaintiffs requested, and most of the judgment is focused on this issue. Judge Phelan declined to determine whether Canada owes a fiduciary duty to Métis and non-status Indians or to make any declaration with respect to consultation and negotiation. In declining to issue declarations on these other two issues, he held that this was “without prejudice” to (i.e., does not effect, pre-determine or preclude) Métis and non-status Indians raising these claims in other cases.

■ THE TRIAL

After 12 years of procedural wrangling and preparation, the trial finally began in May 2011. The Court heard evidence and argument for 31 days, spanning 6 weeks. In total, the Court heard from 5 experts and 5 other witnesses. The evidentiary record included 800 exhibits extracted from over 15,000 documents. The trial ended June 30, 2011. The Trial Judge released his decision a year and a half later on January 8, 2013. Over the course of the litigation, the Plaintiffs spent well over \$2,000,000.00. It is not known how much the Defendants spent.

■ THE DANIELS CASE IN A “NUTSHELL”

The Daniels case was about whether Métis and non-status Indians are included in federal jurisdiction under s. 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*.

What is section 91(24) all about?

In 1867, Canada was formed by an Act of the British legislature known as the *British North America Act, 1867*. We now call this the *Constitution Act, 1867*. This Act sets out two

lists that describe which level of government – federal or provincial – is responsible for various matters. These two lists set out what we usually call the “division of powers” between these levels of government.

The list in s.91 describes matters in the “exclusive Legislative Authority” or jurisdiction of the federal government, while the list in s.92 sets out those that are in the “exclusive Legislative Authority” or jurisdiction of the provincial governments. The word “jurisdiction” comes from two Latin words: *juris* meaning “law” and *dicere* meaning “to speak.” So, jurisdiction is the authority or responsibility granted to a legally constituted body to deal with specific matters. The specific matters listed in ss.91 and 92 are often referred to as “heads of power.”

It is important to emphasize that ‘jurisdiction’ does not mean the federal government has control or power over the Métis people. It simply means that the federal government has the authority to legislate on Métis issues. For example, the federal government could enact a Canada-Métis Nation Relations Act, which recognized existing Métis governance structures, provided funding to Métis governments, recognized Métis rights, etc. This type of legislation would not be like the Indian Act where the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs still maintains a significant amount of control over Band Councils and reserves.

In order to answer “jurisdictional” questions, the Supreme Court of Canada has developed a series of approaches and principles that the Trial Judge in Daniels relied on. Generally, Canadian courts use a “living tree” analysis in interpreting Canada’s Constitution. This means that our Constitution is not frozen in time. Instead, the Constitution is to be interpreted in a “purposive and progressive manner” that respects our constitutional roots as a country, while also recognizing that our Constitution needs to grow and adapt in order to keep up with the times and address new issues that were not thought of in 1867.

In trying to understand the division of powers between the federal and provincial governments, one cannot rely only on the written text of the *Constitution Act, 1867*. The written text is just the beginning of the inquiry because there are many matters that are simply not mentioned in the listed “heads of power.” The environment and health care are good examples of important issues that are not specifically listed in the heads of powers set out in the *Constitution Act, 1867*.

A review of the case law is necessary to determine the scope of each listed power. For

example, case law has determined that labour relations are a provincial matter coming under the head of power that refers to “property and civil rights.” In another example, even though the *Constitution Act, 1867* does not mention communications (i.e., radio, television, the internet, etc.) the courts have held that it comes within federal jurisdiction under transportation, or interprovincial or international undertakings. The interpretation of s.91 and s.92 by the court is ongoing. The Daniels case is another in a long line of cases that have sought to interpret these heads of power.

By and large, the federal list of enumerated powers in s.91 is concerned with national matters while the provincial list in s.92 is concerned with local matters. Provincial heads of power include: direct taxation within the province, management and sale of public lands, incorporation of companies, property and civil rights, administration of justice and all matters of a merely local or private nature in the province. Federal heads of power include: unemployment insurance, postal service, the census, the military, navigation and shipping, sea coast and inland fisheries, banking, weights and measures, patents, marriage and divorce, and in the 24th head of federal power, reads,

s.91 It is hereby declared that...the exclusive Legislative Authority of the Parliament of Canada extends to all Matters coming within the Classes of Subjects next hereinafter enumerated; that is to say,... (24) Indians, and Lands reserved for the Indians.

At its core, the Daniels case was about settling the ongoing dispute about who has legislative jurisdiction for Métis and non-status Indians – the federal government or the provinces. Métis and non-status Indians have long taken the position that they are included within s. 91(24). The federal government has always understood that

“Indians” registered under the Indian Act are in s. 91(24), but has denied responsibility for individuals who are members of Indian communities who are not “status Indians.” A previous reference case to the Supreme Court of Canada in 1939 determined that the Inuit (then referred to as “Eskimos”) were within s. 91(24), even though Inuit are culturally distinct from Indians and not under the Indian Act. In addition to denying its jurisdiction with respect to non-status Indians, the federal government long denied jurisdiction for the Métis. Now, we have a clear answer: Métis and non-status Indians are included in s. 91(24).

Why does this jurisdiction issue matter?

This denial of jurisdiction by the federal government and the provinces has made Métis and non-status Indians the proverbial “political footballs” in the Canadian federation.¹

The practical result of this jurisdictional avoidance was to leave Métis and non-status Indians vulnerable and marginalized. They have not had access to federal programs and services available to “status” Indians or Inuit. They have been denied access to federal processes to address their rights and claims, which are available to First Nations and Inuit. The federal government’s own internal documents, which were evidence in the case, concluded that “in absence of Federal initiative in this field they are the most disadvantaged of all Canada citizens.”²

Ultimately, the Court concluded that this situation “has produced a large population of collaterally damaged people...” because “[t]hey are deprived of programs, services and intangible benefits recognized by all governments as needed. The [Métis and Non-Status Indian] proponents claim that their identity and sense of belonging to their communities is pressured; that they suffer underdevelopment as peoples; that they cannot reach their

About this document:

This document has been prepared by Jean Teillet and Jason Madden for the Métis National Council (“MNC”) in order to assist the Métis Nation in better understanding the Federal Court of Canada’s decision in *Daniels et al. v. Canada*, [2013] FC 6 (“Daniels”). This document is not legal advice and it should not be relied upon as such. Also, the opinions expressed within it are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the MNC. A copy of the full decision is available at: <http://cas-ncr-nter03.cas-satj.gc.ca/rss/T-2172-99 reasons jan-8-2013 ENG.pdf>

“WHILE THE *DANIELS* CASE DOES NOT MEAN THAT ALL ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES NEED TO BE TREATED IN AN IDENTICAL WAY, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN NO LONGER JUSTIFY “SITTING ON ITS HANDS” — FOR LACK OF JURISDICTION — WHEN THE NEEDS, RIGHTS AND CLAIMS OF MÉTIS AND NON-STATUS INDIANS REQUIRE ATTENTION OR ACTION.”

full potential in Canadian society.”³

How did the Court determine Métis and Non-Status Indians were in s. 91(24)?

In order to determine whether Métis and Non-Status Indian were in s. 91(24), the Trial Judge reviewed evidence spanning close to 200 years of British and Canadian history. He then applied the legal interpretation approaches for jurisdictional questions to that evidence in order to conclude that Métis and non-status Indians are within this head of power.

In reviewing the historic record prior to 1867 as well as after, the Trial Judge determined that in order to achieve the objects of Confederation (i.e., creating a country from coast to coast, settling the Northwest, building a national railway to the Pacific coast, etc.), the federal government needed the “Indian” head of power” in s.91(24) to be broad in order to deal with the different Aboriginal peoples it encountered along the way.

The evidence showed that the federal government used this power in many ways, including, allowing Halfbreeds and mixed ancestry individuals into Indian treaties at various times or establishing the Métis scrip system in the Northwest to deal with the “Indian title” of the Métis. The Trial Judge concluded that these federal actions, amongst others, showed s. 91(24) was broad enough to include Métis and non-status Indians.

The Court also noted that, historically, wherever non-status Indians and Métis were discriminated against or subjected to

different treatment than non-Aboriginal peoples by the federal government (i.e., residential schools, liquor laws, etc.), it was because non-status Indians and Métis were considered to be of “Indian heredity” and could be dealt with under the “Indian” head of power.

The Court also decided that the single most distinguishing feature of either non-status Indians or Métis is that of “Indianness” -- not language, religion, or connection to European heritage, which brought them within s. 91(24).⁴

Importantly, the Court also held that the term “Indian” in s.91(24) is broader than the term “Indian” in the *Indian Act*.⁵ Canada argued that it could define who is within s. 91(24) by legislation. The Court rejected this. It is a settled constitutional principle that no level of government can expand (or contract) its jurisdiction by actions or legislation. While Canada may be able to limit the number of Indians it recognizes under the *Indian Act*, that cannot have an effect on the determination of who is within s. 91(24).

What is the result of the Daniels case?

The result of the Daniels decision is that all Aboriginal peoples in Canada, including Métis and non-status Indians, are included in federal jurisdiction under s.91(24). This is a significant victory for Métis and non-status Indians that should ultimately result in positive and tangible results for both groups.

For the Métis, it

removes one of the major barriers that the federal government has used to avoid meaningfully dealing with their distinct issues, rights and socio-economic needs. For non-status Indians, it eliminates the federal government’s excuse that it only has jurisdiction for “status Indians” living on reserves. Further, the federal government can no longer use the “lack of jurisdiction” to deny Métis and non-status Indians access to programs and services made available to status Indians and Inuit.⁶

While the Court was unequivocal in its declaration that Métis and non-status Indians are within s. 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, it did not provide direction to the federal government about what it needs to do in light of this new legal determination. It should, however, be clear to the federal government that the status quo is unacceptable and current policies and approaches to Métis and non-status Indians will need to be reviewed and potentially modified in light of the Daniels case. The Court set out its expectation that “the resolution of the constitutional issue will facilitate resolution on other matters.”⁷ This hopefully sets the stage for future discussions and negotiations.

If the federal government takes the position its jurisdiction for these groups does not require it to exercise that authority in any way, it is very likely that additional litigation will follow. We are of the opinion that an interpretation that the federal government does not need to do anything differently after the Daniels case is unsupportable in the face of s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and other constitutional duties owing to Aborigi-

nal peoples.

While the Daniels case does not mean that all Aboriginal people and communities need to be treated in an identical way, the federal government can no longer justify “sitting on its hands” – for lack of jurisdiction – when the needs, rights and claims of Métis and non-status Indians require attention or action.

Are there any problems with the Daniels case?

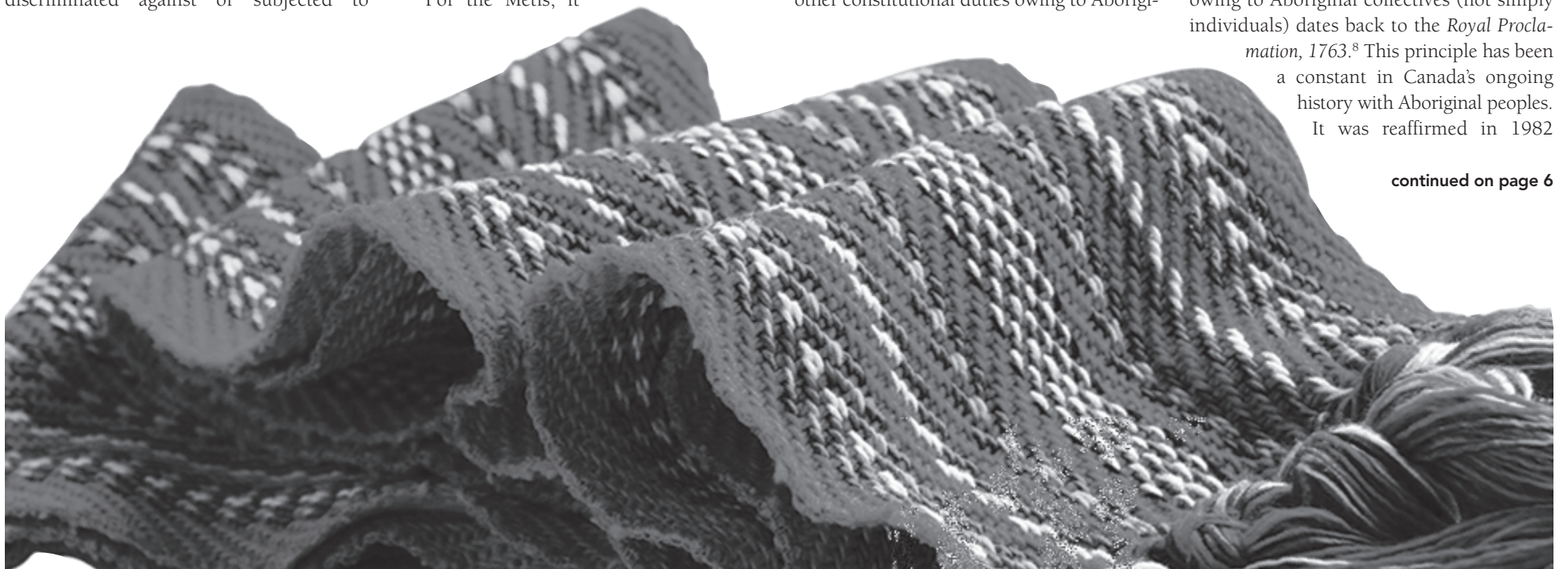
Unfortunately, there are some problems with the Trial Judge’s reasons, even though he ultimately comes to the correct legal conclusion with respect to s. 91(24). Specifically, we believe the Court’s definition of who are the “Métis” for the purposes of s. 91(24) is incorrect in law.

The Trial Judge’s error starts when he defines who is included within s. 91(24) by virtue of their “Indian ancestry” or “Indian affinity,” rather than recognizing that the individuals who may be “Indians” within s.

91(24) are a part of distinct Indian, Inuit and Métis collectives. Put another way, it is our opinion that Aboriginal communities or peoples, and by extension the members of those collectives, are included within s. 91(24) – not just any individual who may simply have some small amount of “Indian” ancestry and a recent claim to affinity with “Indianness.”

The fundamental principle that the Crown’s obligations and responsibilities are owing to Aboriginal collectives (not simply individuals) dates back to the *Royal Proclamation, 1763*.⁸ This principle has been a constant in Canada’s ongoing history with Aboriginal peoples. It was reaffirmed in 1982

continued on page 6



Daniels v. Canada | What does it mean to the Métis?

continued from page 5

with s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.⁹ It has been central to the decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada over the last fifty years. While it is acknowledged that different parts of Canada's Constitution do not need to have the same meaning, we do not believe that one of the fundamental tenets of Crown-Aboriginal relations (that Canada's constitutional obligations are owed to Aboriginal col-

lectives) can be discarded in defining the Métis for the purposes of s. 91(24).

This overarching error leads the Trial Judge to attempt to expand the term "Métis" from its generally understood application to members of rights-bearing Métis communities who meet the requirements of *R. v. Powley*, [2003] 2 S.C.R. 207, to include all individuals who have some "Indian" blood or have recently (and we think mistakenly) taken to using this term to describe them-

selves.¹⁰ Specifically, at paragraph 117, the Trial Judge defines Métis for the purposes of s. 91(24) as "a group of native people who maintained a strong affinity for their Indian heritage without possessing Indian status."¹¹

This attempt to cast Métis within the framework of a 'national net' is an error. This approach ignores the constitutional fact that the Métis are a separate and distinct Aboriginal people with their own unique identity, language and culture "as Métis" – not as Indi-

ans. Moreover, in *Powley*, the Supreme Court of Canada held that "[t]he Métis developed separate and distinct identities, not reducible to the mere fact of their mixed ancestry" and "[t]he Métis of Canada share the common experience of having forged a new culture and a distinctive group identity from their Indian or Inuit and European roots."¹² Even though s.91(24) is not about Métis rights protected in s. 35, the Trial Judge's current definition of "Métis" for s.91(24) is incompatible with *Powley*, which was binding authority on the Court.

The Métis Nation, whose communities have established Métis harvesting rights in *Powley* as well as other cases from Ontario westward, cannot be defined for the purposes of s. 91(24) based on their "Indian ancestry" or "strong affinity for their Indian heritage" because they don't have any. The members of these communities have Métis ancestry and an affinity to their Métis heritage. Clearly, while the Trial Judge's definition may work for non-status Indians, it is incompatible with *Powley* and the realities of the only known Métis 'people' in Canada – the Métis Nation.

Similar to the Inuit who are included in s. 91(24) as "Indians," while being culturally distinct from Indians, the Métis Nation is a culturally distinct Aboriginal people. While it is recognized that the Daniels case is not about a Métis claim under s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, we are of the opinion that the Trial Judge's reasons on this issue are incorrect in law. A workable definition of the Métis for the purposes of s.91(24) cannot destroy the long-standing recognition that the Métis have a culture – distinct from Indians – and maintain a strong affinity to their unique Métis heritage – not "Indianness".

Ultimately, we are of the opinion that the Trial Judge in the Daniels case gets to the correct legal conclusion that Métis and non-status Indians are "Indians" for the purposes of s. 91(24), but there are inconsistencies and contradictions throughout the Trial Judge's reasons that are unhelpful in properly understanding the Métis Nation, as a distinct Aboriginal people. In some parts, as outlined above, it leads to legal errors. In other parts, it leads to unhelpful ambiguity or confusion on Métis legal issues that can hopefully be addressed if the case is appealed. ∞

- 1 The federal government has accepted jurisdiction for Métis and non-status Indians north of the 60th parallel. This is because the territorial governments in Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut do not have the same powers as the provinces under s. 92.
- 2 *Daniels v. Canada*, 2013 FC 6 (F.C.T.D.), para. 26.
- 3 *Daniels*, supra, para. 108.
- 4 *Daniels*, supra, para. 532.
- 5 *Daniels*, supra, para. 547.
- 6 It should be noted that this does not mean the federal government will not rely on other reasons to deny Métis and non-status Indians access to these processes or programs and services.
- 7 *Daniels*, supra, para. 110.
- 8 The Royal Proclamation acknowledges the Crown's obligations owing to "several Nations or Tribes of Indians with whom We are connected, and who live under our Protection ..." and not merely individuals with Indian blood.
- 9 Section 35 recognizes and affirms the Aboriginal and treaty rights of "Aboriginal peoples", which includes the "Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples" and not merely individuals with Aboriginal ancestry.
- 10 It is worthy to note that the "Labrador Métis," which the Trial Judge refers in his decision as an example of a "Métis community", no longer consider themselves "Métis" and identify as Inuit. See Nunatukavut Community Council v. Nalcor, 2011 NLTD 44.
- 11 At the time of writing this document, the authors understand that legal counsel for the Plaintiffs and Defendants have written to the Court for clarification on whether the Trial Judge meant to refer to paragraph 127 for the definition of Métis for the purposes of s. 91(24) instead of paragraph 117.
- 12 *R. v. Powley*, [2003] 2 S.C.R. 207, paras. 8, 11.

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ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

Daniels v. Canada Frequently Asked Questions

What happens next?

The federal government has 30 days in order to decide whether it will appeal the decision (the decision was appealed, see page 1). This means that we will know by early February 2013. If it is appealed, the case will go to the next level of court, – the Federal Court of Appeal. The next appeal level after that would be the Supreme Court of Canada. If the federal government does not appeal the decision, it should initiate discussions with the MNC and its Governing Members to discuss potential implications from the decision on the Métis Nation.

Métis are not Indians – why are we happy about a case that says we are Indians?

The Daniels case does not say that Métis are culturally Indians. It simply says that the term “Indian” in the *Constitution Act, 1867* (which sets out federal jurisdiction) is broad enough to include Métis, in the same way it is broad enough to include Inuit (who are also not culturally Indians). Think of it as similar to how the term “Aboriginal” is used as today. While First Nations, Inuit and Métis people are all “Aboriginal” that does not make them the same. Historically, the term “Indian” was used in the same way “Aboriginal” is used today (i.e., includes all Aboriginal peoples). Métis are happy about the decision because it removes the “lack of jurisdiction” excuse the federal government has long used in order to avoid dealing with Métis rights, interests and needs.

Now that Canada has jurisdiction for Métis, does that mean they control or have power over Métis?

No. Jurisdiction does not mean that the federal government has control or power over the Métis. It simply means the federal government has the jurisdictional mandate to legislate with respect to Métis issues as well as deal with the Métis on a nation-to-nation basis and work towards the reconciliation of Métis rights and claims. For example, the federal government could pass a Canada-Métis Nation Relations Act or some other piece of legislation that recognizes Métis Nation governments.

I’m Métis. Does this mean Métis can get registered under the Indian Act?

No, this case was not about the Indian Act. This decision does not put Métis under the Indian Act. It does not make or allow Métis to become “status Indians”. It also does not mean that Métis can access programs and services that are currently only available to “status Indians”.

Does this case now recognize Métis rights everywhere in Canada?

No, the Daniels case was not about Métis rights such as land, harvesting or self-government rights. It was only about answering the constitutional question of whether the federal government had legislative jurisdiction for Métis.

What benefits (i.e., non-insured health benefits, education, etc.) does this decision win for Métis?

This case was not about winning financial benefits or additional programs and services for Métis. It was only about answering the constitutional question of whether the federal government had legislative jurisdiction for Métis. It does not mean that Métis are now entitled to all the same benefits as status Indians or other Aboriginal peoples, but it should open the door for future discussions between the federal government and the Métis Nation on the distinct needs of its citizens as well as Métis rights and claims.

Does this case affect or recognize Métis harvesting rights?

No, this case has absolutely no effect on the Métis Nation’s harvesting rights. The case also does not recognize or affirm Métis harvesting rights outside of areas where litigation has been successful or where Métis harvesting agreements have been negotiated between Métis governments and other governments.

Does the Daniels case effect the Métis Nation’s definition of Métis?

No, the Daniels case has absolutely no affect on the Métis Nation’s national definition for citizenship in the Métis Nation. The Métis Nation’s definition was arrived at based on its inherent right to define it own citizenship. No court decision could ever change that definition.

Does the Daniels case mean that the Métis Nation’s Homeland is now Canada-wide?

No, this case does not change the Homeland of the Métis Nation, which encompasses the three Prairie Provinces and extends into Ontario, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and the northern United States. While the Court developed a definition of Métis for the purposes of s. 91(24) that is national in scope, this does not change the identity, history or territory of the Métis Nation in any way. It also does not make communities that claim to be “Métis”, and which are outside of the Métis Nation Homeland, a part of the Métis Nation.

This case was about Métis, why was CAP involved?

Litigation is expensive and CAP received significant funding from the federal government to litigate this case. Similar funding was not provided to the MNC. The MNC and its Governing Members have been focusing limited litigation resources on establishing Métis rights from Ontario westward and advancing Métis land claims. Since the MNC and its Governing Members represent the Métis Nation, it will have to be these Métis governments that will be engaged in relation to implementing the Daniels case. Notably, the Trial Judge recognized that the CAP is not the representative of the Métis Nation.

If the case is appealed, will the Métis Nation get involved?

Yes, if the case is appealed, the MNC will become involved in the case to ensure the Métis Nation is properly represented.

“
This case was not about winning financial benefits or additional programs and services for Métis. It was only about answering the constitutional question of whether the federal government had legislative jurisdiction for Métis.

“
...the Daniels case has absolutely no affect on the Métis Nation’s national definition for citizenship in the Métis Nation. The Métis Nation’s definition was arrived at based on its inherent right to define it own citizenship. No court decision could ever change that definition.

PROVINCIAL REALTIONS

MNO President Lipinski congratulates Premier Kathleen Wynne

Anticipates continuing results-based progress with Ontario Government

(OTTAWA) On February 11, 2013, Kathleen Wynne formally became the Premier of Ontario. “On behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO),” stated MNO President Gary Lipinski, “I would like to congratulate Premier Wynne and I look forward continuing to work with the Ontario government on our many areas of mutual interest.”

“The MNO built its positive relations with the government of Ontario under Premier McGuinty,” explained President Lipinski, “through the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, signed in 2008. It proved to be a solid foundation for cooperation between our two governments and resulted in the advancement of Métis rights as well as achievements in a whole range of other areas including education, health, jobs creation and economic development.”

“We enjoyed a strong working relationship with Premier Wynne, both when she was Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and when she was Minister of Education,” stated

President Lipinski. “Collectively, we were able to advance many important issues. We look forward to continuing that type of productive relationship, including building on the commitments in the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement.”

“We are looking for Premier Wynne to continue to work with us towards the objectives agreed upon in the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement,” stated President Lipinski. “Among our key priorities are insuring Métis children and youth have every opportunity available to be the best they can be. Ensuring our youth have the necessary tools to succeed is a win – win for both our governments and something we are deeply committed to.”

“We look forward to engaging with Premier Wynne. I have confidence that by working together - we will continue to achieve positive results for Métis citizens, families and communities in Ontario,” concluded President Lipinski.



(left to right) Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne with MNO President Gary Lipinski and MNO Chair France Picotte at a meeting in 2012.

COMMUNITY



Janice Ferris (right) representing the North Simcoe Anglers and Hunters Conservation Club Inc. presents MNO Georgian Bay Youth Council member Danielle Secord (left) and MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Councillor Larry Ferris with a cheque to support Métis youth activities.

MNO youth receive grant

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Youth Committee with the assistance of Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region Six Councillor Pauline Saulnier and MNO staff members Monique Richard and Doug Wilson was able to obtain a grant of \$2,400 from the North Simcoe Anglers and Hunters Conservation Club Inc. The grant

will support Métis youth activities and the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council annual youth trip to Camp Kitchikewana on Beausoliel Island. The Métis Youth Committee is very grateful to the North Simcoe Anglers and Hunters for their kind generosity and to the MNO for helping secure the funding, which will support some very deserving Métis young people.

Reaching
10,000
Métis Households

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

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As the voice of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), the Métis Voyageur is the best vehicle for reaching one of the fastest growing demographic groups in the province. It is also a

respected source of information about Métis issues and events that is used by government, business and educational institutions across Ontario.

Rates* for Corporations & Governments

Size	One Issue	Two Issues (Save 10%)	Three Issues (Save 20%)	Four Issues (Save 30%)	Five Issues (Save 40%)	Six Issues (Save 45%)
Full page	\$1200	\$2160	\$2520	\$2880	\$3600	\$3960
¾ page	\$850	\$1530	\$2040	\$2380	\$2550	\$2805
½ page	\$650	\$1170	\$1560	\$1820	\$1950	\$2145
¼ page	\$450	\$810	\$1080	\$1260	\$1350	\$1485
⅓ page	\$250	\$450	\$600	\$700	\$750	\$825
Listing	\$150	\$270	\$360	\$420	\$450	\$495

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

Size	One Issue	Two Issues (Save 10%)	Three Issues (Save 20%)	Four Issues (Save 30%)	Five Issues (Save 40%)	Six Issues (Save 45%)
Full page	\$600	\$1083	\$1260	\$1440	\$1800	\$1980
¾ page	\$425	\$765	\$1020	\$1190	\$1275	\$1402
½ page	\$325	\$585	\$780	\$910	\$975	\$1072
¼ page	\$225	\$405	\$540	\$630	\$675	\$742
⅓ page	\$125	\$225	\$300	\$350	\$370	\$412
Listing	\$75	\$135	\$180	\$210	\$225	\$247

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Please submit ads electronically in PDF format to: samb@metisnation.org

For more information contact: Sam Baynham at: 613-798-1488 ext. 155

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

Advertisement Sizes

Full page - 10" x 16"
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"
⅓ page - 4" x 2.5" or 1.25" x 8" or 5" x 2"
Listing (business card) - 2" x 3.5"

* 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

INDUSTRY PARTNERS



MNO Consultation Committees tour Ontario Power Generation site

by James Wagar

MNO Consultation Assessment Coordinator • TORONTO

Building relationships with proponents requires ongoing work and learning about the companies the MNO partners with.

Part of this important work took place on December 10, 2012, when members of the Consultation Committees for Regions One, Two, Three, Four and Five learned about Nuclear Waste Management Organization's Adaptive Phased Management (NWMO-APM) for the safe

storage of used nuclear waste. They participated in a site tour of one of Ontario Power Generation's current storage facilities for used nuclear fuel located at the Western Waste Management facility at Bruce Power in Kincardine.

(above)

Members of the MNO Consultations Committees from Regions One, Two, Three, Four and Five prior to a tour of an OPG used fuel storage site (left to right): William "Torch" Gordon, Marcel LaFrance, Jean Camirand, Ken Simard, Ernie Gathien, Trent Desaulniers, David Hamilton, Lillian Ethier, Juliette Denis, Alvina Cimon, Marlene Davidson, Urgel Courville, Marc Laurin, and Kim Powley.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

MNO encouraged by plans to reform Aboriginal Child Welfare system

Inclusion of Métis in Development Strategy demonstrates the value of Constructive Engagement

On January 18, 2013, Laurel Broten, who was Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services at the time, announced the Government of Ontario's intention to work with Aboriginal partners to develop a multi-year Children and Youth Strategy. Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski was encouraged by the announcement because of its commitment to engage Aboriginal communities and the inclusion of the Métis in developing the strategy.

"When the government first released its report on Aboriginal Child and Youth Services it missed the Métis component entirely," explained President Lipinski, "however, to their credit, when brought to their attention, in a report on Métis Child and Youth Services commissioned by the MNO, the government incorporated the Métis analysis as part of the deliberations that led to today's announcement."

The MNO considers Minister Broten's commitment to increase the control Aboriginal communities have in designing and delivering children and youth services, her recognition that priorities differ among Métis, First Nations and Inuit communities and to delivering culturally based services,

to be very important. "There are 73,000 self-identifying Métis in Ontario, which constitutes one third of the Aboriginal population in Ontario," stated President Lipinski, "so clearly we are a community whose voice needs to be heard on these issues."

President Lipinski added: "We feel the announcement today demonstrates the value of constructive engagement with the Ontario government. In 2008, the MNO and Ontario signed a *Framework Agreement* that outlined the basis for cooperation in a whole range of economic, social and cultural areas. Since then the MNO and Ontario have cooperated in many useful ventures and we believe that the development of an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy will be another example of the kind of success that can be achieved by working together."

"It is crucial for our future as a people," concluded President Lipinski, "that we create institutions and provide services that allow Métis youth and children to be all they can be. We look forward to working with the Aboriginal Strategy Unit to put in place measures that will open up every opportunity for our young people."



The Honourable Laurel Broten

“

There are 73,000 self-identifying Métis in Ontario, which constitutes one third of the Aboriginal population in Ontario, so clearly we are a community whose voice needs to be heard on these issues.

”

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COUNCIL



(left to right) Wanda Botsward, MNO Chair France Picotte, MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride and PCMNO Senator Verna Porter.

Education Advice

Métis reps to Aboriginal Education Advisory Council meet in Hamilton

Across Ontario, a number of citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) serve as Métis representatives to school boards, colleges and universities and in that capacity sit on various committees and other bodies related to education. The Government of Ontario refers to individuals serving in these capacities as the Aboriginal Education Advisory Council.

During the weekend of November 24-25, the MNO brought together these Métis representatives to discuss their role and to meet with representatives of the Government of Ontario. Over 30 people attended the meeting that took place in Hamilton and included presentations from Jean Becker with Wilfred Laurier University and Chris St. Croix with the Ministry of Training, Col-

leges and Universities.

"We are very grateful for the work of the Métis representatives," said MNO President Gary Lipinski, "education is a crucial element in helping Métis children and youth be the best they can be. The work of Métis representatives helps insure that government education policy and educational institutions are aware of the needs of our Métis young people."

Attendees included MNO Chair France Picotte and MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride as well as many MNO Community Council Presidents, Senators and other citizens who volunteer their time for the important job of insuring the Métis voice is heard in education.

This was the first meeting of its kind and was able to identify ways that the MNO can provide support to the Métis representatives that will strengthen their ability to represent Métis interests.

INDUSTRY PARTNERS



MNO signs relationship agreement with Bruce Power

On December 5, 2012, in Kin-cardine, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Bruce Power signed a Relationship Agreement outlining areas of mutual cooperation.

MNO Chair France Picotte signed the Agreement on behalf of the MNO and stressed the importance of the Agreement to Métis communities in the Georgian Bay Traditional Territory: "It's very important to realize we have

to go back to the community," she stated, "because that's where the interest comes from and when we do that, there's deep meaning to the words in the Agreement."

Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region Seven Councilor, Pauline Saulnier also attended the signing ceremony. She said, "Today represents a bright new future between Métis Nation of Ontario citizens of the Georgian Bay Tra-

ditional Territory and Bruce Power. Together, the empowerment of this Agreement enhances all the relationships within our traditional area. It sets an incandescent cornerstone as a foundation to future consultation."

Bruce Power was represented at the ceremony by Vice-president of Corporate Affairs James Scongack. "Bruce Power recognizes the importance of ongoing dialogue with our local Aboriginal communities," ex-

plained Vice-president Scongack, "consultation is something a good corporate citizen carries out and this Agreement sets a foundation for a strong relationship with the MNO."

A number of MNO citizens from Region Seven attended the ceremony and were presented with an auto safety kit, a framed photograph of a Snowy Owl taken by a local Aboriginal artist and a crystal memento of the Bruce One and Two Restart.

(Above)
MNO Chair France Picotte with Bruce Power Vice-President James Scongack and MNO citizens and Bruce Power staff at the MOU signing.

MNO citizen Raymond Tremblay, also known as the Métis Santa Claus, celebrated the first birthday of his grandson Sébastien Tremblay (left with mother Erin Merry) by writing this poem in his honour.



I Am Who I Am

I am proud to be a Frenchman.
I am proud to be an Englishman.
I know that I'll be a fine gentleman.
Why is this cloth wrapped around my body?
On second thought, this piece of cloth feels cozy.
It is colorful. It is comfortable. And it is real pretty.
I wonder if it has any special or magical meaning.
It does! It's a symbol of the great Métis Nation.
Does that mean that I belong to this Nation?
My picture was once taken with Grandpapa HO HO.
He had his Métis drum with him.
He gave us quite a show!
He was just learning to play his drum
and it sounded a little hollow.
I overheard him say that he was the descendant
of a very large Métis family.
I guess that automatically made me a proud citizen
of this illustrious community.
So this beautiful piece of long cloth was known as a «Sash».
What incredible beauty!
I understand that some famous voyageurs
known as coureurs-de-bois used it in various ways.
Some used it as a scarf; others tied it around their waist
to hold many items in creative ways.
Others wrapped it around their feet
while they canoed during cold weather on waterways.
All I need to know at this stage of my life
is that I come from a very proud Métis family.
Needless to say, my ancestors are very generous;
such is the reputation of our family.
I am so happy to have been born in a selfless family.
I'm so proud to be a Métis!

MNO PARTNERS

Extending Our Hand

The success of MNO partnerships

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has been successful on many fronts because we have built and cultivated partnerships. As MNO President Gary Lipinski, stated at the 2012 MNO Annual General Assembly: "When we extend our hand, it is warmly received."

One of our longstanding partnerships has been with Providence Care and Queen's University in Kingston. An agreement between these two institutions and the MNO expands the MNO's mental health resources, training and resource capacity. Under the agreement, Providence Care provides training and certification for all MNO health care staff including annual certification in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills and Non-Violent Crisis Intervention. MNO clients also receive access to clinical training and mental health expertise through Providence Care's Telepsychiatry services via videoconferencing.

Allen Prowse, Vice-President of Quality, Partnerships and Community Programs with Providence Care described the MNO/Providence Care partnership as follows:

For us, this partnership has been an unparalleled learning about the challenges and opportunities of delivering health care to a remote and cultural dis-



Providence Care Vice-President Allen Prowse (left) with PCMNO Region 2 Councilor Cam Burgess (right) at the 2012 MNO Annual General Assembly.

tinct people. Our ongoing relationship is a dialogue of partners, facing shared challenges with a common purpose, a shared commitment and shared enthusiasm . . .

As with any partnership there are times when things do not go as planned, but we have always quickly come together to talk, to share, to work, to laugh (which we have done a great deal of), to reflect on what we have given each other and to move forward.

As we move forward, we hope, to identify emerging opportunities together, to enlarge our partnership, addressing broader needs such as those of children, of youth and seniors. Building renewed partnerships with new goals and directions together with the excellent health care staff of the Métis Nation allows us both, to continue to continuously improve the quality and focus of health care and to learn how to do a better job.

OPPORTUNITIES

Métis Mining Strategy is open for business and students

In the future, what kind of work will there be and will there be good jobs? Will the Métis work force in Ontario have the training to fill these jobs?

By **Chris Paci**, MNO Manager of Education and **Scott Carpenter**, MNO Manager of Projects and Partnerships

The Métis Nation of Ontario with the support of the Government of Canada: Human Resources and Skills Development recently launched the Métis Mining Strategy (MMS), a project that will provide education, training and work placements for Aboriginal students who are interested in pursuing careers in mining. The MMS is being administered by the MNO Education and Training Branch and is the MNO's response to the flurry of announcements in recent days concerning new mines and mining expansion in Northern Ontario. According to Jennifer St. Germain, Director of MNO Education and Training, "it is essential that MNO has programs and services in place to ensure Métis are ready to fill what will likely be hundreds and thousands of new jobs in the mining industry."

While there is a tendency to associate mining with men in hardhats working underground, mining is actually a diverse industry that employs people from many different professions and backgrounds. In the next several years, just to name a

few possibilities, the mining industry will be looking for everything from tradespeople, chemists and geologists to archeologists, administrators and accountants.

The MMS is an especially exciting program because is designed to prepare students for the plethora of

opportunities that the Mining industry has to offer. It can fund students in a wide range of educational programs from trade certification, college and university degrees to graduate and Ph.D. programs. MMS, with the support of industry partners, will also

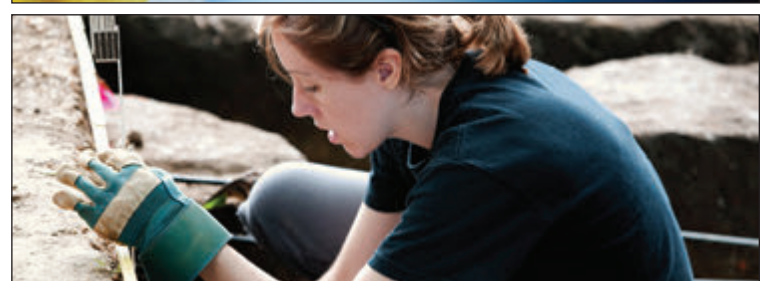
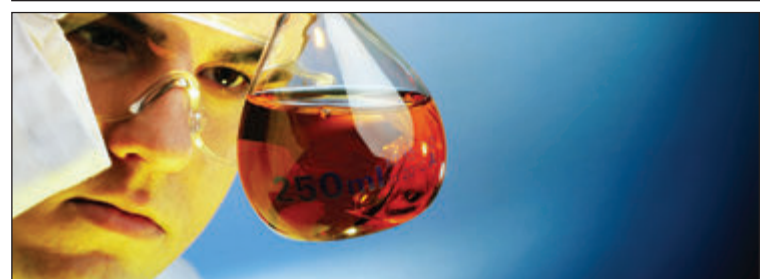
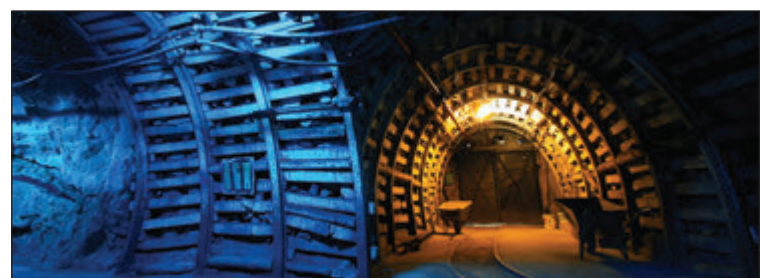
provide students with on-the-job training through work placements in their chosen field. The overall goal of MMS is to see more Métis with good jobs in the mining sector. "As mining in the Northern Ontario continues to expand," explained Scott Carpenter, MNO Manager of Special Projects and Partnerships, "the labour pool will shrink and demand for skilled workers will increase. The Metis Mining Strategy will be a key component to ensure that projects move forward with qualified employees. For those Métis people who

want to work, there are jobs waiting for them."

To oversee the development of the MMS, the MNO recently hired Lee-Anne Van Buekenhout as Coordinator. Based in Toronto, Lee-Anne's first duty is to develop clear information for industry and students. According to Lee-Anne: "meet and greets, constant planning and a happy holidays made the first month of work very exciting." While based in Toronto, Lee-Anne will work with industry and educational institutions across Ontario, in particular the mines in northern Ontario. "But mining jobs are not just at mining sites," said Lee-Anne, "they include head offices and contractors in the industry, some of which are based in Toronto, Sudbury, and other larger Ontario centers."

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Opportunities for Métis

Come and walk in our moccasins

Mini-med school at U of Ottawa

Come and Walk in Our Moccasins is a mini-medical school session held at the University of Ottawa for Aboriginal youth to experience "a day in medical school." This highly successful initiative is primarily organized and presented by Aboriginal medical students and has inspired 80 participants so far to pursue their dreams of becoming a doctor.

The next session is: **Saturday, February 23, 2013** for youth and high school students.

For more information on the University Of Ottawa Faculty Of Medicine's Aboriginal program and the "Come and Walk in Our Moccasins" seminar contact the school at **613-562-5800** or e-mail **Rachele.Prudhomme@uottawa.ca**.



Attention Ontario high school students

So You Think You Know Mining?

So You Think You Know Mining (SYTYKM) is back ON! \$36,500 in total cash prizes and more!

Ontario high school students – you have until **March 20, 2013** to make a video and enter the 5th annual "So You Think You Know Mining" competition. Top videos earn from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Early bird entries are eligible for an additional \$500. There are fabulous prizes for supporting teachers and schools.

Any school that produces more

than three (3) videos can win \$2,000.

All the information you need to get started on your winning video is on the Ontario Mining Association website at: **www.oma.on.ca**



Residential Schools • Métis Artists

Remembering the Past: Window to the Future

Stained glass window designed by Métis artist unveiled on Parliament Hill

On the morning of November 26, a ceremony was held in the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa to formally dedicate and unveil stained glass windows commemorating residential school survivors. The installation of the windows on Parliament Hill is part of the Government of Canada's 2008 apology to former students of Indian Residential Schools.

In 2011, the Canadian government announced as a gesture of reconciliation that the legacy of Indian Residential Schools would be commemorated through a permanent installation of stained glass artwork in the Centre Block of Parliament Hill. Following the announcement, a five member selection committee of Aboriginal art experts was established to oversee the artist selection process. This group invited a number of Canadian Aboriginal artists to submit designs and ultimately selected the design submitted by Métis artist Christi Belcourt, the daughter of MNO founding President Tony Belcourt.

Entitled *Giniigaaniimenaaning*, which means "Looking Ahead," the window tells a story of Aboriginal peoples, cultures and languages through dark times and reflects the healing and resiliency of Aboriginal traditions and languages.

During the ceremony, Christi said the windows are dedicated to all residential school survivors. Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Executive Senator Reta Gordon also spoke at the ceremony and provided a dedication prayer as the representative of the Métis people.

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski stated: "This window is an important part of the reconciliation process. It is fitting that a Métis artist designed this window as many of our people suffered in residential schools, a fact that is not as widely known and recognized as it should be. Christi is a wonderful role model for Métis youth. She shows us all what Métis people can accomplish."

▲ The stained glass window commemorating Residential School Survivors unveiled in Parliament. Entitled *Giniigaaniimenaaning* (Looking Ahead), the window tells a story of Aboriginal peoples, cultures and languages through dark times and reflects the resiliency of Aboriginal traditions and languages.



▲ Aboriginal elders who spoke at the stained glass window dedication (left to right) Sally Webster (Inuit), Annie St. Georges (First Nations) and Senator Reta Gordon (Métis).



▲ Métis artist Christi Belcourt, who designed the window, and elder Alo White at the unveiling ceremony on Parliament Hill.

SENATORS' SPOTLIGHT:
May the spirit of this window serve as a constant reminder

At the recent dedication of the stained glass windows commemorating residential school survivors, the Métis people were represented by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Executive Senator Reta Gordon. Senator Gordon was one of three Aboriginal elders who provided prayers at the ceremony. Her beautiful and inspired words require no further elaboration and are provided in full below:

“Great Spirit as we gather here today, our minds are drawn to the plight of residential school survivors. Their lives were shattered many decades before the conception of this window was entertained and the shattering of their lives is still a memory that lingers. As the pieces of their lives are healed may this window reflect the beauty of their lives when the many pieces are united as one.

Creator, that Canadians and all who view this window shall for time immemorial garner from its spirit and ever strive to create a Canada that is inclusive and its indigenous peoples as a vibrant and integral but distinct part of the Canadian mosaic.

Great Spirit allow this window to stand as a constant reminder and everlasting symbol of what has transpired; the pain and suffering that has occurred to the victims and their families who live through those traumatic years.

“As the pieces of their lives are healed may this window reflect the beauty of their lives when the many pieces are united as one.”

Creator grant that the wrongs of the past be alleviated by a real desire to not only heal those affected during this tragic era in our history, but lead the survivors down a path filled with peace, well-being and forgiveness.

Creator, you have empowered the spirit and hand of the artist Christi Belcourt to envision and create this window enabling all who gaze upon it to see our past and look out to the future. May the power you willed into the window stand forever as a visual monument to Canada's three Aboriginal Peoples, who despite difficulties and may set-backs have contributed ever so greatly to the Canadian Nation.

May the spirit of this window serve as a constant reminder to the law-makers of Canada that there are consequences to their actions to the people they are elected to serve. Grant upon them the wisdom and compassion to carry out their responsibilities in a fair, just, humane and compassionate manner.

COMMUNITY

FORT FRANCES: Debbie Hebert (right) celebrates winning a hand of blackjack as Yvonne Langlais, Rustyn Dolyny, and dealer Charmaine Langlais share a laugh during the MNO Responsible Gambling aspect of a Métis celebration held at the MNO Sunset Country Métis Hall in Fort Frances.



PHOTO COURTESY OF The Fort Frances Times, Duane Hicks

Building Community

Local events and training strengthen Métis Nation of Ontario communities

FROM SUBMISSIONS BY:

Glen Lipinski, MNO Consultation and Community Relation Coordinator
Loma Rowlinson, MNO Responsible Gambling Coordinator
and **Wanda Botsford**, Councillor, MNO Sunset Country Métis Council

Promoting and fostering community development is one of the objectives outlined in the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) *Statement of Prime Purpose*. Accordingly, almost every week of the year, the MNO is organizing community functions and events that strengthen Métis communities. Three such events recently took place in Timmins, Kenora and Fort Francis.

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

Through funding provided by the *New Relationship Fund*, the MNO has been able to develop and deliver a "Governance and Finance Course" that helps community councils perform their important work. The Governance and Finance Course is delivered by Glen Lipinski and Andy Lefebvre, the MNO's Consultation and Community Relation Coordinators. During the weekend of December 1-2, the course was offered to the MNO Kenora Métis Council. In the past, courses have

been available in Atikokan, Sudbury, Niagara, Peterborough, Grand River, Credit River, Toronto, Ottawa and Georgian Bay.

The course is a two-day seminar, usually on weekends, in a hotel or meeting hall in each council's community. The program explains the role of Community Councils as the MNO's local governments, whose structure and purpose is coordinated through each Council's charter agreement with the MNO. The course covers everything from how to run effective meetings and engage citizens in council activities to budgeting and the various financial practices, regulations and legislation that community councils follow.

Besides providing important training programs like the Governance and Finance Course, the MNO also offers community education events that make learning fun; a great example is a Responsible Gambling event held on November 24 in Timmins. Despite inclement weather, participants gathered and enjoyed a healthy lunch and listened to presentations on harm reduction methods that can be used while gambling. Shawn Roy, with the YMCA Youth Gambling Awareness Program partnered with



(left) Governance and Finance Training in Kenora: (front row, left to right) Jamie Triskle, Nina Henley, Sandra Triskle, Cyndy Laliberte, Joel Henley. (back row, left to right) Kathleen Tardi, Chis Deslauriers, Colette Surovy, Martin Camire. **(right)** Participants at MNO Responsible Gambling event in Timmins.



Responsible Gambling Tips

During the MNO Responsible Gambling event in Timmins, Shawn Roy with the YMCA Youth Gambling Awareness Program provided participants **responsible gambling tips**. Shawn also spent some time discussing the **myths and rumours** that revolve around gambling. Some examples included:

- Remember that gambling or betting has an element of risk
- Limit the amount of money you bet & time you spend betting
- Do not spend your winnings on gambling
- Do not carry more money than you are prepared to lose
- Continue to do the other activities you enjoy
- Hope to win; expect to lose
- If I always choose the same lottery numbers, my odds of winning are better. **FALSE** – odds remain the same regardless of what numbers you choose or the amount of tickets you purchase, your odds remain 1 in 14,000,000 per ticket.
- If I play on the same slot machine for a long period of time, my odds of winning are better. **FALSE** – the slot machines are controlled by a computer, the winnings are completely randomized.
- Gambling is a great way to make money and become rich. **FALSE** – The odds in a casino are in favour of the House and not the individual person gambling. Gambling is a source of entertainment not revenue.



continued on page 17

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Taking Stock of the MNO

Community Asset Mapping

sessions give MNO communities and staff the opportunity to provide insights into how things are working and take stock of available resources

It has been approximately five years since the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) completed a Community Asset Mapping exercise across the province. The object of that initiative was to give communities and staff the opportunity to provide insights into how things were working in their communities and to take stock of resources available to each community and then use that information in the preparation of proposals to include more ways of supporting MNO communities. For example, that initiative contributed directly to securing funds for the development and ongoing delivery governance and finance training and improved technical support to all chartered MNO community councils.

It is time to take stock once again and the next phase of Com-

munity Asset Mapping will take place in the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2012-13. MNO Community Relations staff will once again be taking the lead to complete this important work. It goes without saying that community council engagement and participation is essential to analyzing where we are, and to hearing your recommendations identifying best practices, and together, building a stronger future.

MNO Community Relations staff as they visit your Communities to interview Council members and staff. If you require more information on this initiative contact:

Hank Rowlinson
*Manager of
 Community Relations*
HankR@metisnation.org

Upcoming **Community Assest** mapping sessions

DATE	COMMUNITY	REGION
February 19	Owen Sound	7
February 19	Thunder Bay	2
February 20	Thunder Bay	2
February 20	Midland	7
February 21	Thunder Bay	2
February 22	Greenstone	2
February 22	Superior North Shore	2
February 26	Renfrew	6
February 27	Bancroft	6
February 27	High Land Waters	6
February 28	Kingston	6
March 1	Ottawa (Tentative)	6
March 1	Fort Frances	1
March 5	Kenora	1
March 5	Dryden	1
March 6	Dryden	1
March 6	Atikokan	1

Community Asset Mapping sessions have already taken place in these MNO communities: Timmins; Niagara; Toronto; Credit River; Northern Light; Temiskaming; Mattawa; North Bay; Mississauga; Grand River; Windsor; Sudbury; North Channel; Chapleau; Hamilton; Peterborough; Oshawa and Sault Ste Marie.

Lakehead Supports Métis Learners

Lakehead University is committed to helping Métis peoples further their educational aspirations. Aboriginal programs at Lakehead offer academic, research, and cultural support services tailored to Aboriginal needs.

Office of Aboriginal Initiatives

aboriginalinitiatives.lakeheadu.ca

1-807-766-7219 or toll free 1-888-558-3388



Specialization & Access Programs

Department of Indigenous Learning
Native Nurses Entry Program
Native Access Program

Aboriginal Education

Honours Bachelor of Education (Aboriginal) P/J
Native Teacher Education Program
Native Language Instructors' Program

Administrative & Support Services

Office of Aboriginal Initiatives
Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services
Métis Student Liaison Facilitator
Nanabijou Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement
Lakehead University Aboriginal Alumni Chapter
Lakehead University Native Students Association
Elders Program

Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

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MNO CITIZENS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MNO Citizens help restore Glenorchy Conservation Area

By **Cora Bunn**, President
MNO Grand River Métis Council

In 2011, a partnership between the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Hydro One and Conservation Halton was announced. The purpose of the partnership was to restore 25 hectares of upland forest in the Glenorchy Conservation Area in the Town of Oakville as part of Hydro One's Bruce to Milton Biodiversity Initiative.

In the late fall of 2012, the MNO Grand River Métis Council was approached by Nigel Finney of Conservation Halton to assist during a restoration work day. MNO citizens rose to the task and joined 43 other volunteers from the Field and Stream Rescue Team, Niagara College, the University of Waterloo and Oakville-green Conservation Association.

It was a cool day when MNO citizens arrived in Oakville, dressed for winter weather and ready to contend with very muddy clay soil. The rehabilitation involved planting acorns in a field previously used for farming. In some cases workers feet sunk into ankle-deep mucky mud and some even walked right out of their boots!

Over 60 kilograms of white oak, red oak, bur oak, shagbark hickory and bitternut hickory tree seeds were



planted. Other work included the installation of a silt fence, creating conditions for wildlife habitat and removing invasive species.

Another work day is planned for the spring when young trees will be planted. If you interested in participating to help restore Mother Earth, contact Cora Bunn.

corabunn@hotmail.com



MNO Citizens who participated in the Glenorchy Conservation Area restoration.

Métis Nation of Ontario **Community Council highlights**

MNO Community Council Elections

As required by their MNO charters, several MNO Community Councils have held elections since the last edition of the Voyageur. Thanks to all the candidates who

participated in these elections and congratulations to those who will be serving their communities in the next several years.

Position	Grand River	Georgian Bay	Credit River
President	Cora Bunn	Michael Duquette	Richard Cuddy
Chair	Jennifer Parkinson	Dave Dusome	William Morrison
Senator	Carol Levis	Dora MacInnis	Joseph Bergie
Sec-Treasurer	Barbara Lair	N/A	N/A
Secretary	N/A	Steven Pelletier	open
Treasurer	N/A	Lorraine Mountney	Joyce Toll
Women's Rep	Bridget Brown	Patricia Taylor	Karen Derocher
Youth Rep	open	Danielle Secord	Talitha Tolles
Councillors	Cheryl Lee Foon Donald Crawford Carol Nath	Larry Ferris Bernice Paradis Leonard Dusome Norman Willett	Darlene Lent



MNO citizens at City Hall in Guelph.

Keep the flag flying

By **Cora Bunn**
President
MNO Grand River Métis Council

The MNO Grand River Métis Council developed such a good relationship with the City of Guelph during the 2012 Louis Riel Métis flag-raising ceremony that in January this year, when the Mayor's office was

looking for a way to show support for Aboriginal people; they requested that the Métis flag be flown at City Hall again.

The Council is also hosting some moccasin camp beading workshops and bees in support of Christi Belcourt's Walking with Our Sisters initiative. It also has plans for moccasin and capote coat workshops as well as a medicine walk.

Aboriginal children meet Sanata at Temiskaming Christmas Party

Contributed by **Temiskaming Métis Community Council**

This Christmas, the MNO Temiskaming Métis Council partnered up with a local Aboriginal daycare called Keepers of the Circle to arrange for a 40 Métis and First Nations children to meet Santa Claus. The children also learned how to make reindeer bags and decorate their own ornament for a tree, which

was to be a surprise they could take home for Santa.

"It was a fantastic way to partner up and get to know other Aboriginal groups in our area," said Tina Nichol, MNO Temiskaming Councillor and coordinator of the event. "We had First Nations and Métis children working together as a team to decorate our festive Christmas tree. And of course, most kids involved left with new friendships and a sense of

(left) A young Métis receives a gift from Jolly Old St. Nick.

belonging to a group of people they can relate to. It was a fantastic event to host."

The event was followed by an evening of entertainment with local Aboriginal musicians and a pot luck supper hosted by Keepers of the Circle. Approximately 60 people attended the supper. ∞



CREDIT RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL



Kim and Rajan Anderson performing during the Credit River Louis Riel Day Celebration.

Louis Riel celebrated at Brampton gathering

Louis Riel celebration and gathering hosted by MNO Credit River Métis Council

By **Richard Cuddy**, *President MNO Credit River Métis Council*

On the afternoon of Sunday, November 18, 2012, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council hosted a Louis Riel Celebration and Gathering. The doors opened at 1:00 pm at the CAW Local 1285 Union Hall in Brampton and honoured guests included MNO Chair France Picotte, MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride, PCMNO Senator Verna Porter, PCMNO Senator Joe Poitras, MNO Veterans Council President Joe Paquette as well as over 100 Credit River citizens and citizens from neighbouring MNO chartered councils in Hamilton-Wentworth and Grand River.

Highlights included the opening prayer from Senator Ray Bergie and an address by Richard Cuddy, the President of the MNO Credit River Métis Council. President Cuddy provided a brief historical overview of why the Métis gather in honour of Louis Riel, who we are as a Nation today, and the structure of the MNO. He stated, “[the] Council aspires to fulfill all of the declarations in the *Statement of Prime Purpose* of the Métis Nation of Ontario”. He thanked the MNO dignitaries and staff for their support as well as the support of neighbouring Councils. President Cuddy finished with Riel’s famous quote: “My people will sleep for 100 years but when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their spirit back.”

MNO Chair France Picotte and

MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride (who is also a member of the MNO Credit River Council) presented the MNO Credit River Council with a beautifully framed painting of a Voyageur Canoe party to hang in the new Council office.

Participants had the opportunity to visit cultural and heritage display tables featuring traditional Métis resources assembled by Jim, Joyce and Talitha Tolles with Bill Morrison. MNO staff members Kelly Honsberger, Tamarra Shepherd, Jody Day, Lisa Talbot and Simon Bain also manned displays highlighting MNO education and training and healing and wellness programs.

Métis youth Talitha Tolles and Samantha Cuddy worked a craft table featuring fun activities and finger weaving. The craft table was generously sponsored by the Peel Children’s Aid Society (PCAS), the newest friend of the MNO Credit River Métis Council. Quite recently, the Council and the PCAS started partnering to benefit PCAS clients and MNO citizens in Credit River. During the celebration, President Cuddy presented PCAS representative Lisette Pedicelli, with a food basket for her to distribute to a needy family. Ms. Pedicelli self identifies as Métis and has applied for MNO citizenship.

Entertainment included an amazing drumming ensemble, the Group Orange Ladies, who took the stage to perform several powerful, traditional songs. One of the group members is a descendent of Louis Riel.

Rebecca Cuddy, a classically trained vocalist and second year Per-



Finger weaving during Credit River Louis Riel Day event.



MNOVC President Joe Paquette at Louis Riel Day event in Credit River



Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy.

formance Arts/Modern Languages student at the University of Western Ontario performed three traditional Métis songs that were a mix of French and French Michif. Rebecca received many compliments on her performance and beautiful voice.

The community was treated to an exquisite fiddle/keyboard performance from two of the members of the Métis Fiddler’s Trio, Kim and Rajan Anderson, who entertained throughout the feast. The duo was so good their performance inspired a couple to dance in the middle of the feast, even with very limited space to do so, and to rousing applause. It was also reported the spoons were heard breaking out at one point.

A humble feast was prepared by Joyce Tolles and Darlene Lent with contributions made by Joyce Tolles, Darlene Lent, Talitha Tolles, Krystyna Morrison and Sharon McBride. A special thanks to Joe Paquette for the donation of the moose meat. The smell was intoxicating and the feast consisted of bannock, mushroom soup, moose chili, pork meatballs in cranberry sauce and salad. Dessert was a commemorative cake donated by Joyce Tolles. As Métis tradition requires, Senators and Elders were served first.

The gathering was rounded out by a raffle and 50/50 draw. Donations for the raffle came from Leon Fleury, Bill Morrison, Joyce Tolles, Darlene Lent, Talitha Tolles, Jim Tolles, Jordan Morrison, Cliff Read, Krystyna Morrison and the MNO Credit River Council. The door

prize was donated by Rick Repta of Establo Leather of Guelph.

There were two special stories from the celebration that should be reported. During the celebration it was discovered that two women in attendance were descendants of Riel, and a third shared his bloodline. One of the descendants had just moved into the Credit River area. She self-identifies as Métis and hopes to obtain her MNO citizenship. She commented that as she had no family nearby, she was reassured that her new family was the Credit River community and the MNO. The three women exchanged contact information and this story is far from over.

Another interesting event concerned MNO Chair France Picotte. While speaking with citizens, she recognized a secret language that she believed was only known to her family. She was thankful and pleased to learn there is a citizen in the Credit River area that knows this language and she also learned it was used as a secret way of communicating during the war. To learn this dialect existed outside of her family was particularly exciting for France and there is going to more from this story in the future as well.

More than a few citizens described the celebration as like being in a home with family in a big living room or at a kitchen table with fiddle music playing in the background and the children laughing and playing. This year, the Louis Riel Day Celebration and Gathering in Credit River, truly was a very special day.

This article has been edited due to length.

■ GRAND RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL • CREDIT RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL

MNO citizens participate in Waterloo Region Museum Festival

By **Jennifer Parkinson**,
Chair - MNO Grand River Métis Council

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens from the MNO Grand River and MNO Credit River Métis Councils participated in the inaugural First People's Festival hosted by the Waterloo Region Museum, September 30 to October 4, 2012, in Kitchener. The Festival attracted 225 visitors to its public events as well as 1200 students and teachers during its school programs. The MNO Grand River Métis Council had the pleasure of not only participating in this great event, but also playing a role in its planning.

Among the highlights of the Festival were jigging and Métis fiddle music provided by Métis youth Rajan Anderson, who was accompanied on the keyboard by his mother Kim Anderson.

Each day started with an opening ceremony by the "Elder of the Day." Bill Morrison, Chair of the MNO Credit River Métis Council served as elder one day and provided a



wonderful talk to the students about the Métis people.

During a panel discussion, Katelyn Lecroix represented the Métis and shared her personal experiences as well as her knowledge of Métis history.

The MNO Grand River Métis Council thanks the Windsor Region Museum for hosting the Festival

left to right: **Members of the MNO Grand River Métis Council: Carol Lévis, Jennifer Parkinson (back), Tobias Clarke, Barb Ricard and Jerry Clarke.**

and inviting their participation. It also acknowledges all of the elders, vendors, artisans, entertainers and workshop presenters for their time and effort in making this Festival

very successful. The Second Annual First People's Festival will be held on September 30-October 3, 2013; come join the fun!

Building Community

Local events and training strengthen MNO communities

from page 13

the MNO on this event and shared his knowledge of responsible gambling strategies.

Following the presentations, participants were given \$100 of play money to gamble with during a mock casino. Games they could play included: Plinko; Crowns & Anchors; Métis Prize Wheel; Odds & Evens; and Blackjack. They also could try their luck at a lottery for a \$300 play money prize. If their money was lost, participants could choose to borrow from the bank, with interest of course!

At the end of the casino portion, an auction took place in which participants could use their winnings to bid on a variety of prizes. Borrowed money was not accepted as bids for the auction! The majority of the participants stayed away from the bank or repaid their debt. Feedback was positive from all 27 participants and many gained knowledge on how to gamble responsibly while having fun!

The MNO Responsible Gambling was also a big part of a Métis celebration organized by MNO staff in Fort Frances on January 20. Events started at the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council Hall with a fantastic brunch consisting of pancakes, ham, fruit trays and beverages. This was followed by jigging and square dancing featuring the music by Elmer

Whitefish of Lac La Croix playing fiddle and Tommy Councillor from Northwest Bay playing guitar. Roger Fobister from Fort Frances provided the calling and got everyone's toes tapping. During the dance, it was hard to miss one very young lad who left the children's play area to stand and watch his grandparents. He studied their every movement and clearly wanted to jump in and join the fun!

Following the dance, everyone's attention shifted to a Mock Casino event hosted through the MNO Responsible Gambling program. Everyone got an envelope with \$100 in play money. The money could be used to play Odds & Evens, Black Jack or Plinko. Tickets for draws on great prizes could be purchased with the play money. Those who lost their money gambling though had to answer questions about gambling and gambling addictions before they could get any more. It was a fun way to host a gambling education session while also emphasizing being responsible in your gaming.

There was a lot of laughter and visiting along with the games and although the weather outside was extremely cold, the atmosphere in the Hall was very warm. There was no charge for the event but participants were asked to bring food bank donations and there was a very large box that was pretty full by the end of the day.

Family

Generations

Submitted by **Cora Bunn**
President, MNO Grand River Métis Council

Nothing is more important to Métis than family and these pictures depict four generations of Métis!



PHOTO COURTESY OF Krystal Gray

Cora Bunn, President of MNO Grand River Métis Council; Donald Crawford, Councillor of MNO Grand River Metis Council and Caitlin Innes holding Anna Innes (born September 8, 2012).



Cora Bunn; Brett Bunn, holding Rachael Bunn (b. Oct. 7, 2012) and Donald Crawford, Councillor of MNO GRMC.



(left to right) Donald Crawford, Councillor of MNO Grand River Métis Council; Vernon Crawford Jr. holding Alice Crawford (b. October 30, 2012) and Vernon Crawford Sr.

■ Passages



Thanks for everything, Linda!

Linda Lord has edited the Métis Voyageur since its inception and has worked countless hours to insure the paper met the needs of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens. This edition of the paper marks the end of an era as it is Linda's last paper. Linda's attention to detail, combined with her knowledge of all things Métis, are a big part of why the *Métis Voyageur* became one of the most popular and well regarded publications of its kind in the Métis homeland.

Linda's contributions to the paper over more than a decade are too numerous to list and she put so much into the paper that made it successful. The MNO is grateful to Linda for her service to the Nation and wishes her all the best in her future endeavours.



New Staff

Submitted by **Brian Tucker**,
MNO Manager of Métis Traditional Knowledge and Land Use

It is a pleasure to introduce Devi Shantilal as the new Manager of MNO Lands Resources and Consultations.

Devi comes to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) with professional experience in project management, consulting and engineering. She possesses a degree in civil engineering along with a Master of Business Administration degree. We look forward to having her as part of the MNO team. Devi can be reached at:

Devi Shantilal
Manager, Lands, Resources & Consultation
Métis Nation of Ontario
75 Sherbourne St., Suite 311
Toronto, Ontario
M5A 2P9
Tel: 416.977.9881 ext. 102
DeviS@metisnation.org

ACHIEVEMENT

MNO Generation Innovation premiere shines light on Métis Youth Entrepreneurship

Métis youth go back into the dragon's den



By **Kyle Burton**

The next generation of Métis entrepreneurs was brought to light at the premiere screening of the first MNO *Generation Innovation: Métis Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge* (video) at Ryerson University on December 7, 2012.

Staged by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and hosted by Ryerson University, the screening was followed by a question and answer session with past judges and participants of the *Dragon's Den* like competition.

"It was incredible to see the support of the local community," said Ryerson MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator Christine Skura. "The screening piqued the interests of viewers about Métis businesses. I think it's really important to keep youth engaged in these important opportunities," she added.

The first-of-its-kind competition provided select Ontario youth with professional entrepreneurship training from the GoForth Institute.

The production was filmed in March 2012 when four youth participants pitched their business ideas to a panel of judges.

Nicolas Delbaere-Sawchuk, a member of the Métis Fiddler Quartet, took first place in the competition. Runner up was magician duo Robert and David Bates of Bates Brothers Magic, and in third place was Kyle Burton of Burton Photography.

The judges showed immense support for the contestants.

"The entrepreneurial spirit has long been part of the Métis culture from the early days of fur trading to present day," explained one of the judges, Lisa Diamond, President and CEO of Youth in Motion. She also stated: "Nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit among these youth will help them create something valuable for their community while developing their passion."

To view the video on-line and for more information on Generation Innovation go to the MNO website and look under Programs and Services/Intergovernmental Relations.



above: (Left to right) **Generation Innovation judge, Peter Smith; MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations, Joanne Meyer; MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator Christine Skura; and 2012 Generation Innovation finalist Kyle Burton.**

right: **Finalists and judges from the 2012 edition of Generation Innovation.**



Kyle Burton was an MNO Generation Innovation Finalist in 2012.

ARTS

Métis filmmaker blazes a trail

Métis filmmaker and actor, **Michelle Latimer** selected as 2013 ReelWorld Film Festival Trailblazer

By **Kyle Burton**

Métis Filmmaker and Actor, Michelle Latimer has been selected as one of the 2013 ReelWorld Film Festival Trailblazers. Latimer is a filmmaker, actor, and festival programmer from Thunder Bay, Ontario. Most recently she directed and produced the short animated film *Choke*, which received the 2011 Sundance Special Jury Honorable Mention for Best International Short Film.



Latimer is also the senior programmer for the ImagineNATIVE Film & Media Arts Festival. Most recently Latimer is playing a recurring role on season two of Aboriginal People's Television Network's (APTN) critically-acclaimed drama *Blackstone*.

She is also working on a feature documentary called *Alias* set for release in Spring 2013. *Alias* is a behind-the-scenes look into the world of gangsta rap.

Since introducing the Trailblazer Awards in 2002, ReelWorld has recognized some of Canada's brightest talent for their ability to push the boundaries and blaze a trail of excellence for others to follow. Past Trailblazer Award winners include Actor Nathaniel Arcand and Director Lisa Jackson.

Latimer will be honoured at the ReelWorld Brunch With Brilliance ceremony at the 2013 ReelWorld Film Festival held in Toronto from April 10-14, 2013.

Kyle Burton is the Marketing Assistant for the ReelWorld Film Festival. www.reelworld.ca.



(Surrounding photos) **Scenes from *Choke*, an award-winning stop motion animated short film produced, written, directed by Michelle Latimer.**



You can stay up-to-date with Michelle at www.michellelatimer.ca

MÉTIS VETERANS

Métis Vets recognized by their communities

By **Joseph Paquette**
President, MNO Veterans Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council (MNOVC) is very pleased that two chartered MNO Community Councils recently recognized Métis Veterans in their communities by presenting them with Louis Riel Medals and Certificates.

On December 18, 2012, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough Wapiti Métis Council held a ceremony at the Peterborough Royal Canadian Legion Branch to recognize MNO World War II veteran Joseph Gagnon and his son, veteran David Gagnon. Council President Andy Dufrane and Senator Terry Bloom conducted the ceremony and presented the younger Gagnon with a Louis Riel medal and certificate, while the senior Gagnon received the Louis Riel certificate.

On January 9, 2013, the MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council held ceremonies at their local Métis office to present the Louis Riel medal and Certificate to Métis World War II veteran and Council member Wilfred Rochon. Mr. Eddie Francis, Mayor of Windsor, issued a beautiful letter saluting Wilfred as an honoured citizen and worthy representative of his Métis heritage. The letter was read at the ceremony by Windsor City Councillor Ron Jones and said in part:

“Mr. Rochon, you have demonstrated decades of patriotic and community-minded involvement, from serving in the Armed Forces of Canada in the Second World War to your enthusiastic involvement in the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and your pivotal roles in founding the Windsor Métis Council and your founding of the Windsor-Essex Métis Council.



(Left to right) MNO Peterborough Wapiti Métis Council President Andy Dufrane, WWII Veteran Joseph Gagnon, Veteran David Gagnon and Senator Terry Bloom.



(Left to right) PCMNO Region 9 Councillor Peter Rivers, MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council members Jonathan Rochon, Senator Bob Leboeuf, Andrew Good, Sue Morencey and Donna Grayer (seated) Métis Veteran Wilfred Rochon.

Throughout your life, prior to and including your Canadian Army duties from 1944 to 1946, to the example you set for your family and friends, along with the labour movement and our community in general, you have demonstrated a deep concern for others and a heartening

pride in your heritage.”

The MNOVC congratulates all these veterans for their military service to this great country, Canada, and thanks the MNO Peterborough Wapiti and Windsor-Essex Métis Councils for supporting Métis veterans.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY

Two MNO Citizens awarded Queen’s Jubilee Medal

Contributed by **Donn Fowler**
and **Lorraine Mountney**

Two Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens were recently awarded Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals to recognize their contributions to their communities.

MNO veteran Donn Fowler received the Jubilee Medal during a ceremony held in Brockville, Ontario. The Honourable Senator, Robert W. Runciman, on behalf of His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, made the presentation.

On October 27, 2012, Allan Vallee, past President of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council was presented with a Jubilee Medal to recognize his over 50 years of volunteer



(Left to right) Member of Parliament Bruce Stanton, Allan Vallee, Member of the Provincial Parliament Garfield Dunlop.

work in his community. The medal was presented by Bruce Stanton, Federal Member of Parliament for Simcoe North and by Garfield Dunlop, Member of the Provincial Par-



(Left to right) Senator Robert W. “Bob” Runciman; Donn Fowler; Gord Brown, MP, Leeds-Grenville; and Steve Clark, MPP, Leeds-Grenville.

liament for Simcoe North in a ceremony at the Cultural Centre in Midland Ontario.

Congratulations Donn and Allan!

Success Stories

A number of bursaries, scholarships and training opportunities are provided through the labour market programs of the Métis Nation of Ontario. These programs are making a real difference in the lives of Métis people and other Aboriginal people who are sometimes also eligible for support. Here are two of our success stories.

The Right Choice

By **Tamarra Shepard**, MNO Regional Employment and Training Intake Officer in Toronto

When faced with a decision that would forever impact her life and the lives of her family members, Sherry Davidson knew what she had to do.

In September 2010, Sherry, an Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, decided to return

to school to pursue nursing--a choice that didn't come easily or without exhaustive deliberation for the North Bay resident. However, after both she and her husband had endured the hardships brought on by months of unemployment, Sherry knew the difficult choice was the one she had to make. “We decided we needed to do something and make a change in order to find stable work. After all, we had a family to provide for. That was when we both made the decision to go back to school.”

Despite the decision being made, Sherry was not about to risk her family's wellbeing without ensuring a plan was in place for what would prove a trying adjustment for everyone. “We came up with a five-year plan. [My husband] was to attend school first and take the ‘Pharmacy Technician’ course. Then, I would pursue my studies as a registered practical nurse.”

Sherry enrolled in the RPN program at Canadore College with assistance from the MNO and she credits the MNO with allowing her to realize a new life, saying: “I would never have been able to do this without the support or edu-



Sherry Davidson

cation initiatives from the Métis Nation of Ontario. My training gave me the skills I needed to work in an acute care centre providing nursing care to people in my community.”

Ultimately, their plan worked. Within a week of finishing her

program, Sherry had an interview at the North Bay Regional Health Centre. Four days later she was hired. Her new reality is one filled with meaningful, life-affirming work and she sees the impact of her decision every day within her own community. “Here in North Bay we have a large Native population and I am so happy to be able to contribute to care and advocate for their health care needs.” It is this singular role she plays in the lives of individuals, some of whom are at their most vulnerable, when Sherry finds her work the most rewarding. “I love the fact that I can provide caring, compassion and dignity to well and unwell, or dying patients.” She is quick to confess a career she never planned on having led to the most satisfying experience of her life: “I didn't always plan on being a nurse, but nursing seems second nature to me now and I realized very early in my studies this was the right choice for me. I have never been happier; I should have done this many years earlier. I am so grateful for the opportunity and the many blessings now in my life as a result of my education.”

An unexpected career transition

By **Kathleen Lannigan**, MNO Employment and Training Coordinator in Hamilton

Congratulations to Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, Steven McCall, who has recently completed the diploma portion of the Accounting Program at McMaster University. This highly recognized program was developed in collaboration with

the DeGroote School of Business. Steve's background consists of over 20 years in retail management, and business development and services. He says: “I am grate-



Steven McCall

ful for the assistance I received from the Métis Nation of Ontario, which provided financial assistance to allow me to realize my goals during a career transition due to employment loss. I feel confident of my chosen path, which should adequately prepare me for future endeavours in the coming years ahead. I encourage anyone reading this to pursue their goals and take advantage of this opportunity.”



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