



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**GUIDED BY OUR SPIRITUAL VALUES, WE
ASPIRE TO ATTAIN OUR HIGHEST POTENTIAL**

— From the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose



Issue No. 76, **SUMMER 2013**

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR



1993-2013

Twenty years of achievement

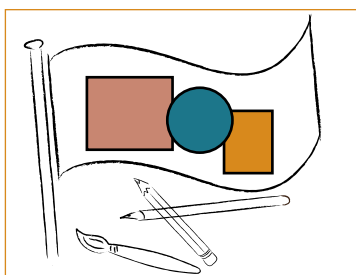
Read the full story on page 3.



MNO LEADERSHIP

MNO facilitates healing
and wellness training
for the Aboriginal
community

Page 4



MNO FLAG

Looking for your ideas
for a MNO Flag

Page 6



MNO COUNCILS

Local events and train-
ing strengthen MNO
communities

Page 15



INFINITY PROPERTIES SERVICES

An agency of the MNO
providing social housing
solutions

Page 22

FAMILY

THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

SUMMER 2013, No. 76

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Submission Policy:

MNO encourages contributions from MNO citizens and staff. All submissions are edited to conform to the Canadian press style guide as well as for grammar, repetitiousness, spelling and to accurately reflect the official names and titles of individuals, organizations, bodies and agencies referenced in submissions.

Excepting letters to the editor and submissions to the family and passages sections, submissions should not be written in the first person. Submissions written in the first person will either be changed to the third person or not published.

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



▲ **Alexander Boucher** (middle) receiving his centennial certificate with MNO President Lipinski (right) and MNO Moon River Council President Lisa McCron (left).

MNO citizen's centennial honoured

Submitted by **Sharon McBride**
MNO Vice-Chair

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Alexander Boucher turned 100 years old in January this year. This landmark was celebrated at the recent MNO

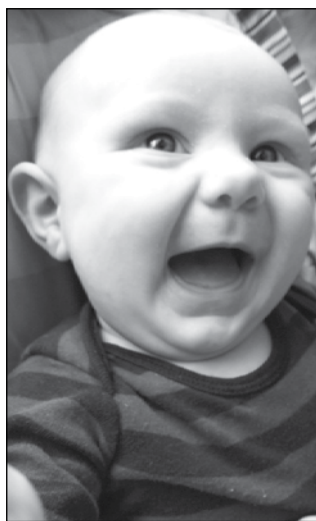
Moon River Métis Council Annual General Meeting (AGM) in MacTier on April 23. MNO President Gary Lipinski, who was on hand for the AGM, and MNO Moon River President Lisa McCron presented Alexander with a certificate recognizing his personal centennial. ∞

■ BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

There's a new branch on the Métis family tree!

Submitted by
Tim Pile, PCMNO
Secretary-Treasurer

Brian and Kristin (Pile) Randall are proud and happy to announce the arrival of Weston Robert Randall born January 17, 2013. Grandpa Tim Pile and family are very delighted with the arrival of their first grandchild and look forward to seeing more branches added to the Métis family tree. ∞



▲ **Weston Robert Randall**

■ OBITUARY

Alma Adams passing

“Fierce” defender of Métis rights passes

It is with great sadness that I learned that we have lost Alma Adams, another great fighter for Métis rights.

Alma was part of a long line of Métis commercial fishing families that have lived and relied on Lake Nipigon for generations. Her family continues to live in well-known Métis settlement of McDiarmid today - living off the land through hunting, fishing and trapping.

Throughout her life, Alma proudly carried on her family's long and proud tradition of representing the Métis Nation and defending Métis rights. Her mother, MNO Senator Edith McLeod, was well-known for her “feistiness” and steadfast commitment to the Métis Nation during the MNO's early years. Alma's brother, Larry Desmeules, was the well-regarded President of the Métis Nation of Alberta for over a decade. Alma served as the Regional Councillor for Region 2 on the Provisional Council of MNO (PCMNO) during the MNO's early years. She was a strong Métis voice that never backed down and a role model for many. After serving on the PCMNO, Alma turned her attention to advancing Métis women's issues as well as continuing to push to ensure Métis commercial fishers received proper respect and recognition. Even while

she was sick, Alma recently shared her vast knowledge and stories about the Métis around Lake Nipigon for a MNO traditional knowledge study.

“Throughout her life, Alma proudly carried on her family's long and proud tradition of representing the Métis Nation and defending Métis rights.”

— President Lipinski

On behalf of the MNO, I offer condolences to her husband Gerry, her children Melissa and Eli as well as her extended family. She will truly be missed by many, but her life, spirit and contributions to the Métis Nation will live on.

Gary Lipinski, President, Métis Nation of Ontario ∞

What Is My Destiny?

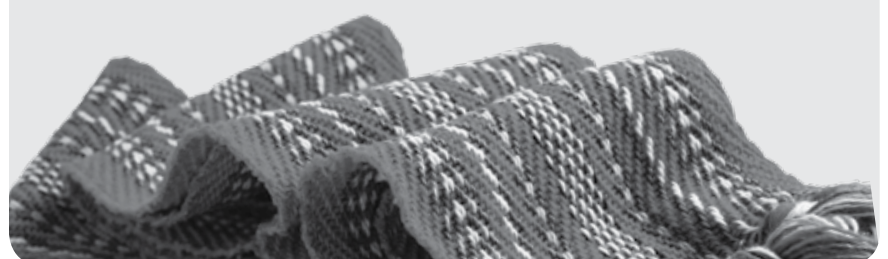
Raymond D. Tremblay (Ottawa)

Why should I worry the least bit about what my destiny would be? Heaven, Mother Earth and my Creator are constantly nurturing me. All I have to do is continue to have faith and ask for God's forgiveness. Today, as usual, He'll fill my spirit, heart and soul with joy and tenderness.

I place my entire being into his divine hands. He will no doubt protect me. Serve the needy! This is what my Creator appeared to be expecting of me.

My spirit was moved by this heavenly calling. I responded with passion. Yes, the Great Manitou blew His spirit into mine. I felt His compassion.

Divine intervention guided every step I took along my earthly journey. Eager to follow His teachings, I unfortunately strayed along the way. Shaken by my wrongdoings, I begged Jesus for His love and mercy. Today, I re-engage myself to serve my needy sisters and brothers. I'll do my best to treat them with respect and as equal partners. Naturally, my Métis spirit believed in our interconnectedness. You and I are destined to enjoy the sacred fruits of oneness.





TWENTY YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

In 1993, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was established through the will of Métis people and Métis communities coming together throughout Ontario to create a Métis-specific governance structure. At its original meetings, Métis representatives from communities throughout the province set out the foundational vision for the MNO. This vision is encapsulated in the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*. The statement is a seminal document for the MNO and it sets out why the MNO was formed, who MNO represents, and what the MNO wants to achieve. The statement has been central to the MNO's success over the last 20 years. A mere 20 years ago, the MNO was only a vision in the mind of

its founders. Today it is a leading voice in Métis rights that can count among its achievements the historic Powley case. It offers the full range of services to its citizens envisioned by its founders and is a highly respected partner of other governments, businesses, educational and health institutions. The MNO has been instrumental in firing up the entrepreneurial spirit of its citizens and has preserved and promoted Métis culture. Thanks to its efforts a whole new generation of Métis leaders is emerging to build an even stronger future for the MNO. As the MNO prepares to celebrate and commemorate its 20th year, it is both looking back at its achievements and looking forward to building an even stronger future. Ac-

“We, the Métis who live within the Métis Homelands of Ontario, desiring to bind our people together to collectively promote our common cultural, social, political, and economic well-being, have founded the Métis Nation of Ontario, to be our representative body . . .”
— From the Métis Nation of Ontario *Statement of Prime Purpose*

Métis Nation of Ontario
20th Anniversary
1993-2013

cordingly at the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA), the MNO will celebrate its past by premiering a movie about the history of the MNO. The movie will demonstrate how the MNO has built on the traditions of its Métis ancestors and how its early leadership laid a solid foundation that made the MNO the dynamic voice of Métis people that it is today. You can learn more about the production of the MNO movie on p.20. The 20th anniversary will also produce an important legacy in the form of the first-ever unique MNO provincial flag. Once adopted, this flag will be used along with the Métis National Flag at MNO functions and to represent the MNO at national Métis functions. A formal Request for Submissions (RFS) is on

p. 6 of the *Voyageur*. All MNO citizens are invited to submit designs and the RFS provides the criteria and guidelines for participation. Along with these two major projects, the MNO is also recognizing its 20th anniversary through the use of a special 20th anniversary logo. This logo will appear on all MNO publications and media products in 2013 and is available for use by MNO chartered community councils. For more information about how the 20th anniversary logo can be used contact Mike Fedyk at mikef@metisnation.org. With all this going on, it will be an exciting year to remember, commemorate and celebrate 20 years of advancing the Métis people and their communities in Ontario. ∞

Significant increase in Métis population IN ONTARIO

Statistics Canada has recently released the results of its 2011 National Household Survey and it reports a significant increase in the number of people self-identifying as Métis in Ontario.

In the 2006 Census, 73,605 Ontario residents self-identified as Métis but in the 2011 National Household Survey 86,020 people self-identified as Métis. More information on this survey has been posted to the MNO website at metisnation.org.

73,605	86,020
2006	2011

HEALING AND WELLNESS SPECIAL FEATURE

MNO facilitates healing and wellness training for the Aboriginal community

The Ministry of Youth and Child Services recently approached the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to organize training sessions for the Ontario Aboriginal community. Due to MNO's excellent reputation in the field of healing and wellness and its successful relationships with the Ontario Aboriginal community. It was felt that the MNO was a natural choice to bring together a diversity of Aboriginal groups all working in the same areas. Over the week of March 26-28 the MNO

hosted twenty Aboriginal organizations in Toronto for a series of training sessions on the topics of trauma and mental health. Coinciding, the MNO provided training for its new Victim Services program, hosted the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) general meeting and the first provincial meeting of the Ontario Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program (OARGP) working group since the MNO was selected lead coordinator (see page 10).



▲ Interactive activities played a huge role in the success of the healing and wellness training sessions hosted by the MNO in Toronto.

Starting at the core

MNO hosts trauma training for front-line workers

Trauma occurs as a result of a severely distressing event or enduring events that overwhelm the individual's ability to cope. It tends to be at the core of a variety of symptoms and problems that many people deal with on a daily basis.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) recently held three-day trauma training sessions for Aboriginal front-line workers from across Ontario. The training is designed to support trainees to develop skills that will improve supports to clients who have experienced trauma. It is also designed to help trainees acquire a deeper understanding of Aboriginal healing practices and learn how trauma affects the victim as well as the community.

Focusing on the self-impact of working in the helping field, social worker Diana Tikasz of

Compassion Fatigue Solutions provided a presentation on practical tools for dealing with the effects of workers own compassion fatigue, a normal feeling of emotional and physical exhaustion. Participants were provided with practical strategies for identifying and dealing with the costs of caring in a mental health or traumatic setting as well as coping mechanisms.

"Compassion fatigue is a very real issue for all front-line workers and the information I attained here is extremely useful," said Michael J. Robin, Program Coordinator at the Ga Beh Shoo In Men's Shelter. "I was shown the ability to address trauma in an entirely new way. It was a great opportunity to be part of this training."

Following this was a two-day workshop: Working with Aborigi-

"The training really gave me a perspective of understanding and provided a great overview of the complexity of cultural sensitivity..."

— Maria Swain, *Community Wellness Worker*

nal focusing-oriented therapy and complex trauma presented by Dennis Windigo, owner of Aboriginal Peoples Training Programs.

During the workshop, participants interactively discovered the impacts of complex trauma within the self, family, communities and systems as well as strategies for self-care and wellness and basic focusing-oriented therapy techniques. Aboriginal treatment models and attitudes including how to prepare a safe ground for unraveling the many different types of trauma were also discussed.

"The training really gave me a perspective of understanding and provided a great overview of the complexity of cultural sensitivity," said Maria Swain, Community Wellness Worker at the Ontario Native Women's Association. "It was great to learn about trauma

from an Aboriginal point of view. It will be very beneficial to my position."

Organizations that took part in the training included: Nijkiwendidaa Anishinabekwewag Services Circle, Aboriginal Peoples Alliance of Northern Ontario, CanAm Urban Native Homes, Gs Beh Shoo in Aboriginal Men's Shelter Ininev Friendship Centre, Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre, Chiefs of Ontario, Ontario Native Women's Association, Shawanaga First Nation Healing Centre, Independent First Nations, Red Lake Indian Friendship, Ganohkwasra Family Assault Support Services and Independent First Nations.

The MNO is thankful to the Ontario Women's Directorate and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services for providing the funding to make this training possible. ∞

HEALING AND WELLNESS SPECIAL FEATURE



▲ **Members of the WSMNO and MNO staff with their healing blankets at the MNO Victim Services training.** (left to right) Back row: **Pearl Gabona, Kim Powley, Bridget Brown, Marilyn Hew, Susan Van der Rassel, Kelly Camacho, Joanne Hamelin;** Front row: **Barbaranne Wright, Clair Kearns, MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride, Karen Derocher, Jennifer Barr and Marsha Depotier.**

MNO Victim Services Program Fostering strength and resiliency through Métis culture

In response to the need of Métis specific services, The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has recently added a new program to its repertoire, Victim Services. The new program's goal is to expand the range and variety of culturally relevant victim services available to Métis women and children in Ontario.

Based on consultations, the program is a support system to be integrated with main stream victim services programs in order to help build an understanding of who Métis people are and the underlying issues and histories that surround them.

The new program is founded on 10 prin-

ciples: the human right to safety, gender equality, cultural responses, personal accountability, integrated approach, coordinated response, voices of women, prevention, evaluation and accountability.

During the week of March 26-28 the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) took part in the first rounds of training for the new Victim Services program.

"We are honoured the WSMNO has been able to provide ongoing input into the development of the MNO Victim Services program," said MNO Vice-chair and WSMNO Spokesperson Sharon McBride. "We look forward to

contributing further and prioritizing direction in addressing violence against Métis women provincially."

The training began with a sharing circle where the women voiced their stories and reasons for being part of the WSMNO and their interests in the MNO Victim Services training.

MNO Victim Services Coordinator Marsha Depotier shared a beautiful "Strong Women Song" with the group. The group closed their eyes and sang along quietly thinking of all the women in the world who are or have been victims of abuse.

Following this was an overview on what

victimization and domestic abuse are; the origins of violence in Métis communities and practices to foster Métis cultural strength and understanding; victim services program staff roles and how to access consultation and support; signs of abuse, how to report abuse or potential harm; safety planning and healing.

An interactive healing exercise was the highlight of the training. The group took part in tie blanket making where they wrote words of strengths and healing on the insides of the blankets. The blankets are to symbolize the healing process by wrapping strength, support and comfort around a victim. ∞



◀ **MNO Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program Coordinator Amanda Desbiens discussing FASD with attendants of MNO's mental health training.**

MNO Mental Health First Aid training attendants demonstrating first aid techniques. ▶



Rising up to the mental health challenge MNO hosts training for Aboriginal front-line workers

Mental health issues in children and youth are on the rise. More and more children and youth are being diagnosed with mental health issues or are suffering in silence. Acknowledging the high demand for mental health services, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) hosted mental health training for Aboriginal front-line staff working with children and youth from across Ontario.

The three-day training session was designed to develop skills that will improve supports to clients who have experienced trauma; learn about the impact of vicarious trauma and discover individual, organization and community strategies for self-care and wellness; help front-line workers provide initial support to someone who may be

developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis; and gain insight on resiliency and resource-building for Aboriginal people.

"The training is pertinent to the issues I deal with on a daily basis," said Jay Smith, Residential Youth Counsellor with Ganohkwasra Family Assault Support Services. "I have gained an overall better understanding of the complex issues I face in my field of work and have gained another set of tools to use when dealing with them."

Day one began with a presentation by Amanda Desbiens, MNO Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program Coordinator, on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). She spoke about her experience as a front-line worker dealing with cases

of FASD and how to implement best practices. This was followed by a workshop on vicarious trauma presented by registered social worker Diana Tikasz of Compassion Fatigue Solutions. She provided practical tools for dealing with the effects of workers own compassion fatigue. Participants were taught practical strategies for identifying and dealing with the costs of caring in a mental health setting and coping mechanisms.

Following this, participants took part in a two-day workshop: Mental Health First Aid Canada: For adults who interact with youth curriculum. This curriculum focused on mental health problems and first aid for youth aged 12 to 24. Participants were taught how to identify mental health problems and the appropri-

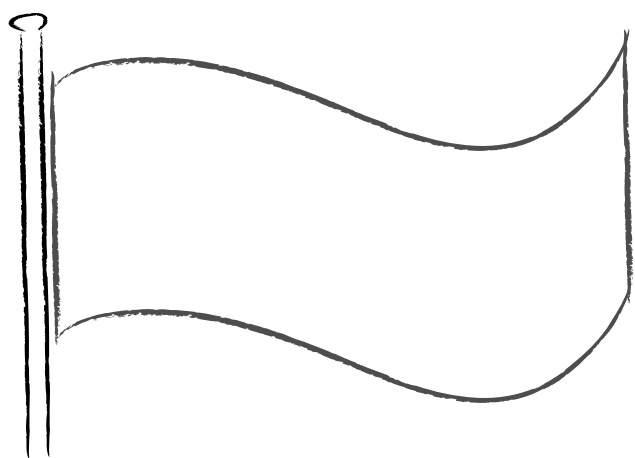
ate first aid intervention strategies. Presentations were also made by MNO Victim Services Coordinator Megan Muloin and MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Terry-Lynn Longpre.

"A lot of what was discussed in the workshop is used at my agency. It is definitely a confirmation that we are doing it right and the training has offered new tools we can implement," said Gabriela Boskovic, Child and Youth Worker for Ganohkwasra's Gayenawahsra Program. "I am very glad that the MNO has invited us to be here."

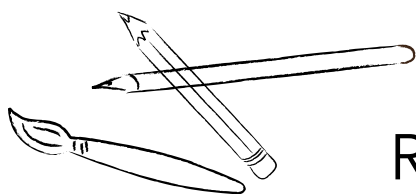
Organizations that took part in the training included: Nijkiwendidaa Anishinabekwewag Services Circle, Aboriginal Peoples Alliance of Northern Ontario, CanAm Urban Natives Homes, Gs Beh Shoo

in Aboriginal Men's Shelter Ininev Friendship Centre, Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre, Chiefs of Ontario, Ontario Native Women's Association, Shawanaga First Nation Healing Centre, Independent First Nations, Red Lake Indian Friendship, Ganohkwasra Family Assault Support Services, Independent First Nations, First Erie Native Cultural Centre Inc., Timmins Native Friendship Circle, N'Swakamok Friendship Centre, Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, Noojmowin, Hamilton Native Women's Centre and Fort Albany Shelter.

MNO is thankful to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services who provided the funding to make this training a possible. ∞



Searching for a flag for the Métis Nation of Ontario



Request for Submissions (RFS)

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is requesting submissions for designs for a MNO flag that will be used as the official provincial Métis flag of the MNO to go along with the national Métis flag.

A. Process:

- PCMNO sets requirements, parameters and guidelines for submissions;
- PCMNO appoints selection committee;
- Selection committee members will be required to familiarize themselves with North American Vexillological Association standards and apply these to the selection process;
- The RFS will be publicized in the Voyageur, website, eVoyageur and Facebook;
- All designs will be vetted to determine whether designs meet the criteria outlined in the RFS. Only those that meet the criteria will be considered by the selection committee;
- Following the deadline and after vetting to ensure compliance, the selection committee will be presented with all qualified designs. Who the designers are will not be shared with the selection committee;
- The selection committee recommends five designs they feel are most appropriate to the PCMNO;
- From the five designs that are recommended, the PCMNO will select two or three designs which they feel best reflect Ontario Métis;
- A vote will take place at the 2014 AGA among the designs selected by the PCMNO, and the final one will be chosen;
- The design with the greatest number of votes will be selected as the official MNO flag.

B. RFS Criteria:

- Only MNO citizens can submit designs;
- All designs must be rectangular with standard width-to-length proportions of 1:2. Square, triangular or any shape other rectangular at 1:2 proportions will not be considered;

- Designs cannot include tassels, fringes or other extraneous features; designs with extraneous features will not be considered;
- Submissions can be made either electronically or with hard copies; electronic submissions can be made to mnoflagcontest@metisnation.org. Hard copy submissions can be sent to:

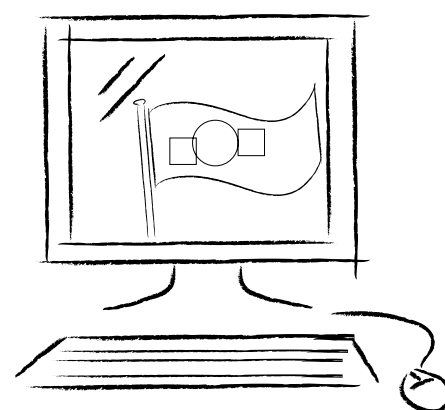
MNO Flag Request for Proposals
500 Old St. Patrick Street Unit D
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9G4

- Fax submissions are not acceptable and will not be considered;
- Submissions must be in colour;
- Submissions must include a short explanation of the symbolism represented in the design;
- Submissions must include the name, citizen number, mailing address and e-mail address (if he/she has one) of the designer; those without this information will not be considered;
- Only one submission is permitted per citizen; if multiple submissions are received, the first one received will be the only one considered;
- Designs must conform to the five principles of flag design as outlined by the North American Vexillological Association. Flags that do not meet these principles will not be considered. The principles are:
 1. Keep it simple: a good flag is simple enough that a child can draw it from memory. Flags must be seen from a distance and from their opposite side. Complicated flags are also more costly to reproduce.
 2. Use meaningful symbolism: a good flag uses symbolism through a main graphic element, colours and layout.
 3. Use two-three basic colours: The number of colours in a flag should be limited to three, which contrast well and come from a standard colour set. The basic flag colours are red, blue, green, black, yellow and white and there use can range from dark to light. A good flag should also reproduce well in black and white.

4. No lettering or seals: Good flags do not include writing of any or kind or an organization's seal or logo etc.; flags are symbols and words defeat that purpose. Lettering is difficult to read from a distance, hard to sew, difficult to read in smaller reproductions and not reversible.
5. Be distinctive or be related: Do not duplicate other flags but use similarities to show connections. Never duplicate another flag or design something so similar it could be mistaken for another flag. If there is a direct connection between two bodies and you wish to represent that in a flag that should be accomplished through use of symbols, colours and shapes that recall common heritage, solidarity or connectedness.

*Additional information about North American Vexillological Association standards can be found in their booklet "Good Flag Bad Flag: How to Design a Great Flag," which is posted on the MNO website.

- The PCMNO reserves the right to alter the flag designs chosen that go forward to MNO citizens for final selection;
- Citizens who submit designs must sign declarations agreeing to turn over all rights of their designs to the MNO; the MNO will have complete ownership of the design, including copyright, and will register the design as an MNO trademark;
- The deadline for submissions is **December 31, 2013.**



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RUBICON MINERALS CORPORATION

ADVERTISEMENT

Rubicon Minerals Corporation is an advanced stage gold development company, focused on responsible and environmentally sustainable development of its Phoenix Gold Project in Red Lake, Ontario. The Phoenix Gold Project is located in northwestern Ontario approximately 20 kilometres northwest of the town site of Red Lake. The Project site is accessible by a combination of municipal roads and Rubicon maintained gravel road.

Rubicon controls over 100 square miles of prime exploration property in the Red Lake gold district and conducting exploration

since the late 1990's. In 2008 it had a gold discovery on its Phoenix Property in East Bay. Since discovery Rubicon has focused on its exploration and development efforts on the Phoenix Gold Project and anticipates gold production by late 2014.

Since discovery the focus of work performed includes geophysical surveys, dewatering of historic underground workings, surface and underground diamond drilling and further underground development. Rubicon released a positive Preliminary Economic Assessment in 2011 with a high-grade resource of



RUBICON

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0.5MMoz at 14.5 g/t gold indicated and 2.3MM oz at 17 g/t gold inferred. Rubicon plans to update Project economics in a new Preliminary Economic Assessment which will include an updated mineral resource estimate and incorporate completed optimization studies in late May to early June of this year.

The current focus of work at the Project is continued shaft sinking (currently at approximately 610 metres below surface) and mill construction. Infrastructure completed to date includes connection to Ontario hydro grid 44KV, shaft access with modern hoisting plant

(2500 HP, 14" diameter hoist), new extended headframe, all-weather road connecting to the town of Red Lake and a 44 man construction camp at site.

Rubicon is committed to the community in which it explores and develops its projects. Consultation with the Métis Nation of Ontario and First Nations is on-going and will continue for the life of the project. Rubicon signed a Letter of Intent with the Métis Nation of Ontario in January of 2012 and continues to build on the relationship with the citizens of Region One.

NATION

■ MÉTIS RIGHTS

Métis ruling could benefit here

MNO President Gary Lipinski speaks about the Supreme Court of Canada's decision on Manitoba Métis land rights.

Original article from
Fort Frances Times

MNO President Gary Lipinski speaks about the Supreme Court of Canada's decision on Manitoba Métis land rights.

Fort Frances resident Gary Lipinski, who is president of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), was among the provincial and national leaders at the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa on March 8 when it handed down its decision in the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) case.

And though he noted it's early in the process, Lipinski is optimistic and hopeful that Rainy River District and the Province of Ontario will benefit from the historic ruling—not necessarily by individual compensation but by the example that's now been set.

"As Canada began to develop as a country, Métis were instrumentally involved certainly in the fur trade but also, in this particular case, in negotiating Manitoba's coming into Confederation," Lipinski explained.

"And part of those negotiations resulted in certain promises and provisions which are included in the *Manitoba Act*, which formed Canada's Constitution," he noted.

"And those promises included things such as that there would be 1.4 acres of land set aside for the Métis children. Those promises were never fulfilled," he stressed.

Lipinski said it has taken nearly 30 years to reach this decision. "The Métis people have continued to raise the point with government that we have unresolved matters that need to be dealt with, but the government failed to deal with them or take them seriously," he charged, saying the highest court of the land now has recognized there are historical grievances for the Métis people.

"The Crown has failed to 'live up to the honour of the Crown,'" he remarked.

Lipinski said it was exciting to be part of such a historical moment. "We knew [the ruling] was going to be released at 9:45 a.m., so ourselves and the lawyers involved were eagerly waiting by the clerk's office to get the decision," he recalled.

"As soon as we had word that it was a win, people just erupted

▲ MNO President
Gary Lipinski

with cheers. It's quite an exciting moment to be there when this historic decision came down, to be part of it," Lipinski enthused.

"Those cheers were on behalf of the Métis people right across our homeland."

Now that the decision has been made, Lipinski said the next step will be a process where the government will need to negotiate compensation with the MMF.

“

As soon as we had word that it was a win, people just erupted with cheers. It's quite an exciting moment to be there when this historic decision came down, to be part of it...

— President Lipinski

It will be taken up directly with MMF, but I would expect it would probably unfold similar to how First Nations' land claims have gone forward," he explained.

That likely would include a long negotiation period and perhaps an outcome of some land—Manitoba has some Crown land—as well as some monetary compensation.

"But those are details that

would come out in negotiations, so it's not really fair to speculate at this point," Lipinski warned, noting negotiations will determine who the beneficiaries are and what the settlement will be.

"But without question, with 100 per cent certainty, people in this area, and across a number of communities in Ontario and a number of provinces, would be able to trace their ancestry back to that time period," he noted.

However, Lipinski said what's more important than individual compensation is the precedent set by this case.

"There are historic grievances for Métis people in Ontario, as well in other parts of our homeland," he remarked, citing the MNO and the Métis Nation of Alberta were able to intervene at the Supreme Court of Canada.

"What has been missing at the federal government level is a process for dealing with historic Métis grievances," he continued.

"We have them similar to First Nations, but the difference is the First Nations have had a comprehensive land claim process set up for a number of decades, where they have a process for dealing with those grievances.

"That has not been available to the Métis people," Lipinski stressed.

"The federal government needs to establish a process for dealing with historic Métis grievances," he argued. "That would allow situations where promises were made to Métis people in Ontario, as well, to be begin to be addressed in that form."

Lipinski is hoping residents in Ontario will keep up-to-date with the negotiation process regarding this case.

"But I would also say from past experiences watching other things unfold that things don't move as quickly as people like to think they are going to," he warned.

"The negotiation process could be quite a while, so it isn't going to change anybody's lives overnight. I think what's important for folks to understand is Canada is a unique, wonderful country," Lipinski said. "But as it developed as a nation, there were promises made to the aboriginal people as part of Canada becoming the country we all know and love. And those promises need to be fulfilled." ∞

ACROSS THE HOMELAND



SASKATCHEWAN

Graham Kotowich honoured by Indspire Awards

Saskatchewan Métis Graham Kotowich was recently recognized at the 2013 Inspire Awards Gala which was held on February 15 in Saskatoon. He received a \$10,000 Indspire scholarship towards his career as a professional ballet dancer. Graham's Métis lineage comes from his great-grandparents who were from Cumberland House. Thirteen other outstanding Indigenous Canadians were also recognized including three Métis from Alberta and Manitoba.

Source: Métis Nation-Saskatchewan



ALBERTA & BRITISH COLUMBIA

Métis Nation Regional Economic Development Engagement Session

Métis Nation citizens from British Columbia and Alberta gathered in Vancouver on March 18 with industry representatives at their second Métis Nation Regional Economic Development Engagement Session. This two-day engagement session was a crucial step towards solidifying the position of Métis businesses and entrepreneurs in the Canadian economic landscape.

Also during the session, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis Nation of British Columbia was signed. It sets out a working relationship between the two Métis governments with respect to economic initiatives which they have in common.

Source: Métis National Council



ALBERTA

Province proposes new rules for Alberta's Métis settlements

Alberta's eight Métis settlements will face tougher financial reporting rules, salary caps for councillors and a new code of conduct under proposed changes to the laws that govern them.

Aboriginal Relations Minister Robin Campbell introduced the new accountability standards in the legislature as part of a bundle of amendments to the *Métis Settlements Act*.

Bill 19 comes one month after the

Redford government and the Métis Settlements General Council signed a long-term agreement that will direct \$85 million in provincial funding to the settlements over the next 10 years.

Source: The Edmonton Journal



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ben Guidolin: Change maker

Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC) Lower Mainland Regional Youth Representative, Ben Guidolin, is featured on the cover of the 2013 winter edition of *Winds Of Change*.

Ben is a strong advocate for Métis youth and has recently started the only active American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) chapter in Canada at the University of British Columbia.

Ben has always been interested in the encouragement and retention of indigenous students in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields.

Source: Métis Nation of British Columbia



MANITOBA

Feature film to honour Cuthbert Grant

Winnipeg's Sandra Horyski, whose great-great-great grandfather was Métis leader Cuthbert Grant, will be executive producing a feature film this summer on Grant entitled *Warden of the Plains*. Key actors being considered for the film include Taylor Lautner (from *Twilight*) as a young Cuthbert Grant and Angus MacFadyen (from *Braveheart*) as an older Cuthbert Grant. Mads Mikkelsen (from *Valhalla Rising*) is also interested.

Source: Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

Manitoba Hydro settles longstanding claim with Métis trappers

Métis trappers who harvested furs in the Summerberry marsh will soon be compensated for the flooding caused by Manitoba Hydro and the Grand Rapids hydroelectric dam. Through the 1940s and the 1950s, trappers from throughout the area, including Grand Rapids, Moose Lake, Cormorant, Duck Bay, Camperville and other locations, trapped fur bearing animals in the Summerberry. Construction for the generating station in Grand Rapids started in 1960 and was completed in 1968.

Source: Manitoba Metis Federation

Challenging Métis youth to get involved

A message from PCMNO
Post-secondary Representative
Jennifer Henry

As the one-year mark arrives since I have been Post-secondary Representative on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), I would like to reflect on the past year as well as share some of the many the valuable lessons I have learned. Over the past twelve months I have met many inspiring leaders within the Métis Nation. I have also strengthened my bond with the youth of our Nation and learned an abundant amount of information on numerous topics. I find it hard to believe a year has already flown by.

When I was elected onto the PCMNO, I was 18 years old and just finishing my first year of university. Although I have been an active citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) since I was 11 years old, I felt slightly nervous after being elected onto the provisional council at a young age. Prior to winning the election, I had never been elected by the citizens of the MNO for a position. With this came a huge sense of pride, responsibility and determination to ensure I was fulfilling the duties and goals that the citizens wanted to be achieved. As any newly elected person on a council, especially being a youth, I began to feel overwhelmed with all of the new information I was learning. Also, sitting around the table with leaders who have been involved with the MNO longer than I have been alive is quite eye opening! Although the first PCMNO meeting was filled with new information that was overwhelming at the time, this is where my first valuable lesson comes in.

I have learned over the past year that despite how intimidating a new experience can be, you are never too young to get involved. As youth, we need to ensure our voices are being heard. I understand how easy it can be to feel apprehensive as a youth to get out into your community and attend MNO council meetings, but you must take that first step. It is extremely important for you as youth

to get involved because we need to learn where our Nation has grown from, where our Nation is currently, and where our Nation is headed in the future.

The MNO will do anything to encourage youth to emerge as the next generation of leaders. I can ensure you that your local councils will be extremely supportive and understanding that this may potentially be all new information for you. The best way to start getting involved is to simply attend meetings, ask questions and begin to learn as early as you can. Your local MNO councils are there to educate, support and help you in anyway possible.

“Remember, it is never too late or too early to engage yourself with the MNO and your culture. Please take advantage of the endless possibilities the MNO has waiting for you.”

I challenge all MNO community councils to try and have at least two new youth attend a future council meeting. I also challenge all Métis youth to take the initiative and attend your next local community council meeting. If we continue to get our youth involved, our Nation will only grow stronger.

The second lesson I have learned over the past year stems from having the privilege of meeting Senator Earl Scofield at the 2012 Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Sault Ste. Marie. Although I met Senator Earl in August and he passed away in November, I can truly say

he became a dear friend of mine. Over those few months, Senator Earl and I would send emails and call each other at least once a week. He would tell me stories of his past fighting in World War II, as well as share his wisdom and passion towards the Métis Nation, a passion that he always carried with him. As I received the shocking news that we had suddenly lost Senator Earl, I realized that not only did we lose a beautiful friend, elder, Senator and veteran, but we also lost a wealth of knowledge and leadership.

In the past few months we have lost an unfortunate number of Métis leaders within the MNO, as well as on a national level. However, we still have many strong, vibrant leaders who are looking to pass on their knowledge and experience. A prime example of a leader we still have in the Métis Nation who is an overflowing wealth of knowledge is Mr. John Morrisseau, the past President of the Manitoba Metis Federation from 1976 to 1981 and also one of the men who spearheaded the recent Manitoba Metis Federation Supreme Court of Canada case. I had the honour of meeting Mr. Morrisseau twice in March at a residential school forum in Ottawa, as well as at the Métis National Council's 2013 AGA in Vancouver. I was inspired every time he gave a speech as I continued to learn about his commitment and dedication to the Métis Nation.

Reflecting back on the stories told by Senator Earl and Mr. Morrisseau, this is evidently another reason that as youth we must become involved now. Our elders and leaders will not be here guiding us forever. We must learn their stories, their hardships and their accomplishments to realize how far we have come as a Nation, and how much further we still have to go. It is our responsibility to carry on the work our ancestors have been doing since the days of Louis Riel. We must keep the Métis Nation strong, vibrant and headed in the right direction.

If any youth are interested in learning on how they can get involved with the MNO, please email me at jenniferhenry2@trentu.ca and I will support you along your



▲ Jennifer Henry with the late Senator Earl Scofield at the 2012 MNO Annual General Assembly.



▲ Jennifer Henry and past president of the Manitoba Metis Federation John Morrisseau.

journey. I will point you in the right direction and connect you to other youth in your area to help create a network close to home. If you would rather meet in person, please attend the 2013 AGA being held in Ottawa. I will definitely be there and hope to be able to connect with many of you on a face-to-face basis. Also, you can join the Facebook group called “Youth of the Métis Nation” (facebook.com/groups/youthofthemetisnation/) where we are approaching almost 200 youth members across Canada who will also support you. In this group youth share opportunities for involvement, photos of events they have attended, and success stories within their communities.

Another person who is more

than willing to support you on your journey is Mitch Case. Mitch is the Youth Representative on the PCMNO. He will connect you with the Youth Representative from your region who will also be an important area of support. Mitch's email is mitch.case@hotmail.com if you would like to contact him. He will also be attending the 2013 AGA.

Remember, it is never too late or too early to engage yourself with the MNO and your culture. Please take advantage of the endless possibilities the MNO has waiting for you. Begin volunteering today and watch how the MNO will give you confidence, education and support to ensure you create a successful future for yourself, on whichever path you chose. ∞

Researching Métis involvement in the War of 1812

Submitted By **Ann Trudel** and **David Barratt**
of the MNO Navigating Employment Pathways Project
in Sault Ste. Marie

The bicentennial of the War of 1812 has provided an impetus for learning more about Métis involvement in the war. Last year at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly held in Sault Ste. Marie, the contributions and involvement of the Métis and their strategic capture of the Fort on Mackinaw Island were commemorated. Métis summer youth partici-

pants along with the local Métis dance club; helped to re-enact the Métis role both at Fort St. Joseph on St. Joseph Island and at Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site.

The commemoration for the War of 1812 continues. Throughout the province “signature events” which happened 200 years before are being re-enacted. This year, the main focus is on the “Tall Ships”. The

MNO has committed this summer's Métis youth interpreters to be at the various provincial locations thus giving Métis a strong presence.

To learn more about Métis involvement in the War of 1812 the MNO hired Paul McNabb, a researcher with a master's degree from York University. McNabb has a background in Aboriginal research and is a descendent of Hudson Bay Company fur trading employees.

To assist his research, MNO employees in Sault Ste. Marie who are involved in the place

of Algoma 1812 program, introduced McNabb to Gertude Kehoe, Dan and April Pine. The Pines are descendants of Augustine Barthe, better known as Shingwauk (which means Little Pine). Shingwauk was purportedly Métis according to some historians.

After completing his oral research in Sault Ste. Marie, McNabb continued his work examining other sources regarding Métis involvement in the War of 1812. His work will be utilized by the MNO for War of 1812 projects later this year. ∞



▲ April Pine, Dan Pine, Paul McNabb, and Gertrude Kehoe.

MNO President views Ontario budget positively

Points to value of MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement

(Ottawa-May 3, 2013) The 2013 Ontario budget demonstrates that the Ontario government is continuing its commitment to working together with Aboriginal people, including Métis, to insure meaningful participation in decision-making and partnerships that will improve social and economic opportunities. "We see the budget as an on-going example of how the government is living up to the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement* that we signed in 2008," stated Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Lipinski, "the measures outlined show that it continues to share many of the priorities of the MNO."

"We are pleased the provincial government will provide an additional five million dollars annually to improve Aboriginal student achievement," stated President Lipinski, "this builds on the significant programming the government already has in place for Aboriginal learners."

President Lipinski was also pleased to see the government's commitment in the budget to work

We are pleased the provincial government will provide an additional five million dollars annually to improve Aboriginal student achievement..."

— President Lipinski,

and on developing a multi-year Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy. "The MNO is one of the government's Aboriginal partners in this endeavor. The proposed strategy will focus on building community-driven, integrated and culturally appropriate supports to help Aboriginal children and young people grow up healthy and become all they can be," explained President Lipinski.

The budget also saw the government renew its commitment to the Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program (ALGP), which supports Aboriginal participation in the energy sector. President Lipinski was also pleased with the emphasis on improving labour market participation and building a highly skilled workforce. President Lipinski pointed out: "Métis constitute one third of the Aboriginal population in the province and we represent a young and growing demographic. Accordingly, measure in this area whether for the Aboriginal people specifically or the general population will benefit Métis." ∞

SENATORS' SPOTLIGHT



All views expressed in this article are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Métis Nation of Ontario

By Executive Senator
Reta Gordon

This year's Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) is taking place in Ottawa, which is appropriate as the Ottawa River was once an important fur trade route that was very important to our Métis ancestors. More than just a trade route, these rivers gave our ancestors the opportunity to mingle and engage in commerce with our First Nations cousins while stopping at various points along the river. One of such places was Victoria Island, a meeting /gathering place of Aboriginal people then and still today. This Island will figure prominently during the AGA opening ceremonies.

The National Capital is rich in Métis history, both ancient and contemporary. Travelling the ancient waterways was not an easy task, but it is an experience within our collective that has allowed us at times to travel through rough waters, going against the flow, to avoid obstacles.

"...who we are and where we come from. This is our homeland..."

Much has been accomplished since the MNO's inception 20 years ago. We have built a strong political voice of our people. We owe much to the vision of people such as Tony Belcourt and current MNO President Gary Lipinski. The torch has been passed on to President Lipinski and the fire of the torch burns brightly in the hearts of all Ontario Métis.

We are honoured and blessed for past and present members of the MNO including the executive team, the Provisional Council, the community councils and of course the volunteers and citizens. All have never lost sight of the Métis dream of not only walking in the footprints of the past, but making our own tracks and paths with full knowledge of "who we are and where we come from. This is our homeland."

This year we gather together in Ottawa much more secure of ourselves, more seasoned and ready to continue to push on. I would like to welcome everyone to Ottawa and to the 20th anniversary of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Nominations for the 2013 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award close on: July 31st, 2013

The Suzanne Rochon-Burnett VOLUNTEER of the YEAR AWARD 2013



Marlene GREENWOOD
2012 • North Bay



Olivine BOUSQUET-TIEDEMA
2012 • Oshawa



Gordon CALDER
2011 • Fort Frances



Pauline SAULNIER
2010 • Penetanguishene



Louise GOULDING
2009 • Moon Island



Richard SARRAZIN
2008 • Sudbury



Reta GORDON
2007 • Ottawa



Suzanne ROCHON-BURNETT
2006

In 2012 the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) presented the *Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award* to Senators Marlene Greenwood and Olivine Bousquet-Tiedema. These two worthy recipients each have dedicated thousands of hours to the betterment of their communities, the advancement of Métis rights and the preservation and promotion of Métis culture and heritage.

Senator Marlene Greenwood has been volunteering and devoting her time, knowledge and wisdom to the MNO and the MNO North Bay Council since their inceptions. She is present at every Council meeting and event. She is soft-spoken with a big heart and is loved by all who know her. She is known for her honesty, authenticity, charisma and devotion to moving the MNO agenda forward.

Senator Olivine Bousquet-Tiedema was instrumental in the founding of three MNO Commu-

nity Councils; the MNO Toronto-York, Oshawa-Durham and Credit River Métis Councils. In recognition of her dedication and contributions to preserving Métis culture, the MNO Oshawa-Durham Council named their dance troupe the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers. Senator Bousquet-Tiedema's enthusiasm and work for her Métis culture knows no bounds.

OBJECTIVE: The objective of the *Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award* is to recognize individuals who contribute as a volunteer to the MNO year round and have done so for a number of years. Each year a volunteer meeting the criteria is named as the recipient of the *Suzanne-Rochon Volunteer of the Year* by a selection committee of the MNO.

PROCESS: Any MNO citizen can nominate a volunteer for the award by completing a nomination form and sending it to:

Suzanne-Rochon Volunteer of the Year
Hunter Courchene Consulting Group
1065 Boulevard de la Carrière
Gatineau, QC J8Y 6V5
The deadline for nominations is
July 31st, 2013.

Nomination forms are available on the MNO website in the AGA section.

CRITERIA: The individuals nominated must exemplify the kind of volunteer contribution demonstrated by Suzanne Rochon-Burnett. They will have given generously of their time and effort, are strong advocates of the Métis Nation and their record of selfless commitment has been firmly established. They are seen as caring, giving individuals that others look up to and admire. The candidates will have provided an extended period of service as a volunteer.

DR. SUZANNE ROCHON-BURNETT was a founding member of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Named to the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, Suzanne was a member of the Canada Council and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Brock University where she served on the Board of Trustees. She was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and the first woman inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. Suzanne passed away in 2006. To honour her memory and recognize her outstanding service as a volunteer, in 2006, the Métis Nation of Ontario named Suzanne as the first recipient of the inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award which now bears her name.

MNO takes leading role in responsible gambling working group

Collective approach to problem gambling prevention

Last spring, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care selected the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to take on the role of lead coordinator of the Ontario Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program (OARGP) working group. MNO was the successful candidate due to their administrative capacity, experience in working with Aboriginal partners and responsiveness to the needs of the Ministry.

From March 26-28, the MNO hosted the first provincial meeting of the OARGP since being selected lead coordinator.

The OARGP has been in place for a number of years as a place to exchange knowledge and share best practices, resources and tools in regards to responsible gambling. Including the MNO, the members of this working group consist of eight organisations: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), Ontario Native Women’s Association (ONWA), Independent First Nations (IFN), Kenora Chiefs (KC), Association Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIA), Ontario



▲ (left to right) **Back row: Crystal Cummings (UOI), Lyndia Jones (IFN), Ted Norris (MNO), Angel Maracle (OFIFC), Loma Rowlinson (MNO), Vikki German (Ministry of Health and Long Term Care), Lisa Jackson (AIAI)** Front row: **Jennifer Cornell (ONWA), Kathy Adcock (NAN), Lynda McDonald (KC), and Wenda Watteyne (MNO).**

Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC) and the Union of Ontario Indians (UOI).

“We are taking a collective approach to problem gambling prevention. Creating this collaboration with other Aboriginal

organizations addressing similar issues and challenges allows us to share information and determine best practices,” said MNO Director of Healing and Wellness Wenda Watteyne. “We look forward to strengthening our partner-

ships and seeing that the OARGP succeeds.”

This was the first meeting since February 2011 and it proved to be a success. The working group reviewed the mission statement and the objectives of the group and set

forward a plan for the future.

The agreed upon mission statement is: “A comprehensive First Nation, Métis and Inuit culture based problem gambling prevention programme that engages partners in developing a collaborative approach to address the risks associated with problem gambling.”

Re-branding initiatives were also discussed. The MNO will take the lead on the re-branding of the group. Focusing on prevention, the re-branding initiative is reflective of the current and changing environment of Ontario gaming regulations and demand.

Over the next fiscal year the MNO will continue bring the working group together in order to develop common communications tools and oversee the program evaluation. The next meeting is scheduled for July 2013.

The MNO is very honoured to have been selected by the Ministry to play the coordinating role and is very pleased with the outcome of this first meeting. ∞

MNO President testifies at East West Tie Transmission hearing

Urges Energy Board to uphold Ontario policies on Métis inclusion

On May 2, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski testified before the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) in the ongoing designation process to select a transmitter to develop the East West Tie (EWT) Transmission Project in northern Ontario.

President Lipinski was joined by the presidents of the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council, the MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council and the MNO Greenstone Métis Council – Jean Carmirand, Trent Desaulnier and William Gordon. As well, Cam Burgess, the elected MNO Regional Councillor and Ken Simard, the Captain of the Hunt, attended to show support.

The EWT project is a proposed double circuit transmission line that would span from Thunder Bay to Wawa. This designation process is the first-of-its-kind in Ontario and is undertaken pursuant to the OEB’s new mandate under the Green Energy and Economy Act. The project will cross the traditional territory of the Métis community, and the MNO has obtained intervener status in the designation hearing.

President Lipinski testified about the positive and collaborative work that has been undertaken between

the Ontario Government and the MNO in order to advance the aboriginal partnership and participation commitments in Ontario’s Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP) over the last several years. President Lipinski urged the OEB to designate a transmitter that would ensure Ontario’s policy commitments made to all Aboriginal communities – First Nations and Métis – will be advanced.

“This Board cannot be passive or indifferent in relation to these policies. It must embrace and fulfill its important role in the same way the Minister of Energy, the Ontario Power Authority and the Ontario Government has with respect to advancing Aboriginal partnerships,” testified Lipinski.

President Lipinski added, “The Board must get it “right” in this designation, by ensuring the commitments of the LTEP are fulfilled. If not, a negative and dangerous precedent will be set. These policies, if ignored, will become “empty promises” for the Métis as well as other Aboriginal communities. This will breed disillusionment, mistrust and delays with respect to new transmission.”

At the hearing, President Lipinski expressed concerns about some

prospective transmitters that completely excluded the potential of Métis partnership. The MNO also highlighted the positive model put forth by some proposed transmitters who have committed to set aside up to 49 per cent equity ownership for Aboriginal communities, inclusive, of both First Nations and Métis.

President Lipinski concluded, “We need to recognize that no matter what happens, First Nations, Métis communities and other communities need to work together. We need this project and a designated transmitter that brings us closer together – not further apart. For the Métis community, we want this project to ultimately be a symbol of the results that come from the respectful and collaborative Ontario Government policies that have been developed to encourage Aboriginal participation in the new green energy economy.” ∞

A copy of President Lipinski’s presentation is available at the MNO website: www.metisnation.org

For more information on the EWT project and the designation process visit: www.ontarioenergyboard.ca



▲ **Members of the Women’s Secretariat and MNO staff at the WSMNO general meeting** (left to right) Back row: **Pearl Gabona, Marsha Depotier, Bridget Brown, Susan Van der Rassel, Joanne Hamelin, Marilyn Hew, Kim Powley;** Front row: **Jennifer Barr, Karen Derocher, Lisa Pigeau, Vice-Chair Sharon McBride, Barbaranne Wright, Kelly Camacho, and Claire Kearns.**

Coming together for the advancement of Métis women

WSMNO hold general meeting

On March 28, The Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) held a general meeting in Toronto to discuss the roles and responsibility of the Women’s Representatives within community councils.

During the meeting, the group discussed the MNO policy document on violence against Métis

women, prioritized action items and created a one-year plan.

“We are pleased to have the opportunity at the tail end of our training to seek input from the women to plan our direction in the coming year,” said MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride. “Being part of program input provides us with a renewed sense of pride as our role as Métis women in our communities.”∞

The WSMNO is comprised of Métis women from Ontario who are committed to promoting women’s issues and advocating on their behalf within the MNO community. The WSMNO also advises the PCMNO on matters pertaining to women and works with community councils, Aboriginal boards, government bodies and women’s groups to assist Métis people with issues of concern specific to women. This work includes policy development and review, coordination, consultation and education. The main goal of the WSMNO is to encourage the full participation of all women within the MNO in helping to build a strong and healthy nation.

COMMUNITY



▲ Panel of MNO citizens at information session in Lafontaine.

Information session attracts potential citizens

Submitted by **Pauline Saulnier**,
PCMNO Councillor, Region 7

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Verna Porter recently invited Lafontaine francophone citizens to an information session on what the

MNO is all about.

The event was arranged in collaboration with MNO staff member Joanne Parent, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chair David Dusome and the Board of Villageois (Manor) at Villageois in Lafontaine on March 20.

The representatives provided a

presentation on Métis culture and heritage, the MNO and its activities, the benefits of joining the MNO and how to become a citizen.

The event was a great success, approximately 75 people were in attendance and many took home MNO citizenship applications. ∞

Maple syrup celebration

Submitted by **Larry J. Ferris**,
MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council

It's that time of year again. The sun is shining, the birds are chirping and the trees are flowing. What better way to celebrate than a night dedicated to delicious Canadian maple syrup?

That's exactly what the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian

Bay Métis Council did. On March 18, MNO staff hosted roughly 23 people for a dinner of pancakes, maple syrup, sausage and some tasty desserts.

The evening also featured music by the world famous Georgian Bay Métis Ladies Drummers and stories told by Ken Frazer and Mary Mackie. ∞



▲ MNO staff member Mary Mackie sharing a story with youth.

MNO Credit River Métis Council hosts annual meeting

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

On April 14, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council hosted their second Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Senator Ray Bergie led off the AGM agenda by providing the opening prayer. Returning Councillors included: Richard Cuddy, President; Bill Morrison, Vice President; Ray Bergie, Senator; Joyce Tolles, Secretary/Treasurer; Karen Derocher, Women's Rep.; Talitha Tolles, Youth Rep.; Murray Berger, Councillor and Jim Tolles, Traditional Knowledge Resource. The newly elected Council members Darlene Lent, David Neville and Jean-Marc Maheu were also formally introduced.

Honoured guests Sharon McBride, MNO Vice-chair and Anita Tucker, Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Councillor for Region Eight spoke to the citizens on behalf of the MNO. They provided important information, announcements and information.

The Council President's report to the citizens consisted of a summary of achievements such as:

- Hosting an Election Candidates Platform Panel for candidates running in the MNO Provincial



▲ **MNO Credit River Métis Council members.** (left to right) Back row: **Murray Berger, Karen Derocher, David Neville, Jean-Marc Maheu, Senator Ray Bergie and Jim Tolles.** Front row: **Bill Morrison, President Richard Cuddy, Darlene Lent and Joyce Tolles.**

- Election.
- Hosting a Métis youth fishing event.
- Collaborating partners and facilitators for a Métis Youth Conference at David Suzuki Secondary School attended by over 110 high school students from all over the Region of Peel.
- Hosting a Métis medicine walk at Crawford Lake.
- Hosting a Credit River Louis Riel Day gathering.
- Acquiring a Council office.
- Contributors to the Peel Museum's Aboriginal Exhibit.

- Initiated a Métis student tutoring program.
- The Council has also initiated and is continuing to establish relationships with:
 - The Mississauga Halton Local Integrated Health Network (MH LHN).
 - The Region of Peel.
 - Conservation Halton and Credit Valley Conservation.
 - The Peel Children's Aid Society (PCAS).
 - The Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives (PAMA).
 - Ontario Power Generation

- (OPG).
- The City of Brampton.
- "The Council continues to mature and with the addition of new councillors and their valuable professional assets; fresh eyes and new ideas are injected," stated Council President Cuddy.

With the assistance and input of Senator Bergie, an Oath of Office document for the MNO Credit River Métis Council was drafted, tabled as a motion and established by consensus during the meeting.

Each council representative also took this time to provide their

Council reports. Youth Representative Talitha Tolles was unable to attend as she is currently on an approved leave of absence while adjusting to her new role as an Aboriginal Facilitator for Me to We Free the Children.

The meeting ended with Council President Cuddy's reports on Harvesting and Community Events and Lands and Resources completed the agenda. Senator Bergie provided the closing prayer.

The Council was pleased to receive valuable input from the citizens during and after the meeting and looks forward to future opportunities. The impact of citizens is crucial for Council operations as indicated in the MNO Community Council Handbook:

A citizen is part of a crew of a ship without which the ship would not be able to sail on its own. The captain and officers steer the ship in the direction that the crew wants to go. Citizens are the most important part of the Community Council. The Council exists in order to meet the needs of its citizens. Citizens are responsible for electing their local leadership. The citizen attends meetings and provides general direction as well as volunteers for committees and activities. They support Council; other citizens and work towards the spirit of the MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose. ∞



▲ Hand drum making participants working together to stretch the hide.

Crafting a beat

MNO Moon River Métis Council holds a drum making workshop

By **Rose LePage**,
MNO Moon River Métis Council
Youth Representative

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens who are part of the MNO Moon River Métis Council gathered at the Parry Sound Friendship Centre this winter to learn the craft of handmade drums.

Local Wausuaxing First Nation singer and drummer, Jodi Baker, guided the group of fifteen citizens and their families to create their own handmade hand drums. At 93 years of age, the eldest member of the MNO Moon River Métis Council, Pete Grisdale also participated in the activity. The group was honoured to have him teach them how to create a knot that

was very beneficial in putting the drums together. The hand drum making activity began with choosing the round and hides that spoke to each participant personally. They laboured to stretch the hides and when someone was in need there was always nearby help. With some do-overs and a little puzzlement, they all managed to weave their long thin strip of hide

and sinew to hold it all in place. The hand drums where to be hung up at the homes of the participants while they waited for it to speak to them. Baker was delightful and kept all the participants entertained with her honesty and humour. She was genuine about the process and gave wisdom with her presence. She instructed the group that the first hand drum made should be given

away as a gift and that they would know when the time is right. It was a great day spent building identity and making connections between and amongst council members and citizens. The MNO Moon River Métis Council hopes to hold more hand drum making events in the near future. ∞

MNO Council training

MNO North Bay, Mattawa & Windsor Métis Councils participate in Governance and Finance training

The Métis Nation of Ontario (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 April

“
The course covers everything from how to run effective meetings and engage citizens in council activities to budgeting and the various financial practices...”

6-7, the course was offered to the MNO North Bay Métis Council and MNO Mattawa Métis Council

in North Bay. The MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council participated in the training from March 23-24 in Windsor. Courses have also been available in: Ottawa, Atikokan, Sudbury, Niagara, Peterborough, Grand River, Credit River, Milton, Windsor, Toronto and Georgian Bay. The two-day training course 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. ∞



▲ MNO North Bay Métis Council and MNO Mattawa Métis Council Governance and Finance training participants. (left to right) Front Row: **Denis Tremblay, Julianne Pedneault, Marlene Greenwood, Joel Laroque, Romeo Sarrazin, Nelson Montreuil;** Back Row: **Roger Pedneault, Michel Sarrazin and Marc Laurin.**



▲ Windsor Governance and Finance training participants. (left to right) **Jon Rochon, Wilfred Rochon, Donna Grayer, Susan Morency, Robert Leboeuf, and Andrew Good.**

Métis Fiddler Quartet headline event in Haliburton

By **Tracey Dale**,
MNO Community Wellness
Coordinator

Tammy Hoover,
MNO Healthy Babies Healthy
Children Coordinator

The Northern Lights Pavilion in Haliburton was the place to be on April 10 as the Métis Fiddler Quartet performed to an audience of almost 200 eager listeners.

The quartet was invited by J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School principal Elaine Fournier to be part of the school's Celebration of Métis, First Nations and Inuit Culture event. Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff, Tracey Dale and Tammy Hoover, helped organize the event.

The Quartet, made up of siblings, Alyssa, Conlin, Nicholas and Danton Delbaere-Sawhuck, has performed in large venues including 2010 Vancouver Olympics, National Aboriginal Achievement Awards and the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

To kick off the school's celebration event the Métis Fiddler Quartet performed a free interactive concert for a community family music night.

The crowd grew in numbers as the Quartet completed their final sound check before opening the doors to community members and MNO citizens from near and far.

Each member of the Métis Fiddler Quartet proudly wore their Métis sash as they entertained the crowd. It was hard for the audience to hold back as they clapped their hands and stomped their feet to this energetic fiddling group. Some audience members stood up in front of their seats and started jigging, at which point the quartet opened the stage level floor for anyone to join in.

The Quartet continued to engage the crowd by inviting audience members to join them on stage. They provided a lesson on playing the wooden spoons and asked the selected audience members to play along. The audience was able to keep the beat using both hands and legs to create the same rhythm as a



▲ Pouches made by students during one of the Aboriginal art workshops.

pair of spoons.

After the first set of fiddle music, the Quartet siblings took a short break and invited audience members to purchase their album the *North West Voyage*, which was named Best Traditional Album at the 2012 Canadian Folk Music Awards. They also invited the audience to purchase Alyssa's solo album while signing autographs.

Before finishing the great evening of fiddle music, the Quartet played and sang Happy Birthday to eight year old Tallon Hoover as he proudly stood by the stage looking up to the talented Quartet. They encouraged the entire audience to join them in singing and presented Tallon with his very own set of wooden spoons.

The next day, the Métis Fiddler Quartet opened for J.D. Hodgson Elementary School's second Celebration of Métis, First Nations and Inuit Culture.

Just as brilliant as the evening before, the Métis Fiddler Quartet entertained 300 students in their school gymnasium to kick start their day of participating in Aboriginal arts and learning about the Métis culture.

After the performance the students engaged in one of ten all-day workshops which focused on Aboriginal arts. The workshops included: visual arts, drumming, whistle making, thunder drums, canvas dot painting, legends and turtle canvas painting, basket weaving, token stone with pouch and film making.

Students were able to pick a workshop that best suited their



▲ Members of the Métis Fiddler Quartet, (left to right) siblings Nicholas, Alyssa, Danton and Conlin Delbaere-Sawchuk.

Turtle canvas paintings made during one of the Aboriginal art workshops. ▼



To kick off the school's celebration event the Métis Fiddler Quartet performed a free interactive concert for a community family music night."

creative side and at the end of the day they displayed their art for everyone to admire. In the final closing the students that were involved in a performance based arts project were able to present their creations by performing as a group.

After six months of organizational gatherings with Elaine Fournier Principal of J.D. Hodgson Elementary School and Tammy Hoover and Tracey Dale, MNO staff from the Bancroft office, the event was a huge success in

giving students a cultural experience like no other.

Partnering at the event was Highland Shores Children's Aid Society staff Ashley Nieman and Ben Wadsworth, Ontario Early Years Centre staff Robin Simpson, MNO staff Rose Boyle and community members including Lyn and Bill Pawlowsky, Laurie Calder and Ada Tinney. A special thanks to Keesic Douglas, a professor at the Ontario College of Art (OCAD), who traveled from Toronto to teach filmmaking to the students. ∞

Harvest Day Celebration

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Bay Métis Council will be hosting a Harvest Day Celebration

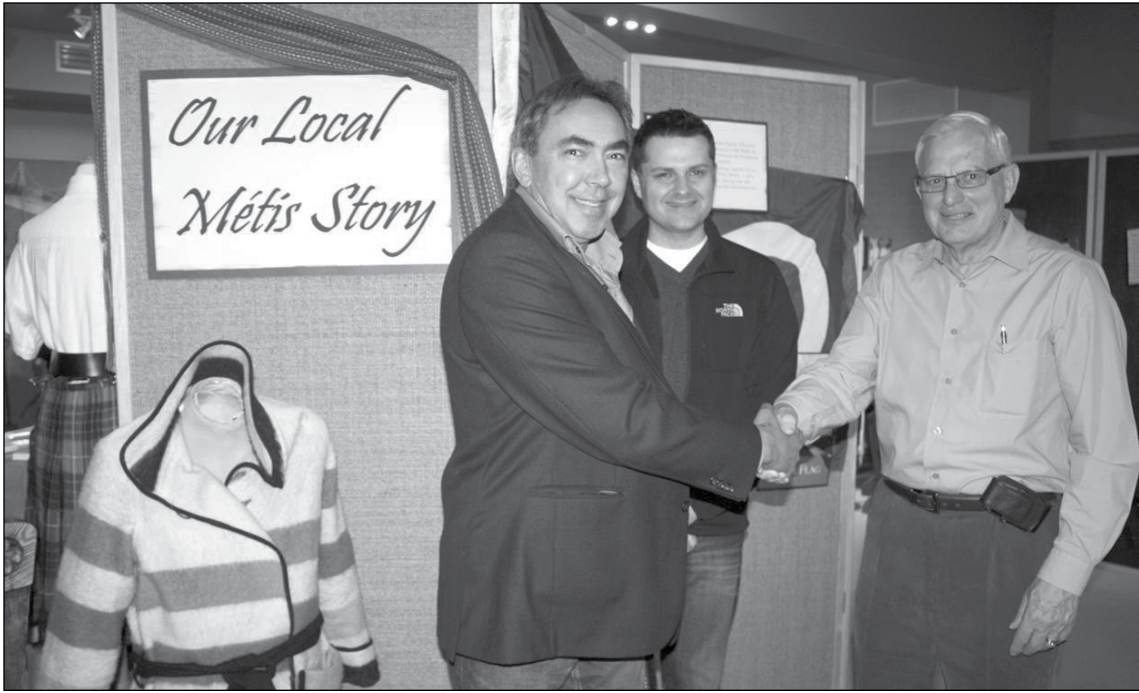
September 7, 2013 from 1pm to 7pm

LOCATION WILL BE DETERMINED AT A LATER DATE

- Fish Fry Dinner
- Games, Artifact Display, Vendors and More!

For vendors inquiries and event information please visit the northbaymetisCouncil.ca website or call Marc Laurin at: 705-493-0196





▲ MNO President Lipinski with Métis rights lawyer Jason Madden and Fort Frances Mayor Roy Avis at the grand opening of the "Our Local Métis Story" exhibit.



◀ Prior to the exhibits opening, the museum hosted a pre-celebration that included an afternoon filled with Métis cultural activities including jigging and spoons.

Fort Frances Métis exhibit grand opening

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens from the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council were involved in the creation of the most recent exhibit at the Fort Frances Museum, which showcases Métis people and culture.

The exhibit entitled, "Our Local Métis Story," highlights the history of the Métis in the Fort Frances area, as well as, MNO President Gary Lipinski's contributions to the Métis Nation.

The official opening of the exhibit took place on April 22. In attendance were many prominent Métis citizens including President Lipinski and Métis rights lawyer Jason Madden. MNO's Chief Operations Officer Doug Wilson and Fort Frances Mayor Roy Avis were also in attendance.

The evening began with a welcome by Museum Curator Sherry George who spoke of the connections to local history and the alliances that were a direct result of the fur trade. She went on to explain how Fort Frances grew out of a Métis community and how Métis embody the history of the region.

She reflected on the advancement of the Métis and how all people can now enjoy their lively music and dance, their fabulous bead work and their continued contribution to the Fort Frances area.

Mayor Avis spoke briefly on how he learned the Métis redefined the history Canada and thanked President Lipinski for all his hard work and contributions.

President Lipinski thanked all attendees and those responsible for bringing the exhibit together. "This really is our story both historical and contemporary," he said. He also spoke about the history of Métis in Fort Frances, his home town, and how the region grew out of the Métis fur trade.

"It is was good to celebrate what we have given and continue to give..."

—President Lipinski.

President Lipinski also took this time to speak about how the recent court rulings will now recognize the Métis' rightful place in history. He explained how the Daniel's case and the Manitoba land claim case are fulfilling Riel's dream for the Métis Nation. "It is good to celebrate what we have given and continue to give," he stated.

Métis rights lawyer, Jason Madden, noted that it was great to come home as he was part of the Calder clan in Fort Frances. He added that the exhibit was very timely as they

were winning more often in court and that the Federal Court of Appeal will be held in September and that the Treaties in Ontario and the West must be addressed.

Madden also spoke to an Adhesion to Treaty #3 that stated "half breeds" (Métis) were included. He said they will breathe life into those promises and that the trail of broken promises must be understood and fulfilled. He went on to say the exhibit was important and relevant and this community keeps getting recognized in the courts because of the Adhesion.

The exhibit is a joint venture combining the efforts of several organizations. Museum curator Sherry George took a moment to recognize the committee who worked over a year and a half to put together the exhibit. Committee members included: Wanda Botsford, Anne-Marie Armstrong, Bob and Erma Armit, Dylinda & John George and Gerry Guimond of the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council, Wendy Orchard of the Rainy River District School Board, Michelle Tymkin of the Northwest Catholic School Board, Smokey and Ginny Bruyere and Glen Jourdain of Couchiching First Nation, Art Hunter of Kay-Nah-Chi-WahNung and Merv Ahrens, local author and historian.

The exhibit will remain open until the end of this school year so the schools can bring students to study the history of the area. ∞

MNO Credit River Métis Council supports Region of Peel Diversity & Inclusion Charter

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

On April 18, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy and Senator Ray Bergie attended the launch of the Region of Peel's Diversity and Inclusion Charter.

The Charter is the first regional initiative "to foster inclusiveness and equity" in the province of Ontario. Although the Charter isn't a legal document, the Charter is a living document that supports the implementation of existing national and provincial legislation."

The Region of Peel, comprising of Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga, is amongst the most diverse, fast growing and rapidly changing regions in Canada. This diversity can create both challenges and opportunities. The Charter's goal is to ensure the full inclusion of all who live, work and play in Peel.

Senator Bergie provided the opening prayer and blessing for the launch. Council President Cuddy was one of ten dignitaries speaking on behalf of their communities, organizations or governments. His speech included, "On nay icit, we are here; the Métis have a robust, vibrant community in Peel that is rich in tradition, culture and heritage. The MNO Credit River Métis

Council is pleased and proud to endorse the Charter. I am confident the Charter will influence the residents, communities, organizations and governments in Peel to continue to strengthen our ties. Together our accomplishments can be limitless and inspire the generations to come."

Other speakers included: Chisanga Puta-Chekwe, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration; Marolyn Morrison, Mayor, Town of Caledon; Linda Jeffrey, Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing; Jennifer Evans, Chief of Police, Peel Regional Police; Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, William Osler Health System; Tony Pontes, Director of Education, Peel District School Board; Shelley White, President and CEO, United Way of Peel Region; Sajede Zahraei, Community Engagement Lead, CAMH and Stuart Keeler, Director and Curator, Art Gallery of Mississauga.

By endorsing the Charter, the MNO Credit River Métis Council is demonstrating the desire to work cooperatively with residents, communities, organizations and governments in Peel. The Council seeks to create change and endeavours to achieve respect and recognition for Métis rights, culture, language and identity, not only in Peel but across the Nation. ∞

"...the Métis have a robust, vibrant community in Peel that is rich in tradition, culture and heritage."



▲ MNO Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy speaking at the Region of Peel Diversity and Inclusion Charter launch.

Information from: Marlene Deschamps of the West End Weekly and Duane Hicks of the Fort Frances Time. With contributions from Wanda Botsford of the MNO Sunset County Métis Council. The original articles can be viewed at: http://www.westendweekly.ca/pdf%20wew%20editions/april_24_2013.pdf and <http://www.fftimes.com/node/258980>



Three Councils learn the art of loom beading

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

On April 27, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council held a loom beading workshop in Guelph. Council Secretary/Treasurer Barbra Lair taught over 20 participants how to bead on a loom. Citizens and friends from the MNO Credit River and MNO

Hamilton-Wentworth Councils also participated.

Some beaders were quite quick to pick up the skill, while others enjoyed visiting with friends and doing a bit of beading.

The MNO Grand River Métis Council will be holding a follow-up workshop in May in order to continue the beading workshop. Many thanks to Barbra Lair for hosting a wonderful workshop. ∞



Some fun in Georgian Bay

Submitted by **Pauline Saulnier**,
PCMNO Region 7 Councillor

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council showed off some Métis culture and spirit by riding through the community on their Métis themed float in the Penetanguishene Winterra-

ma Parade on February 15. Fun was had by all and the council won third place for best float.

The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council also recently held their annual general meeting, with some St. Patrick's Day cheer, on March 17 at Brian Orser Hall in Penetanguishene. ∞



▲ MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council members displaying Winterama float.

Third annual Fergus Aboriginal Heritage Festival

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

The third annual Aboriginal Heritage Festival in Fergus was held April 19-20, at the Wellington County Museum and Archives. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council again played a prominent role in the event, with two council members on the organizing committee and a number of Métis workshops.

The MNO Grand River Métis Council's display table was a very popular destination for many attendants due to the display of the furs and traps. Visitors loved trying on raccoon and skunk skin hats and having their picture taken with them on. The Council explained smudging, hand drums, medicine pouches and the significance of the historical relationship the Métis had with the Hudson Bay Company. The Métis flag was proudly displayed both days.

During the festival, an "Education Day" was held for students. Schools came from as far as Aurora (north of Toronto) to experience the workshops featuring facilitators from each of the three Aboriginal peoples.

Métis storyteller Virginia Barter had a colourful display of posters, maps, books, beading, a capote coat,



and beaver pelts. Everyone enjoyed her interactive, enthusiastic workshops. Students jigging with Barter were included in CTV's news coverage of the festival.

Attendees were able to enjoy traditional Métis fiddle music performed by Rajan Anderson and his mother, Dr. Kim Anderson. The two also lead a workshop, alongside Barter, on fiddling, jigging and spoons.

Rajan's fiddling and jigging at the same time was amazing to watch. Many people were happy to dance to the spoons fiddle and keyboard tunes. Leon Fleury from the MNO Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council danced to most of the pieces per-

formed and invited many to join him dancing.

MNO Grand River Métis Council President Cora Bunn hosted a wrap-up dinner for the presenters. The dinner was a nice way to relax and visit with Inuit and First Nations friends.

New this year was the presentation of two awards. The Aboriginal Heritage Youth Award winner was Shannen Koostachin (posthumous), received by her sister Serena Koostachin. The movie *Shannen's Dream* tells of her advocating for "safe and comfy" schools on reserves. In addition to the Youth Award, the MNO Grand River Mé-



◀ (left) The MNO Grand River Métis Council booth at the Aboriginal Heritage Festival

◀ (right) Rajan Anderson playing tradition Métis fiddle music at the Aboriginal festival.

tis Council presented her with a Métis sash.

The second award, the Aboriginal Heritage Award, was presented to Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence who was the keynote speaker. Chief Spence's attendance at the two-day festival significantly raised the profile of the event, including major media presence. CTV conducted an interview with the MNO Grand River Métis Council's banner as the backdrop.

The festival was open to the public and there was great support from the community. In total, 687 people attended the event. Admission was by donation, with the proceeds of

\$1155.00 being donated to Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (SOADI).

Senator Carol Levis was asked to offer a prayer at the opening of Saturday's ceremonies, which included a big drum, hand drumming by the Good Hearted Singers, Inuit drumming, and dancers.

Participation in the festival was a great opportunity for the MNO to raise the profile of the Métis in the community and to share music, history and culture with the people of Wellington County. The MNO looks forward to many more years of this important Aboriginal festival. ∞

OPPORTUNITY

CONSULTATION COMMITTEES AT WORK

MNO Region Eight tours Pickering nuclear station

By **Beth Honsberger**
MNO Consultation Intake Clerk

On Saturday April 6, members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region Eight Consultation Committee participated in an information exchange with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) concerning the renewal of the Pickering Nuclear Operating License.

Representatives from OPG and the CNSC responded to questions and concerns about the licence renewal and the safety and sustainability of nuclear power. The committee members and MNO staff were taken on a tour of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, which offered an inside look at some of the site's operations.

A community gathering was held which brought together local citizens from Region Eight, as well as the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council, to



participate in meaningful discussions with OPG regarding the performance of the Pickering Nuclear site and their fish monitoring and diversion measures. An overview of operations at the Pickering site was also provided. After the engagement session, attendees provided their feedback to be submitted to the CNSC regarding the renewal

of the Pickering Reactor Operating License.

Thank you to all MNO citizens who participated and the representatives from OPG and the CNSC. The MNO is looking forward to future engagement with Ontario Power Generation regarding the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station. ∞

▲ **Members of the MNO Region 8 Consultation Committee, local MNO citizens and representatives from OPG.** Front Row: **Scott Berry, William Shannon, Claire Kearns, Frances Connolly, Senator Alis Kennedy, Marilyn Brown, Richard Brown, Senator Cecile Wagar, Elsa Poitras, Senator Joseph Poitras;** Back Row: **Beth Honsberger, Devi Shantilal, Pat Keenan, Patrick Shannon, Julian Shannon, Anita Tucker, David Neville, President Richard Cuddy of the MNO Credit River Métis Council and President Robert Bird of the MNO Toronto-York Region Métis Council.**



▲ **Region 9 Consultation Committee at the Canadian Solar Inc. plant in Guelph, Ontario.** (Left to right) **MNO Niagara Region Council President Derrick Pont, Giselle Legiehn, Bridget Brown, Leon Fleury, MNO Grand River Council President Cora Bunn, George Fleury, Graham Paradis, MNO Hamilton-Wentworth Council President Jo Anne Young, Region 9 PCMNO Councillor Peter Rivers, Jennifer Parkinson, Barbra Lair, James Wagar, Donald Crawford and Suzanne Jackson.**

Region Nine tours Guelph solar plant

Submitted by **Donald Crawford**
MNO Grand River Métis Council

On March 14, a group of 14 citizens from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 9 Consultation Committee, along with MNO staff member James Wagar, were invited to tour the Canadian Solar manufacturing facility in Guelph. The group was met by the Engineering Manager Ady Vyas and the General Manager Rick Williams.

Founded in 2001, Canadian Solar Inc. currently employs over 6,000 people worldwide with approximately 500 employed at the Guelph, Ontario plant. The company provides turnkey solar solutions

for residential, commercial and solar farm markets.

During the tour, attendees were able to see how a solar panel is constructed using highly sophisticated robotic processes from start to finish. The tour was enlightening and educational as the group was shown and taught how the panels are constructed and how each step in the manufacturing process is scrutinized to the highest standards to ensure a quality product.

The plant was on down time during the tour, which enabled the group to see the processes up close. An open invitation to return at a later date to see the plant in full operations was extended. ∞

MNO Region One tour sites around region

Métis Nation of Ontario Consultation Committees have been busy touring different locations as part of our inherent right to self-government and the Duty to Consult.

Recently the Region One Consultation Committee toured the Atikokan Ontario Power Generation (OPG) plant to view the

conversion that was set to take place.

On a separate occasion, the committee was also given a tour by Goldcorp Inc. of the wetlands at the Red Lake Gold Mine.

The MNO looks forward to future engagement with Ontario Power Generation and Goldcorp Inc. ∞



▲ **MNO Region One Consultation Committee touring Red Lake Gold Mine wetlands.** (left to right) **David Gelderland of Goldcorp, Fred Kelly of Goldcorp, Joel Henley, PCMNO Region One Councilor Theresa Stenlund, Val Pelepetz, Joe Daze, SNC Lavilin representative and President Marlene Davidson of the MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council.**

Nuclear Waste Management Organization Adaptive Phased Management project update

By **Melanie Hamilton**,
MNO Nuclear Waste Management Liaison Coordinator

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) was established in 2002 in accordance with federal legislation, the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act (2002), to study, recommend and implement an approach for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel in Canada. Used nuclear fuel is presently safely stored on an interim basis at licensed facilities at nuclear reactor sites operated by Ontario Power Generation Inc., Hydro-Québec and New Brunswick Power Corporation. In 2005, the NWMO recommended that Canada proceed in a deliberate and collaborative way to contain and isolate the used fuel in a manner that safeguards people and respects the environment, now and in the future. In 2007, the Government of Canada selected the NWMO's recommendation, Adaptive Phased Management (APM), as Canada's approach for the long-term management of used fuel. This approach includes the development of a deep geological repository constructed in a suitable rock formation with ongoing monitoring and potential for retrievability over an extended period of time. In May 2010, the NWMO published the site selection process for the used fuel repository, 18 of which are located in Ontario. They are: Ear Falls, Ignace, Nipigon, Schreiber, Manitouwadge, Hornepayne, White River, Wawa, Blind River, Elliot Lake, North Shore, Spanish, Saugeen Shores, Arran-Elderslie, Brockton, Huron-Kinloss, South Bruce, and Central Huron.

First Nations, Inuit and Métis, as recognized and affirmed in s.35 of the *Constitution Act of 1982*, the NWMO acknowledges and respects the unique status and rights of Aboriginal peoples and is committed to respecting Métis rights potentially affected by its work. The NWMO has sought to develop its processes and plans with the involvement of Métis people; laying a foundation for ongoing consultations and engagement that are respectful of traditional practices and approaches to decision-making.

Since 2009, the MNO has seen steps forward in building capacity within the Métis community on the APM project. This was achieved through presentations delivered by NWMO on the APM during the MNO's Annual General Assembly. In November of 2012 the MNO signed a Liaison agreement with NWMO which provided additional funding to permit the regional consultation committees that contain identified prospective host communities within their traditional territories to engage NWMO at a more local level.

In December of 2012, the MNO Consultation Committees representing Regions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were invited to tour the Western Waste Management Facility site in Tiverton, Ontario. The site tour was

followed by a question and answer session in Toronto, Ontario.

During the months of March and April of 2013, the NWMO travelled to Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins, Owen Sound, Terrace Bay and Sudbury to meet with the respective regional consultation committees and to deliver an update on their plans for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel during a community gathering. Over 187 Métis citizens attended these community information sessions and although

"...the NWMO acknowledges and respects the unique status and rights of Aboriginal peoples and is committed to respecting Métis rights potentially affected by its work."

If you have any comments and/or questions contact:

Melanie S. Hamilton,
Nuclear Waste Management Liaison Coordinator
Lands, Resources and Consultation
MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
380 9th Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 1P1
Tel: **519.376.0068**
MelanieH@metisnation.org

first impressions were positive, citizens requested additional information regarding the geology studies, transportation considerations, and expressed concerns about the land mass needed for the project and how this would restrict harvesting and impacts on future generations. Citizens also stressed the vital importance of familiarizing the community and its neighbours with the NWMO APM project. In all cases, citizens desire future opportunities to become informed and to promote youth involvement.

"I think that the community event was very informative and that our people are more aware of what is happening and understand the issues. They ask very pertinent questions and are genuinely interested in our environment as stewards of the land, air, animals (including humans) and water for the generations to come," said PCMNO Chair France Picotte.

Looking forward, as with the previous three years, NWMO will be attending the MNO Annual General Assembly to provide an update to assist our leadership to learn more about the project. Future engagements between the NWMO, the MNO traditional territory consultation committees and potential host communities will continue to take place in the future. ∞



▲ Senator Malcom Dixon providing the opening prayer at the Owen Sound NWMO meeting



▲ MNO staff members Brian Tucker and James Wagar at the Owen Sound NWMO meeting.



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Partners in Powerful Communities

MNO Louis Riel certificate presented to Métis veteran

Submitted by **Greg Garratt**,
MNO Veterans' Council Sergeant-at-Arms

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council presents Louis Riel certificates to MNO citizens who provide the Council with documentation verifying their military service. Recently the MNO Veterans' Council received the documentation from MNO citizen and Veteran Peter Grisdale.

Although Veteran Grisdale was not able to attend a presentation

of the certificate personally, at the MNO Moon River Métis Council Annual General Meeting in MacTier on April 23, his sister Emily Arnold was able to accept the certificate on his behalf.

The certificate was presented by MNO President Gary Lipinski, MNO Moon River Métis Council President Lisa McCron and MNO Veterans' Council Sergeant-at-Arms Greg Garratt. ∞

(Left to right)
**MNO Moon River
 Métis Council
 President Lisa
 McCron, MNO
 President Gary
 Lipinski, Emily
 Arnold and MNO
 Veterans Council
 Sergeant-at-Arms
 Greg Garratt. ►**



▲ (left to right) **Martin Griffin, Manager of Aboriginal Affairs at Osisko Mining Corporation**; award recipient **Rebeca Deslauriers**; and **Bud Dickson, Senior Advisor for Aboriginal & Governmental Affairs at Osisko Hammond Reef Gold**.

ADVERTISEMENT

Osisko Awards MNO Youth with Scholarship

At Osisko, we believe that providing financial aid to students in the pursuit of education will result in safer mines, healthier environments and a more productive workforce within the mining industry.

To that end, we have instituted in 2012 the Osisko Aboriginal scholarship program to help Aboriginal students complete their postsecondary education and to strengthen the links between Osisko Mining Corporation and Aboriginal communities. The program was established in

collaboration with Aboriginal communities in order to encourage new generations to consider postsecondary careers within the mining industry. A financial award is given to deserving candidates to help defray their educational costs when pursuing studies in a field that prepares them for work in the mining industry. In September, a Métis summer student at Osisko Hammond Reef Gold project became the first recipient to be awarded this scholarship for her work in field of geology at the University of Manitoba.

While Rebeca's intention had always been to pursue a university education, it was really only once she was exposed to various mining careers that she became passionate about geology. Rebeca's current choice of studies is due in large to her summer employment experience on the Osisko Hammond Reef Gold project near the town of Atikokan in Northwestern Ontario.

On behalf of Osisko Mining Corporation: scholarship well deserved Rebeca!

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



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Lakehead University Aboriginal Alumni Chapter
Lakehead University Native Students Association
Elders Program

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UNIVERSITY

[illegible]

ACHIEVEMENTS



(left to right) Back row:
Paul Ungerman, Chinyere Eni, Joanne Meyer, Larry Mah, and Peter Smith
Front row: **Taylor Hari, Deanna Parker, and Renée Michaud.**

Encouraging Métis youth entrepreneurship MNO Generation Innovation challenge

By **Kyle Burton, 2012**
Generation Innovation Finalist

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), in partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation and its sponsors held the 2013 Generation Innovation: Métis Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge from March 16-17.

Modeled after the popular CBC TV program *Dragon's Den*, the Generation Innovation: Métis Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge is a project designed to provide Métis youth (aged 13-29) with confidence, motivation and, above all, concrete busi-

ness skills and mentoring.

Métis youth from across Ontario were invited to submit applications describing their business or innovation, in order to receive business training and compete for prizes in a *Dragon's Den* style competition where they would pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges.

Deanna Parker, a recreation therapist from Dryden, was awarded first place. Parker pitched an idea for a Sioux Lookout Aquatic Rehabilitation Centre that she hopes to start in the "Hub of the North" where she can practice aquatic therapy. She hopes to expand across the region in the next 10 years.

"The experience was amazing," said Parker, who won a \$1000 cash prize, a new laptop computer and a printer. "I felt like a movie star! I was very surprised at the amount of work that goes into one show."

From the applications received, seven Métis youth were chosen to receive online training from the GoForth institute as well as face to face business and pitch training from Peter Smith, President of the Commerce Assessment Group. Andre Laurin, President of Ocean Transportation Services Freight Forwarding Inc. provided the trainees practical business advice. The candidates also had the opportunity to

receive pitch and business advice from Ryan Foley, President of Nuvo-Care Health Sciences Inc. and past contestant on CBC's *Dragon's Den*.

Based on the business plans of the seven trainees, three finalists were chosen to pitch to the judges in studio. The 2013 judges were Chinyere Eni, National Director, Aboriginal and Public Sector Markets at RBC; Peter Smith, President Commerce Assessment Group; Larry Mah, Director of Programs at Youth in Motion; and Paul Ungerman, Manager of Government Affairs at Union Gas.

Contestant Renée Michaud, a Liaison Officer with the University of

Ottawa, came in second place with an idea for a mobile restaurant (food truck) serving Aboriginal cuisine cooked over a wood fire. Taylor Hari, a Ph.D. Candidate from the University of Ottawa, placed third with a pitch for an exclusive sock design company that manufactures with an emphasis on quality material and fit.

The Generation Innovation project stimulated the entrepreneurial spirit in its participants while providing them with confidence, motivation and, above all, concrete business skills and mentoring.

For more information on the contestants proposals please see p.xx in the President's Update on children and youth. ∞

Métis craft featured at Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame

By **Ed Hass**

On April 16, 2013 Ed Hass accompanied Métis birch bark canoe builder Marcel Labelle to the Mississauga Sports Complex to present a replica four foot birch bark canoe. Labelle had been commissioned to build the canoe to be displayed in the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame.

Upon arrival, the two were warmly greeted by Catherine of the Mississauga Sports Council. She was extremely pleased when she saw the beautiful craft that Labelle presented her, a true work of art. The replica sported two hand carved paddles nicely tied in with a miniature Métis sash.

Hass was pleasantly surprised that the Sports Hall of Fame was interested in displaying an item

"This wonderful work of art will have a prominent spot in the Hall and will be visited by many..."

so representative of Métis culture. Catherine later explained to Hass about the Sports Councils' commitment to honouring the past and the Aboriginal people who were here first. This wonderful work of art will have a prominent spot in the Hall and will be visited by many of the areas school children and adults alike.

"It is with great pleasure the Mississauga Sports Council accepted this authentic birch bark canoe,

hand crafted by Marcel," said Catherine. "With support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and in partnership with Heritage Mississauga and the City of Mississauga, the Sports Council is building new partnerships and preserving our sports legacy by looking back to Mississauga's early sports roots, especially those along the Credit River."

The Mississauga Sports Council will be exhibiting the canoe in the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame and in its Sports Hall of Fame Road show, through its Sports Hall of Fame Hazel McCallion Physical Education Program. ∞

Marcel Labelle with replica canoe made for the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame. ►



Award-winning Métis filmmaker part of MNO projects

Award-winning filmmaker Matt Lemay has been hired by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to help create a documentary film about the history of the MNO.

Lemay, a self-identified Métis, is working alongside the MNO's Senior Communications Coordinator, Marc St. Germain, in creating the MNO's 20th Anniversary film. The film is a documentary project chronicling the past 20 years of the MNO. It highlights members of the MNO from across the province and has them describe where the MNO came from to where it is today.

This work with the MNO is not the first; Lemay has also been working with the MNO in creating a series of success story videos for MNO's Education and Training Branch. He and St. Germain have traveled across the province interviewing MNO citizens to highlight their achievements and accomplishments.

"The projects with the MNO have been a real history lesson for me," stated Lemay. "Through the creation of these videos, I have come to realize that my experience in finding out about my Métis heritage later in life is not unique. It is very similar to many of the people I have had the chance to interview and it is very inspiring."

The accomplished writer, director and videographer discovered his Métis heritage while in the works of his two award winning documentaries *Great River* and *Native Young*.

Lemay was recently honoured at the Canadian International Film Festival for his documentary film *Native Young*. He received the Award of Excellence in the documentary competition this April in Vancouver. The film follows a First Nations punk-rock band, who resides on a reserve in Quebec. It illustrates the continued effects of the residential school system through the eyes of



▲ Matt Lemay with awards.

the band members.

"The idea of the film was just to give young people an unfiltered lens to share their stories," explained Lemay.

Among other honours, Lemay has also received the 2013 Economic Developers Council of Ontario Marketing award for best social media campaign and the 2011 Canadian International Film Festival Award of Excellence for his first film, *Great River*.

Great River explored the history of the Algonquin people.

"After making *Great River* I realized there was a lot about Canadian history I didn't know. I wanted to dig deeper and that is what led me to the darkest chapters in Canadian history – the residential schools. It was this that influenced my creation of *Native Young*", said Lemay.

Although extremely honoured by the recent awards, the films have created a much more rewarding experience for the filmmaker. It was through the creation of *Great River* and *Native Young* that Lemay discovered his Métis heritage and genealogy.

"My family is from the Midland area and my grandmother is of Métis heritage. My family was always



▲ Matt Lemay filming onsite.

aware of this but didn't really speak about it," explained Lemay. "During the process of making *Great River* I learned a lot about the histories of Aboriginal people. It was because of this, I realized that I needed to know more about my own roots and where I come from so I hired a genealogist."

Since discovering his roots Lemay plans to apply for MNO citizenship. He also hopes to create a sequel to *Native Young* and to turn the films into a series that focuses on the many different issues affecting Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

The MNO Anniversary film will be showcased at the MNO's 20th Annual General Assembly in Ottawa. ∞

A little help goes a long way Congratulations Amber!

Submitted by
Kathleen Lannigan,
MNO Regional Employment &
Training Co-ordinator



▲ Amber Kelly-Birns

Amber Kelly-Birns, a self-identified Métis, has always had a passion for travel. Meeting and learning from new and different people and about their cultures is exciting and rewarding to her in so many ways. She knew that one day she wanted to fill her life with a job or purpose that would allow her to do just that. Amber is also proud of her culture and where she came from and wanted to share that with others. She truly loves Canada and its diversity and after searching for several months she finally decided to pursue a career in the travel and tourism industry.

Without proper training or education, jobs were very difficult to come by so Amber enrolled in a two-year travel and tourism program at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario. However, living on her own and supporting herself while attending a full-time college program was going to be a struggle. It was at that time she reached out to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) for their help and she is forever grateful that she did.

With the support and funding from the MNO, Amber went above and beyond her own expectations and graduated the program top of her class with Deans' Honours and two successful co-op terms under her belt. Without the financial stress, Amber was able to focus all of her attention on working hard and finishing the program to the best of her ability.

"Not only was the MNO very supportive and encouraging from when I first applied for funding, but they have continued to be even now that I have completed my training and have

started my career," stated Amber. "Whenever I had any questions or needed advice or assistance in finding a co-op position, they did their best to ensure I was taken care of. The MNO was an extra support group right there behind me through my entire training process and it felt good knowing I didn't have to worry about how I was going to finance my dreams."

After graduating in December, Amber began the next chapter of her life. Her diploma, as she hoped, has opened many different doors for her in the tourism industry. Some she didn't even know existed.

"When you are genuinely interested in what you are doing and what you are learning, you are much happier and will go so much further in life," said Amber.

Amber will soon be starting her new job as a Tourist Counsellor at Tourism London and couldn't be more excited. It is her dream to one day work for Tourism Canada and share Canada with the world.

"With the help of the MNO I know I have taken the first big step in the right direction," said Amber. "They have provided me with the tools necessary to not only reach my dreams and goals, but to enjoy every single second along the way." ∞

MNO Veteran recognized in Owen Sound

Information contributed by
Joseph Paquette, President,
MNO Veterans' Council and
Pauline Saulnier, Region Seven
PCMNO Representative

On March 23, 2013, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Great Lake Métis Council presented MNO Veteran Peter Gendron with the Louis Riel Commemorative Certificate.

Louis Riel Certificates are issued to veterans by the MNO Veterans' Council once they have become a verified veteran.

MNO Veteran Peter Gendron was a second Lieutenant in the First Battalion of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and served in the North

Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Brigade in Germany.

The certificate was presented at a Traditional Feast in Owen Sound by MNO Great Lake Métis Council President Peter Coture.

Métis veterans are encouraged by the MNO Veterans' Council to provide the necessary documents to the Council so they can be verified. The Veterans' Council is grateful to chartered MNO Community Councils like the Great Lake Métis



▲ MNO Veteran Peter Gendron (left) accepting his Louis Riel Certificate from MNO Great Lake Métis Council President Peter Coture (right).

Council for supporting veterans by presenting Louis Riel certificates to verified veterans. ∞

Congratulations Christine!

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

Congratulations to Christine Hannah who graduated from Western University School of Health Sciences with an honours degree in health sciences specializing in health promotion and a minor in globalization.

Christine will be pursuing a Master of Arts in political science at University of Waterloo in the fall of 2013. She is married to Métis citizen Brennan Hannah, and is the daughter of Brian and Cora Bunn, President of the MNO Grand River Métis Council. ∞



▲ Christine Hannah

Métis Veteran honoured by Royal Canadian Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion honoured Métis Veteran Edward Dorion by presenting him with a commemorative Aboriginal Veterans Pin on April 18.

The commemorative pin recognizes Canada's Aboriginal Veterans and their significant contributions. The pin acknowledges the efforts and sacrifices of veterans from all Aboriginal communities.

Veteran Dorion joined the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals in 1954 as a cipher clerk. He spent his first six years residing in Kingston until he served with the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). In 1964 he was posted in Ottawa and Carp and 1974 he was with the United Nations Emergency Force, Middle East (NEFME). Four years later Veteran Dorion again served with the United Nations until his retirement in 1978. ∞



▲ Métis Veteran Edward Dorion presented with a Canada Aboriginal Veterans Pin by Edith Kennedy

Nominations open for vacant position on MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO VETERANS' COUNCIL

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council is seeking nominations for vacant positions of its board. Positions the MNO Veterans Council wishes to fill are:

- Veterans Senator
- Secretary
- Women's Representative

Requirements to hold these positions are:

- Must be MNO citizen
- Must be recognized by MNO Veterans' Council as a Métis veteran
- Must have access to e-mail
- Must be available to attend quarterly MNO Veterans Council meetings including the Annual General Assembly

Nominations must be filed in accordance with the MNO Veterans' Council Charter which can be found on the MNO website on the MNO Veterans page under Governance.

For further information please contact:

Joseph Paquette, President
MNO Veterans' Council
josephstarman@rogers.com

The Métis Voyageur Development Fund's

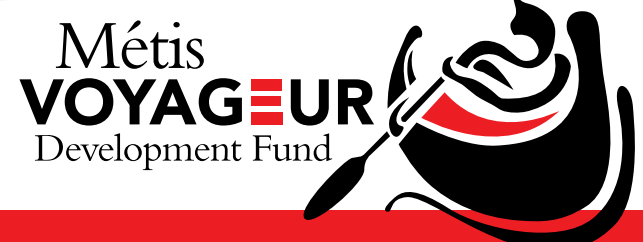
Board of Directors and staff would like to thank everyone involved in a successful first year, supporting Métis resource sector businesses.

The high level of interest from Métis entrepreneurs saw all of this year's funding received from our partner, the Government of Ontario, used towards a mix of established and start-up Métis businesses.

We look forward to working with you in the years to come, as we serve the Métis community in Ontario.

The Lender of *Choice* for

Métis
Entrepreneurs
in Ontario



mvdf.ca

Infinity Property Services

Infinity Property Services is a new agency of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) building on MNO's over 15 years of experience in providing social housing solutions. Infinity Property Services manages, repairs and inspects properties in Ontario. Providing a one-stop shop for clients, Infinity Property Services delivers expertise in property management, property administration, facility management, lease administration, marketing, building condition assessments, financial management and reporting, construction administration and management, asset management and eco-energy audits.

With a staff of nine in Thunder Bay and Innisful, Infinity Property Services offers three certified energy auditors and four technical advisors who have established a record of delivering property management services, program administration, home inspections and energy assessments.

In its program administration role, Infinity Property Services provides full spectrum administration under contract with the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Hous-

ing's Ontario Renovates Remote, a component of the Investment in Affordable Housing program, and with Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services Corporation, and the Rural and Native Housing program.

"This includes everything from reviewing and processing applications to inspecting the properties, establishing a scope of work, approving the projects under the program guidelines, dispersing funds, arranging for legal restrictions and finalizing the capital work to ensure it meets quality standards," explained Don Tront, the General Manager of Infinity Property Services who has over 25 years of experience in housing management.

Closely tied to its administrative role, Infinity Property Services property management services include accounting, contract administration, tenant management and facility services.

Property inspections and building conditions are another main focus of Infinity Property Services. Currently, Infinity Property Services provides home inspections for programs under their management as



▲ (Left to right) Paul Kytayko, Cathie Wintoneak, Kim Ouellet, Debra Desjardins, Terry Desaulniers, Don Tront, John Flavo, (sitting) Tracy Sved.

"We hope to become first Aboriginal independent energy contractor that Aboriginal peoples turn to for home inspections, energy audits either on reserve or off reserve..."

well as the District Social Services Administration Boards in Kenora, Thunder Bay and Nipissing.

Infinity Property Services has also recently launched its new energy auditing services. "We are in the process of partnering with Greensavers and First Nations Engineering to preform energy audits for the Housing Assistance Program and the Aboriginal Conservation Program," explained Tront.

"We are always looking ahead in order to develop and grow the business," said Tront. "Right now we are looking at a new business line that combines home inspections and energy audits." He explained how conducting both services in one visit

is better economically and provides a greater value of service for the client. Infinity Property Services is also looking to start managing private properties in the Thunder Bay and Northern Ontario area.

"We hope to become the first Aboriginal independent Energy Auditor Aboriginal peoples turn to for home inspections, energy audits either on reserve or off reserve," said Tront. "The overall goal is to become known as the "go to" energy auditor and service inspector for the Aboriginal Community."

As a fee for service agency, proceeds made through Infinity Property Services directly support the activities and programs of the MNO ∞.



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The story of a tragic Métis family

This article was edited according to the Métis Voyageur submission policy. All opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not reflect Métis Nation of Ontario policies.

By **Donn Fowler**

The latest information, from various sources, on our aboriginal Fowler, [Latin, Auceps, -upis m fowler] “roots” must begin with the pre-contact period of our known indigenous history. However, that indigenous “source” approaching close to the actual contact period, well before 1492, and Columbus, it was that period prior to the 11th century (the Viking arrival and departure time, c. 1000, of the so-called “New World”). Our personal conjectures therefore must begin with the mating that occurred between two unknowns; both of an indigenous male and a native female, which in turn produced a child who eventually became re-labelled after the contact with some “Indian” sounding word that could be spelt, correct or incorrectly, with the letters of the English alphabet. That single child became identified as Puckethwanisk, who was said by some to have been the “father” (quite possibly the “mother”) of a baby girl, similarly English-named, with our alphabet as Mistigoose. We’ll learn more about Mistigoose and her “mixed-blood” Aboriginal children later. Meanwhile, as half French children defined, in French, as “Métis” and in English as “Metis” both words meaning the exact same thing; namely, “mixed”. Intuition, time and demography and sometimes “totem poles” help us to understand more about our indigenous people, particularly in Western Canada.

First, there were the Indigenous Natives, before the contact; thereafter, were the European males from Spain, then from France, and then from the Anglo-Celts of Britain. Considering only the French and English-speaking men of the Northern Hemisphere, and especially all the Natives which would become known as Canadians, French men, known as “Voyageurs”; “Couriers-du-Bois”, et cetera who were the first to make contacts with our Aboriginal men, women, and children, mistakenly called “Indians”, and they soon traded goods with each other.

Frenchmen and Indian women cohabited and were later followed in that cohabitation in a family manner by the English-speaking men who began cohabiting too, both European groups thereby learning where and what to do in order to survive in the North and to live with their very knowledgeable Native women. The children thus produced and by these profitable matings became derogatorily labeled as “half-breeds” or “mixed-bloods” children, by the “white immigrants” and when such mixed-blood children played together they soon developed their own Michif language for communication; a language known as a mixture of both the French and the Indian dialects.

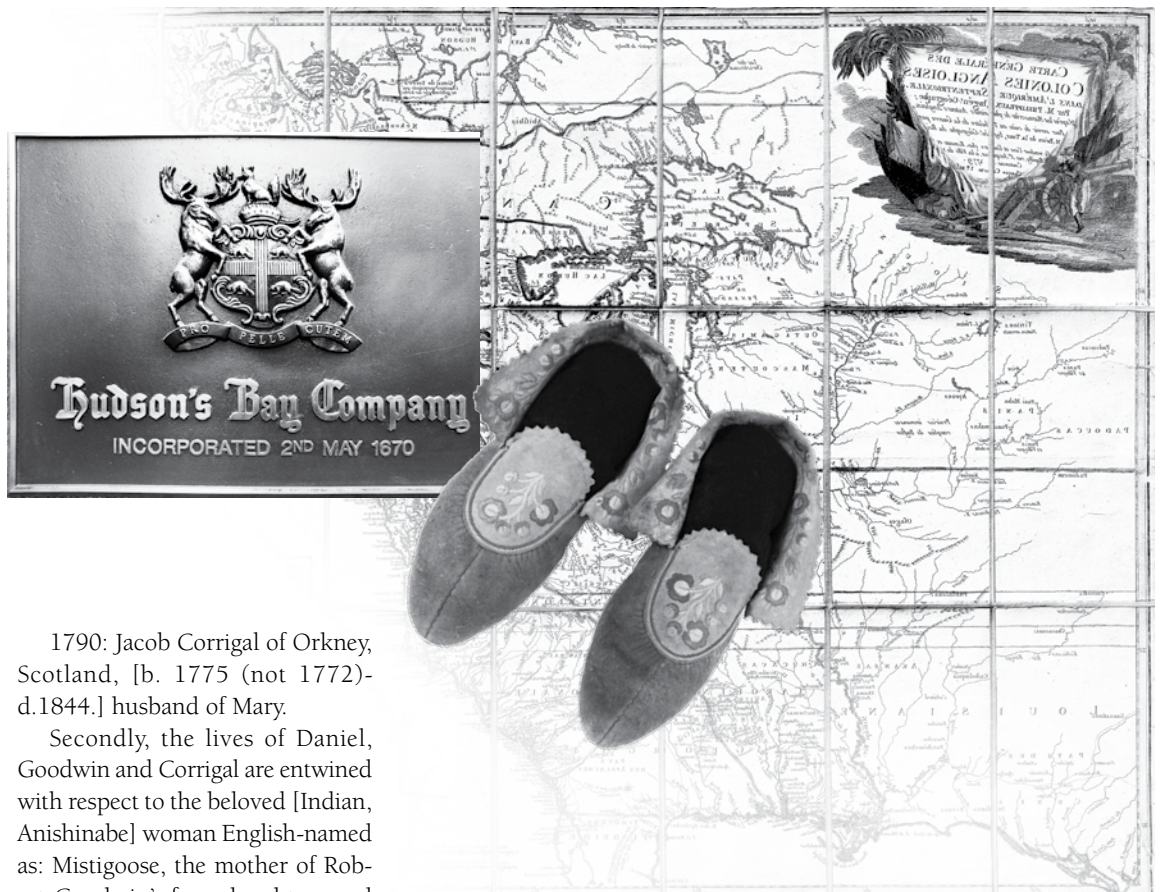
Of course all this new cultural development began with the French. Initially, that “Canadian” fraternization pattern did not apply to the employees of the Hudson’s Bay Company (HBC) in Rupert’s Land because mating with the Indian was strictly forbidden; moreover, the HBC men were not about to be dictated to by the HBC Officers and Directors back in England. The HBC Officers eventually saw the real commercial value of the Indian women’s knowledge as a great asset to the success of the company’s inland traders, and especially to the extensive advantage of the fur business.

Two major organisations in the trading business were the North West Fur-Trading Co. (NWC) at Montreal and the HBC headquartered in London, England. These two companies became extremely competitive and competed often violently with occasional bloodshed. One example is known today as the story of the killing which took place at Eagle Lake, a major conflict between NWC and HBC men over trade practices with Indians.

With this brief background there is an opportunity to introduce three European men who became indentured with the August HBC in Rupert’s Land. Namely, three gentlemen who are seen in the order of their respective and initial HBC contracted dates, as follows (respective births and death dates are in square brackets):

1765: Jenkins Daniel of Glamorganshire, Wales, [b.ca. 1740-d. 1824/25] wife unknown.

1781: Robert Goodwin of Yoxford, England, [b. ca.1761-d. 1805] husband of Mistigoose.



1790: Jacob Corrigal of Orkney, Scotland, [b. 1775 (not 1772)-d.1844.] husband of Mary.

Secondly, the lives of Daniel, Goodwin and Corrigal are entwined with respect to the beloved [Indian, Anishinabe] woman English-named as: Mistigoose, the mother of Robert Goodwin’s four daughters and one son; namely Caroline, Nancy, Margaret (“Peggy”), and Mary. Mary was born on Aug 6, 1788, 23 years after Jenkins Daniel came to the HBC in 1765, and the son, William Adolphus Barmby Goodwin, also was born on the Aug. 6 1788. Since Mary Goodwin was born two years before Jacob Corrigal had arrived in 1790, and Robert Goodwin had arrived seven years before Mary’s and William’s birth in 1781, the twins, Mary and William Goodwin, were both eight years old in 1796. This is the year before Mistigoose died, or before, the year before 1797. However, while Robert’s and Mistigoose’s children were named as beneficiaries in their fathers first substantial will, the name of Mary was deliberately omitted in the will of April 24, 1806, registry number 16596, the same date as number 17124, for whatsoever reason.

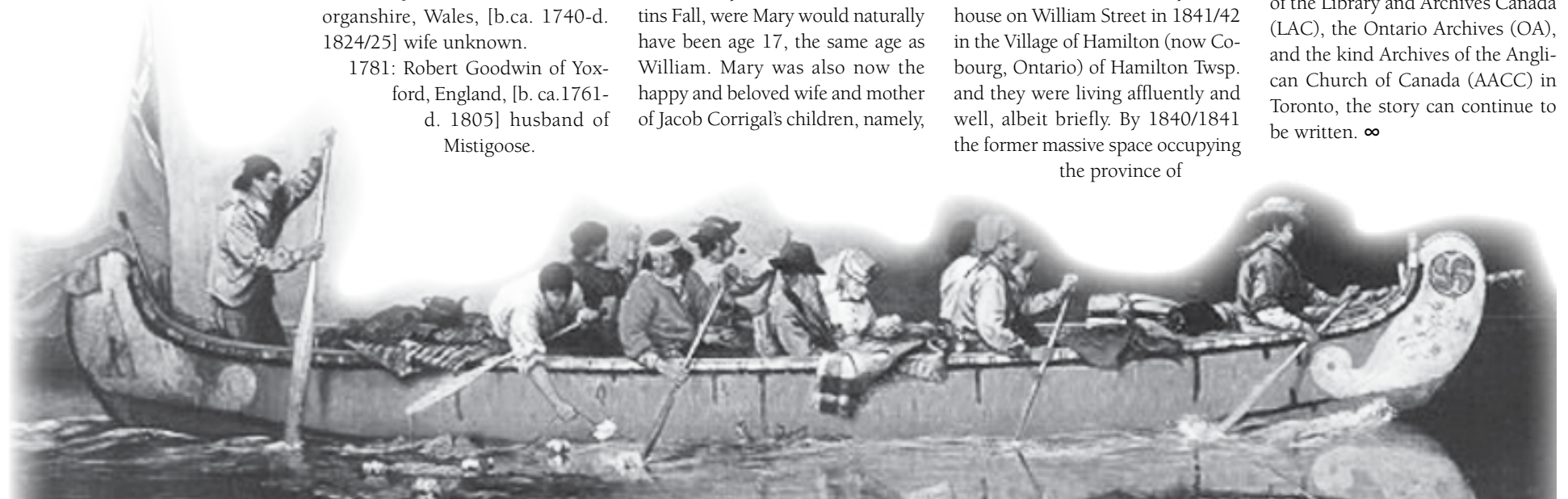
It is important to note that a long-hand copy of the final will, with a codicil change, shows clearly that the date of Aug. 6, 1788 has thrice been crossed out, on folio 17331 of registration number 16596. Reference is also then made for one to “... see #17124”; also, with the codicil dated April 22, 1803, which two years before the very ill Robert met his untimely death, enroute to Martins Fall, were Mary would naturally have been age 17, the same age as William. Mary was also now the happy and beloved wife and mother of Jacob Corrigal’s children, namely,

Ann b. 1802, probably near Lake St. Ann (now Lake Nipigon, in Ontario); Charlotte, b.1806- d.1897; Mary Corrigal, b.1811-d.1862 named after her 23 year old mother, Mary; Elizabeth b.1813-d.1897 (note that Charlotte and Elizabeth died within a month or two of each other in 1897); Catherine, b.1814-d.1909, and William, b.1818-d.1890. These four Metis Corrigals remained three spinsters and one bachelor all of their tragic lives in Cobourg following the death of their father in 1844. Jacob Corrigal’s will named them all as beneficiaries of his quite substantial will, including the beautiful house and properties. But Jacob’s will was officially deferred for over nine long years because these four Corrigal young adults were not seen as British subjects. But that is another long and tragic story of intentional or unintentional fiduciary malfeasance on the part of the Colonial administration in Britain and the local District Commissioners in the Newcastle district reported for instructions to the Governor General located in Canada. The Corrigal family had come down from the North Country to the tiny hamlet of Amherst in 1840. Jacob bought his property for £ 75 and built their lovely extant house on William Street in 1841/42 in the Village of Hamilton (now Cobourg, Ontario) of Hamilton Twp. and they were living affluently and well, albeit briefly. By 1840/1841 the former massive space occupying the province of

“
The HBC Officers eventually saw the real commercial value of the Indian women’s knowledge as a great asset to the success of the company’s inland traders...”

Quebec became enacted as the first province in Canada, as the massive province of Canada. Jacob Corrigal’s death was erroneously registered in the Northumberland County Registry office on three separate occasions. The final detail concerning the probate circumstances took almost a total decade to resolve beginning in 1854.

This extremely sad story must await publication at another time, but suffice it to say that with the aid of the Library and Archives Canada (LAC), the Ontario Archives (OA), and the kind Archives of the Anglican Church of Canada (AACC) in Toronto, the story can continue to be written. ∞



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

AGA 2013

THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO 1993-2013



THE 20TH MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY • AUGUST 23-26, 2013 • OTTAWA, ONTARIO

AGA 2013
AGENDA

Thursday and Friday:
Workshops/training for invited delegates/staff

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

- 1 - 4 pm

AGA Registration
Location: Delta Ottawa
- 7 - 10 pm

Opening Ceremonies and Welcome to the AGA
Museum of Civilization

Following the arrival of the Voyageur canoes from Victoria Island, AGA delegates will attend the world premiere of the History of the MNO movie in the Museum of Civilization

MNO AGA DAY 1
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

- 8 am - 5 pm

MNO AGA Business Meeting
Delta Ottawa
- 6 - 10 pm

MNO 20th Anniversary Feast & Celebration
Delta Ottawa City Centre Ballroom

Come in your best Métis attire and honour our founders and ancestors

MNO AGA DAY 2
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

- 9 am - Noon

MNO AGA Business Meeting
Delta Ottawa
- 1 - 5 pm

Métis Games and Culture
Victoria Island
- 6:30 - 9 pm

MNO AGA Community Evening
Details to be announced

MNO AGA DAY 3
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2013

- 9 am - Noon

MNO AGA Business Meeting
Delta Ottawa
- Noon

MNO Development Corporation Annual General Assembly
Delta Ottawa
- 12:30 pm

MNO Cultural Commission Annual General Assembly
Delta Ottawa

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

In 1993, the citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) celebrated their first Annual General Assembly (AGA) and we have been gathering together with our friends, family and colleagues every year since to conduct the business of the Nation, showcase our rich culture, pass on our traditions to younger generations and celebrate our stories.

AGAs are Métis self-government in action, and each year, the MNO leadership has been able to report successes in all the areas outlined in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose, which was enacted by the MNO founders at its first meeting.

In 2013, as MNO citizens come together for the 20th AGA, we have two decades of achievement to recognize and by so-doing, acknowledge the vision of our founders whose courage and tenacity built the MNO into the champion of Métis people that it is today.

THE 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2013 MNO AGA is taking place in beautiful Ottawa at the recently renovated Delta Ottawa City Centre Hotel. Located centrally in downtown Ottawa, the Delta is close to Parliament Hill, the Supreme Court, the Canadian War Museum and the Canadian Museum of History as well as great downtown shopping and other amenities. The Delta is also close to Victoria Island on the Ottawa River, which will be the site of

the AGA Opening Ceremonies and cultural activities. (For more information on the Delta Ottawa go to: www.deltahotels.com/Hotels/Delta-Ottawa-City-Centre).

COMMUNITY COUNCIL CO-HOSTS

The AGA is being co-hosted by Region Six MNO chartered community councils; the MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council and the MNO High Land Waters Métis Council.

“We are very pleased that the two councils in Region Six have stepped forward to provide the MNO with this opportunity,” stated MNO President Gary Lipinski. “Ottawa is an exciting city with great venues for AGA events including several with important ties to the Métis Nation.”

Tom Thompson Jr., Region Six Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Councillor and past President of the MNO High Land Waters Métis Council added: “The Métis played an important part in the history of Canada, and the dual anniversaries of the MNO and Powley, make 2013 the perfect year to bring that to the attention of the entire country.”

Among the locations of special interest to Métis are: the Supreme Court of Canada building where the Powley decision was announced, the stunning Canadian Museum of History in nearby Gatineau that was designed by Métis architect Douglas Cardinal, the Aboriginal Veterans Monument and the Ottawa River, which was a major fur

trade route.

The Friday evening will start with the traditional opening ceremonies and welcome to the AGA hosted by President Lipinski and the PCMNO. Métis leaders and special guests will paddle in canoes from Victoria Island to the Museum of Civilization where they will be greeted by AGA delegates and their families. This ritual, which connects the MNO with its Métis voyageur roots, is always an exciting part of the AGA.

This will be followed by a procession into the Museum where AGA delegates will be able to view the world premiere of the new History of the MNO documentary movie.

Victoria Island will be the location for this year's Métis Games and Cultural Activities, which are scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, Aug. 25. (For more information on Victoria Island go to: www.aboriginalexperiences.com/#!__victoria-island).

The evening of Saturday, August 24th will feature a 20th Anniversary Feast and Celebration. All AGA delegates are encouraged to attend wearing their most beautiful traditional Métis attire in a special event that will honour the MNO founders and our Métis ancestors.

A community evening hosted by the Region Six MNO Community Councils will take place the evening of Sunday, August 25 with details to be announced in coming weeks.

Other highlights will include the presentation of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award the premiere of a movie about the History of the MNO.



PRESIDENT’S UPDATE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

GUIDED BY OUR SPIRITUAL
VALUES, WE ASPIRE TO ATTAIN
OUR HIGHEST POTENTIAL

— From the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*



▲ MNO President Lipinski and Chair France Picotte meeting with MNO Youth Council at the 2012 MNO Annual General Assembly.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Gary Lipinski
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

In my previous career as teacher at Fort Frances High School, prior to being elected as a full-time Métis political leader, there was a student in one of my classes who was always struggling. He was able to pass most of his tests but it was only with the greatest difficulty. On one occasion, however, he did very well and received an “A.”

That evening after marking papers, I phoned his parents to inform them of their son’s achievement. When I called and identified myself to the father as his son’s teacher, there was a noticeable change in his voice. Clearly he was expecting a negative report and it was reflected in his tone. Naturally, as I explained my reason for calling, his voice became more at ease but the biggest change my call caused was to his son.

I assume that the father spoke with his son about this achievement because the next day the son came to school smiling and had an enthusiasm for learning that had not been there before. That positive attitude carried over for the rest of the school year and demonstrated first-hand one of the most valuable life lessons, the power of positive support and encouragement.

It was with that young person in mind, that in my President’s Report at the last Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Sault Ste. Marie I called upon all MNO citizens to focus on what we can all do to encourage Métis children and youth to become, “the best they can be”.

To a large extent everything the MNO is doing and has done

is for young people, so the next generation will take up their rightful place within our communities, province and country. The MNO as the government of Ontario Métis citizens has focused on advancing Métis rights, setting up financial accountability and delivering programs and services for our people, as we continue to build towards self-government. All of which builds a foundation for our young Métis to someday inherit and continue to build upon. The MNO offers many programs that assist young people from supporting pregnant mothers, right up until children grow into young adults. In this report you can gain a sense of the breadth of the programs that help Métis youth become “the best they can be” right from the start.

Métis children and youth are stepping up across the homeland to fulfill leadership roles and ensure their voices are heard while the MNO works to build a brighter future where they can fulfill their dreams. In this report you will hear the voices of our many young MNO leaders who are participating at every level in advancing the MNO agenda.

However, it is not simply up to MNO leaders and youth to work towards increasing opportunities and success for our young. It is a responsibility that falls to all our citizens and each of you can help a child attain their highest potential.

Unfortunately there are still too many Métis youth who are not completing high school and many more who do not go on to post-secondary education, even though they have the ability and there are employers who would hire them if they had the necessary qualifications. Completing grade 12 and advancing to post-secondary, whether it be college, university, the trades or business, should not be limited to a few but should be something all our young people see as an option. All Métis should understand the value of higher education, the skill sets

it provides and have something they can aspire to.

This is something that must start at a very young age and part of it is encouraging our children to dream the dream and knowing what doors will open with education. Setting up the preparation and expectation that they will be going on to higher education needs to start early as well as making plans so that dream can become a reality.

Just as one phone call those many years ago led to the encouragement one young person needed, today young people across the homeland also need our support and encouragement. That encouragement can come from parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, neighbors, friends or any other adults who cares for a child.

Encouragement and the expectation of success are an important first step but we also need to plan for success. In this report you will find information about how to set up a Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs) for children. Putting money aside today will help ensure our young people have a bright future and setting up RESPs will trigger contributions from the government.

It is by encouraging our young people to seek out all the opportunities that are available to them and by helping them plan for success, that we can create intergenerational positive effects. If our children go on to higher education, the result will be well paying jobs and a better life style which will foster a positive environment to raise their children in and so on.

The MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose* calls on all MNO citizens to “aspire to attain our highest potential.” This report describes how we are working towards that goal but it is also a challenge to all MNO citizens to work to ensure that our young people meet that objective by becoming all they can be.



YOUTH & WOLF 2



HBHC 7



COMMUNITY COUNCILS 5



INFINITE REACH 9



MÉTIS RIGHTS 10



YOUTH LEADERS 12



GENERATION INNOVATION 11

PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

Why Way of Life matters to youth

These are our lands. They are the lands of our past which nurture us today and which we value as the precious foundation of our future.

—From the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*.

The words of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) *Statement of Prime Purpose* express the deeply rooted connection Métis people have to their natural environment. It is this connection that guides the need to protect Métis traditional land use, culture and rights for the future generations.

In accordance, the MNO established the Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch in 2009. MNO staff work with community leadership to serve and respond to the diverse needs of Métis citizens, their communities and their regions while providing the necessary scientific and technical expertise required by the larger Métis collective.

“By aggregating resources and working together as a Nation,” said MNO President Gary Lipinski, “we can ensure that all Métis citizens and regional rights-bearing Métis communities can be more effectively engaged in meaningful consultations on issues, policies and projects that affect our rights, interests and Way of Life.”

The Métis Way of Life Framework (WOLF) is the MNO's unique way of documenting Métis Traditional Knowledge acquired through time spent living on the land. Traditional knowledge is part of the collective memory of a community and it is passed down orally from one generation to the next through songs, stories, actions and observation. WOLF also encompasses all aspects of the Métis Way of Life including: biological, ecological, economic, social, cultural and spiritual.

“The goal of WOLF is to document the Traditional Knowledge of the MNO so that it cannot be lost, so that our history, stories and contributions will carry on for generations to come,” said President Lipinski.

These documentations are critical because it allows MNO communities to determine the potential effects of proposed development projects. It also assists MNO communities in their consultation activities and ensures that Métis culture is maintained in the future.

Each new road, mine, forestry operation and energy project has an impact on the surrounding habitat and the Métis Way of Life. In order to assess these changes, MNO communities, working together under MNO Regional Consultation Protocols, engage in consultations with project proponents.

An essential part of this consultation project is the incorporation of Métis Traditional Knowledge and land use information into the project assessment phase.

“The overarching goal of the protocols is to ensure that all MNO citizens who are members of regional rights-bearing Métis communities have an opportunity to be consulted on policies, plans, projects, and developments that have the potential to impact the collective rights and interests of the Métis,” stated President Lipinski.

Each protocol includes a regional consultation committee comprised of the MNO's regional councillor, a representative from each community council in a given traditional territory and the Captain of the Hunt. The committees work in collaboration with the MNO staff to ensure that consultations are inclusive, transparent and meaningful.

Since the creation of the LRC Branch, the MNO has made great strides toward ensuring that proponents and all levels of government recognize the need for including Métis interests in planning and resource consultations throughout Ontario.

The MNO continues to build relationships with Ontario's leading mineral developers and recently attended the 2013 Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Convention. The MNO has also engaged with numerous proponents and organizations through Traditional Knowledge feasts and information exchanges. Consultation committee tours have been provided by the Ontario Power Generation, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Goldcorp Inc., Tembec and the Niagara Region Wind Corporation to name a few.



▲ Métis youth involved in learning about the Métis Way of Life and Traditional Knowledge.

The goal of WOLF is to document the traditional knowledge of the MNO so that it cannot be lost, so that our stories will carry on for generations to come...

— President Lipinski

“The driving force behind the MNO consultation committees is to preserve the Métis Way of Life for our future generations,” said President Lipinski. “The decisions that happen today will affect the future children of the Métis Nation.”

With this in mind, the MNO encourages youth participation. Most recently, in Regions Seven and Eight, youth have been invited to join the consultation committees when meeting with proponents.

“The decisions made today are going to affect us in the future,” said Mitch Case, Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Youth Representative. “We need to be present throughout consultations to bring the youth voice to the table. Ultimately it is our future they are fighting for and we should want to have a say.”

The MNO also provides opportunities for youth and “knowledge holders” to engage in knowledge exchanges. Through these exchanges youth are taught about the different aspects of Traditional Knowledge such as medicinal plants, fishing, trapping and the Métis Way of Life in general as a way to protect and preserve it. The Captains of the Hunt have also met with youth to teach them about traditional knowledge collection, in hopes they will soon be conducting it themselves.

“It is crucial for youth to be involved,” said Case. “We need to prepare ourselves to be ready to take on the responsibility that has been cared for by our elders and preserve the work that has been done through the generations on our behalf.”

The MNO is helping build capacity and preparing its communities for consultations by providing expertise and training. Over the past few weeks, the MNO has delivered training to Métis communities across the province on how to conduct effective and meaningful consults.

The training, funded by the New Relationship Fund (NRF), included a session on collaboration and an issues and opportunities analysis. Participants from all regions attended separate two-day training sessions where they gained knowledge that will enhance their communities' ability to conduct meaningful consultations with proponents.

“Working together,” said President Lipinski, “we can ensure that our lands, culture and Way of Life are preserved into the future so that generations to come can share and rejoice in all things that make us proud to be Métis.”



REGISTERED EDUCATION SAVINGS PLANS

How to build for a child's future

Cost sometimes makes post-secondary education seem out of reach but there are measures that Métis individuals and families can take that will make the dream of higher education a reality.

Government of Canada Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs) are a great way to plan for a child's future education costs and can be an important component to ensure it will happen.

RESPs are a tax-sheltered education savings accounts that are registered with the Government of Canada. RESPs can be opened at most financial institutions, such as a banks, credit unions, or through a certified financial planner.

There are three types of RESPs:

1. **Family RESPs:** In a Family RESP money can be put aside for one or more children that are related to the donor by blood or adoption.
2. **Individual RESPs:** Through an Individual RESP contributions are made for one child whether they are related to the donor or not.
3. **Group RESPs:** Group RESPs allow contributions for

one child and the savings are combined with those of other Group RESP donors. The group savings are usually put in low-risk investments. These plans are provided by group dealers.

Those who open a RESPs are eligible for the Canada Learning Bond and the Canada Education Savings Grant.

The Canada Learning Bond is \$500 offered by the Government of Canada. Also, a child could get \$100 every year until he or she turns 15 years old to a maximum of \$2,000.

To be eligible for the Canada Learning Bond the child must be born after December 31, 2003 and the parent must receive the National Child Benefit Supplement under the Canada Child Tax Benefit (also known as the family allowance).

The Canada Education Savings Grant is money that the Government of Canada will add to RESPs savings. This grant has two parts:

1. **Basic Canada Education Savings Grant**
No matter how much money a family earns, the Basic Canada Education Savings Grant will give 20 per cent on every dollar of the first \$2,500 contributed to a child's RESPs each year. This means that

for every \$10, the government will add \$2.

2. **Additional Canada Education Savings Grant**
Depending on the net family income, an extra 10 or 20 per cent could be received on every dollar of the first \$500 saved in a child's RESPs each year. This means that for every \$10 saved, the government will add an extra \$1 or \$2.

Many individuals are now providing a financial contribution to a child's RESP at events such as baby showers, birthdays, good grades incentive and graduations as a method of helping to both support and encourage higher education! For more information:

Call: **1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232)** or
Toll free at: **1-800-926-9105**
Visit: **CanLearn.ca**

Or visit a Service Canada Centre near you
This information is from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at CanLearn.ca



**...We (youth) need to do our part
to prepare ourselves to be ready
to take on the responsibility that
has been cared for on our behalf.**

— Mitch Case



▲ Métis youth are a big part of MNO community council activities.



YOUTH ROLE CRITICAL TO MNO COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens volunteer thousands of hours every year to support the work of chartered MNO community councils. MNO community councils do everything from hosting fish fries to engage proponents in Duty to Consult meetings.

To create more opportunities for MNO citizens to network, almost every week of the year, the MNO and its councils organize functions and events that strengthen Métis communities.

This year, community festivals were held near or in Windsor, Bancroft, Fenfre, Dryden, Sudbury, Port Dover, Port McNicoll, Iroquois Falls and Welland. In Fort Frances and Peel MNO community council members helped develop museum exhibits and participated in the grand openings. Loom beading workshops were held in Guelph, conservation efforts in Oakville and weekly youth group meetings in Georgian Bay.

Other exciting events have included numerous jigging, historical and seasonal celebrations, medicine pouch making workshops, Métis information booths at community and educational events, and creating Métis specific floats for community parades. These events help foster cultural understanding and acceptance within Ontario communities and they would not be possible without the dedication of MNO community council members.

One of the key members of any MNO community council is the youth representative, each who provides a voice for Métis youth in their respective council.

"As youth representative we hold events for children and youth so they can meet each other and know that they are not alone," said MNO Credit River Métis Council Youth Representative Talitha Tolles. "When I was growing up, before we knew we were Métis, I had a really hard time because I couldn't identify with other kids. I joined the council because I want the kids who were like me to experience that there are other people who are just like them."

"In the role of youth representative, we listen to ideas from youth and represent the youth voice within council, said Danielle Secord, Youth Representative for the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council. "We also teach Métis youth about Métis arts and culture and promote MNO activities and events within our region."

Secord admits that there are some challenges youth representatives need to overcome.

"Finding ways to get the teenagers involved is a bit challenging. We are trying to create activities that appeal to the age group such as communicating electronically," she explained.

There are numerous advantages to being involved with local MNO community councils. One of which, highlighted by

Tolles, is the ability to build connections and create a sense of community.

"Building a sense of community is extremely important. Just through my council I know that every person will support me no matter what, they really do want the best for us," said Tolles. "So many people I have met through the MNO have offered so much advice and support and the information I have gained from MNO Senators is priceless."

It is crucial that young people are involved in the activities of MNO so they will have the knowledge and training to build on...

— President Lipinski

Youth involvement in the MNO community councils also open doors to other opportunities outside of the MNO. Tolles recently started a new position as Aboriginal Program Facilitator for Me to We, a partner of Free the Children. She says she owes her new position to her involvement in the MNO community councils.

"I would not have my current job without the volunteering I have done with the council", said Tolles. "The amount of experience I gained by volunteering really gave me the upper hand through the interview process and being able to showcase my experience through articles in the MNO Métis Voyageur really helped. I couldn't have done it without the support and encouragement of the MNO Credit River Métis Council members."

Along with pertinent work experience, MNO community councils sometimes can support youth in other ways as well.

Recently, the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council used its funding of \$3,000 from Bruce Power for the purpose of an education bursary entitled the "Helen Bradley Memorial Bursary." Senator Dora MacInnis presented this bursary to Youth Representative Secord during the May 1 council meeting.

MNO community council members are the forefront of the MNO who help people like Tolles, discover who they are and ultimately are creating a larger and more united Métis Nation. To ensure the MNO is providing the best support it can, it embarked on an asset mapping project.

Through this project the MNO was able to discover both the assets that were useful and available for positive well-being as well as the shortfalls in order to rectify any concerns or issues. The project also helps others identify their own personal assets. youth representative Danielle Secord identified that she is looking for ways to better connect with fellow youth representatives to share ideas on how to get more youth involved.

MNO youth representatives have recently participated in MNO community council Governance and Finance training and consultation training. The seminars explained the role of community councils and covered 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 and how to conduct meaningful consultations. This training provides a refresher course for MNO community council members while training the youth who attended for their future roles in the MNO.

"Everything the MNO does ultimately builds a foundation for our children and youth to someday inherit," said MNO President Gary Lipinski. "It is crucial that young people are involved in the activities of MNO so they will have the knowledge and training to build on the hard work of our founders and continue our progress for generations to come."

Mitch Case, MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie and PCMNO Youth Representative, agrees that young people need take the initiative to be involved with the MNO.

"The MNO is a large organization with over 200 elected officials and 180 staff members across the province," said Case. "These positions will need to be filled and it will be by the youth of today. We (youth) need to do our part to prepare ourselves to be ready to take on the responsibility that has been cared for on our behalf."

Youth participation on the community level is essential to the growth and prosperity of the MNO. MNO community council member's involvement is what fosters a strong and united Métis Nation and their encouragement and support is helping shape the Métis leaders of tomorrow.



▲ President Lipinski with David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, during presentation recognizing the 2nd anniversary of the Framework agreement in 2010.



▲ President Lipinski and Niagara College President Dr. Dan Patterson sign MOU.

THE MNO-ONTARIO FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Continues to build a brighter future for Métis young people

On November 17, 2008, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski and the Honourable Brad Duguid, who was then Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, signed the historic MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement. The Framework Agreement established a collaborative relationship that reinforced the commitment of both parties to work together to improve the well-being of Métis children, families and communities while building knowledge and understanding of Métis culture among all Ontarians. Few agreements between a Métis government and another government have proven more valuable to building a brighter future for the Métis people than the Framework Agreement.

The Framework Agreement was timely and necessary as the Métis population in Ontario is increasing dramatically. Métis represent fully one-third of the entire Aboriginal population in Ontario. Statistics Canada 2011 National Household Survey states that 86,020 Ontario residents self-identified as Métis compared to only 73,605 in 2006; an increase of nearly 17 per cent. The Métis population is also young with over 20 per cent being 15 years or younger, suggesting that Métis youth will play an increasingly important part in Ontario's future.

Since becoming Premier and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs respectively, the Honourable Kathleen Wynne and the Honourable David Zimmer, have continued to cooperate with the MNO in advancing the goals of the Framework Agreement and it has created a number of important advances in the last year.

A key area where the MNO is working hard to ensure that the interests of young Métis are protected concerns efforts to reform the Aboriginal Child Welfare System in Ontario.

In 2012 the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) released a report on Aboriginal Child and Youth Services that entirely missed the Métis component. In response, a resolution was made at the 2011 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) to meet with the Minister of Children and Youth Services and to prepare a parallel report that was Métis-specific. The MNO brought the issue to the attention of Minister Eric Hoskins and presented the MNO report. After discussions on the issue, the Ministry considered the Métis analysis along with their previous work.

These deliberations led to the 2013 announcement that the Government of Ontario's intends to work with Aboriginal partners to develop a multi-year Children and Youth Strategy. Since then the MNO has been one of the government's partners in developing this strategy and it was highlighted in the recent 2013 Ontario provincial budget.

In addition to the report done on reforming the Aboriginal child welfare system, the MNO has also produced three very important reports to improve educational outcomes for Métis students and Métis content in Ontario curriculum.

In 2010, the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities

sponsored MNO research on the opportunities and barriers Métis post-secondary learners face in Ontario. As historically there has been very little research conducted on the subject, the MNO report entitled *Research on Effective Practices to Support Métis Learners Achievement and Self-Identification Project*, was ground breaking because it offers a greater understanding of barriers and opportunities facing Métis students today. Recommendations to improve the system include building partnerships between the MNO, post-secondary institutions, and the Ministry.

A key area where the MNO is working hard to ensure that the interests of young Métis are protected concerns efforts to reform the Aboriginal Child Welfare System in Ontario.

For the last two years, the MNO has provided Métis Education Kits to community members, educators and school boards. The wide use of these led to the first review of Métis content in Ontario's thirteen universities faculties of education in a report entitled *Our Place in the Circle* (Dion 2012). This report is a step towards a better understanding of the needs of Ontario's teachers and classrooms to provide improved strategies in educating students about the Métis.

The MNO has also commissioned a research report entitled *Report on Métis Education in Ontario's K-12 Schools*. This pioneering research examines barriers and opportunities for Métis education in Ontario's kindergarten to high school classrooms. The researchers contacted school boards, directors of education, as well as government officials. The findings show several promising practices which address pedagogical, curricular, and staffing needs. Each addresses the importance of awareness, understanding, and appreciation of Métis knowledge, history, learners, families, and communities in Ontario's schools.

All reports are available online at the MNO website (metis-

nation.org under Education and Training/Education).

The signing of the Framework Agreement has also led to the MNO signing Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and 13 post-secondary institutions. Niagara College is the most recent post-secondary institution to sign a MOU with the MNO. Like all such agreements, it recognizes and addresses the unique needs of Métis and agrees to work in partnership to ensure that programming offered at the college addresses those needs. The MOU with Niagara College is part of a larger relationship building process of bilateral partnerships with post-secondary institutions.

The MNO has worked tirelessly with the Ontario government and other Aboriginal partners to address the issue of violence against Aboriginal women. Many of the women who suffer violence are young and their lives are forever scarred by the experience.

The MNO has participated in five summits on ending violence against Aboriginal women as an active member of the Joint Working Group since its inception in 2010, and is a full signatory to the Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women.

Most recently in September, MNO President Lipinski and MNO Chair France Picotte participated with the Joint Working Group in a meeting with the Minister responsible for women's issues and Premier Wynne.

The meeting was the first opportunity for the Joint Working Group, which consists of ten provincial ministries, to report on its progress. The MNO commended the Government of Ontario for supporting efforts to reduce the very high rates of violence affecting Métis, First Nations and Inuit women in Ontario and called upon the two lead Ministers to report back to their cabinet colleagues on progress and ongoing challenges articulated in the meeting.

The MNO has also been integrating awareness about the initiative within the MNO and in particular the Women's Secretariat of the MNO has been heavily involved in this critical issue.

A major aspect of the MNO's work in the area of violence against women is the new Victim Services Program. The program's goal is to expand the range and variety of culturally relevant victim services available to Métis women and children in Ontario. The program is a support system to be integrated with main stream victim services programs in order to help understanding of who Métis people are and the underlying issues and histories that surround them.

These are just some of the recent highlights that add to the foundation that has been built through cooperation and collaboration since 2008. More details on some of these programs can be found throughout this report.



▲ President Lipinski with Premier Wynne at the 2013 PDAC conference.

Growing up healthy

MNO PROGRAMS BENEFIT YOUNG CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES



Amanda Desbiens is part of a team of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff who work in programs that make a difference in the lives of Métis children and their families. She works in the MNO Healthy Baby Healthy Children (HBHC) program, which along with Canadian Prenatal/Postnatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) and the Community Action Plan for Children (CAP-C) are programs the MNO operates that provide assistance to mothers during pregnancy and families with children under six years of age.

Desbiens has worked as a HBHC Coordinator since 2005 and in that time has been able to help Métis families live healthier and happier lives.

In her role, she provides cultural support, advocacy, information and prenatal and postnatal health intervention to families who are at risk. Desbiens has many experiences with families that the program has helped support from pregnancy onwards.

“Families I have worked with have indicated that they are doing well and have fruitful happy lives,” said Desbiens. “A teenage mother who asked for help with parenting and coping with stress and anxiety worked with the program through participating in home visits, family wellness planning and peer support. Currently, she is a functioning single mother, enrolled in university, has re-established key family relationships and indicates her daughter is doing well developmentally.”

The MNO HBHC program, funded by the provincial government is a prevention and intervention program for families in the prenatal period as well with children 0-6 years of age. The program is designed to support all families requiring holistic parenting and family support services by providing an environment for the healthy development of children through home visits, services coordination, advocacy and referrals. It includes preparation for birth, parenting, child development, safety, family health, breastfeeding, addiction, mental health and housing support. The role of HBHC workers is to provide educational opportunities so that families feel empowered to make informed decisions. The program provides support for children at risk and is voluntary and open to any who requires or requests support.

“Growing up healthy is every child’s right and every parents dream for their children,” said MNO President Gary Lipinski. “The key to a successful future is a healthy beginning. The MNO’s wish is to provide Métis communities with cultur-

ally supportive health programs and services that help foster healthy and happy futures for Métis children and youth. This is what led to the development and the continuation of the HBHC program.”

The HBHC program provides many culturally appropriate participant based activities including Gestational Diabetes, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and healthy relationship building workshops.

“One great component is we are able to offer culturally appropriate activities for these children in order to enhance self-identity and self-esteem,” said Desbiens. “The MNO North Bay office where I am located is very much involved with the Best Start Initiative to ensure that any Métis child being seen in the community is being referred to the appropriate cultural services if there are issues.”

Desbiens, who specializes in FASD, has seen many success stories from her clientele over the years.

“As a HBHC Coordinator I also provide direct support to families who may feel their children and/or grandchildren may have FASD,” said Desbiens. “Recently I was supporting a family through a process of acquiring diagnosis of FASD through our partnership with Motherisk. I was able to increase awareness of the child’s unique needs, both internally and externally which is why I view it as a success.”

The HBHC program also provides transportation for families with children to help get to medical appointments, provide a clothing exchange program and provide client supplies such as baby clothing, diapers and car seats.

“We also facilitate access to a cost-free provincial telepsychiatry program which is available to the public should they require support services for mental health,” stated Desbiens.

“HBHC is an amazing program that really helps our Métis families acquire support in times of need,” she continued. “The most rewarding part of my job is to see families use the tools they’ve learned to enrich their lives, as well as providing opportunities to them that they would otherwise not have the chance to participate in.”

The public can access the HBHC program and its services by self-referral or through referrals from external agencies. The MNO HBHC program provides assistance in a variety of means including in-office visits to an accessible building, home or community visits and telephone support.

The key to a successful future is a healthy beginning. The MNO’s wish is to provide Métis communities with culturally supportive health programs and services that help foster healthy and happy futures for Métis children and youth...

— President Lipinski

SERVICES:

MNO Healthy Baby Healthy Children (HBHC)

Canadian Prenatal/Postnatal Nutrition Program (CPNP)

Community Action Plan for Children (CAP-C)

LOCATIONS:

Bancroft

613-332-2575
Services in this office: HBHC, CAP-C

Dryden

807-223-4535
Services in this office: HBHC, CAP-C

Fort Frances

807-274-1386
Services in this office: HBHC

Midland

705-526-6335
Services in this office: HBHC

North Bay

705-476-2339
Services in this office: HBHC

Renfrew

613-432-6499
Services in this office: HBHC

Sault Se. Marie

705-254-1768
Services in this office: HBHC

Sudbury

705-671-9855
Services in this office: HBHC

Thunder Bay

807-624-5016
Services in this office: HBHC, CAP-C, CPNP

Timmins

705-264-3939
Services in this office: HBHC

Toronto

416-977-9881
Services in this office: HBHC

Welland

905-735-1112
Services in this office: HBHC

Windsor

519-974-0860
Services in this office: HBHC

MNO Education & Training programs open doors for Métis youth

To encourage academic and skills development and to enable citizens of the Métis Nation to attain their educational aspirations...

– From the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose

As stated in the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) *Statement of Prime Purpose*, the MNO has always made education a high priority. A key objective of the MNO is to ensure young Métis citizens uncover and embrace the will and determination to live a successful life. In its pursuit of achieving this goal, the MNO offers a range of supports and services for the educational success of all Métis across Ontario beginning in early childhood, continuing through kindergarten to grade 12, on to post-secondary education and into adulthood.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Recognizing the absence of dedicated post-secondary financial assistance for Métis students, MNO initiated a bursary program in 1998. Métis students can apply for the Métis Student Bursary Program (MSBP) at the financial aid office, Aboriginal student liaison centre or through student support services at the participating college or university. There are currently 36 schools across Ontario offering the bursary. Applications are available to students following registration in the fall. Deadlines are school specific and bursary recipients are announced at the beginning of each school year. Students may reapply for bursaries and/or scholarships each year when they register for school. The amount of bursaries will vary depending on the accumulation of interest each year.

MÉTIS YOUTH PROGRAM

In order to gain pertinent work experience that will help jump-start careers; the MNO also provides services for training in the workplace. The Métis Youth Program (MYP) is designed to provide support to unemployed youth between the ages of 15 and 30 through a number of program options that are available through individual client purchase or as

community-based programming. Assistance can be provided through three ways: the MNO internship program, the community service program or the labour market information program.

MNO Internship Program

The MNO Internship Program supports internships with employers that provide youth with skill enhancement, work experience and entrepreneurial assistance to help them make a successful transition into the labour market.

Community Service Program

In order to create opportunities for youth who face barriers in finding employment the MNO offers the Community Service Program. The program provides support and develops work opportunities for such youth through participation in community service projects. The aim is to help young people develop the life skills and work experiences necessary to enter the labour market.

Through the Labour Market Information Program, the MNO provides youth with labour market information they need to make decisions about their education and careers.

Summer Career Placement Program

A Summer Career Placement (SCP) program is also provided to Métis students who are seeking summer employment opportunities. Employers from the private, public and non-profit sectors can receive wage subsidies and/or mandatory employer related costs to create beneficial job experience opportunities for Métis youth.

The MNO continues to foster partnerships between communities and school boards, colleges and universities, and other key stakeholders to foster a culture of lifelong learning in communities that support student education.



PARTICIPATING COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Region 2:

- Confederation College
- Lakehead University

Region 3:

- Northern College

Region 4:

- Sault College
- Algoma University

Region 5:

- Cambrian College
- Canadore College
- Laurentian University
- College Boreal
- University of Sudbury

Region 6:

- Carleton University
- Queen's University
- Algonquin College
- Loyalist College
- St. Lawrence College
- University of Ottawa

Region 7:

- Sir Sanford Fleming College
- Georgian College
- Trent University

Region 8:

- Ryerson University
- University of Toronto
- George Brown College
- Humber College
- Sheridan College
- York University
- Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD)
- University of Ontario Institute of Technology
- Seneca College

Region 9:

- University of Western Ontario
- Brock University
- Conestoga College
- Fanshawe College
- Lambton College
- Mohawk College
- Niagara College
- St. Clair College





▲ Participants of the 2013 MNO Infinite Reach March break camp.

MNO INFINITE REACH NETWORK

Supporting & inspiring students to realize their full potential

Melanie-Rose Frappier is a Métis high school student from Sudbury who has plans to one day become an orthopedic surgeon. Like many youth her age, Melanie-Rose has worries about the transition from high school to university but after attending the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Infinite Reach program's March break camp, she realized for the first time that she wasn't alone.

The MNO Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network is comprised of incoming and upper year post-secondary students who have the common goal of working together to enrich and enhance their post-secondary education experience. The program is designed to ease the transition of Métis students to post-secondary education by creating a network of Métis students from across the province that can share experiences and support one another in their academic pursuits.

An integral part of the Infinite Reach Network is to ensure that Métis high school students can accomplish the transition to post-secondary studies knowing they will be supported by members of the Métis community. A key way this is accomplished is through the Infinite Reach March break camp. The camp is designed to engage young Métis students interested in higher education in a retreat that focuses on the benefits of college and university education. Students also learn about Métis history and are involved in cultural activities throughout their stay.

"The camp helped me make decisions and they answered my questions in regards to post-secondary education and the different options available," said Melanie-Rose. "It's comforting to know that there are people out there to help me and I have made friendships that will last a lifetime."

The Infinite Reach March break camp is a great opportunity for high school students to build connections with Infinite Reach facilitators and fellow students before attending post-secondary institutions.

"Melanie-Rose thoroughly enjoyed the camp," said her Mother Huguette Trotter-Frappier. "They were able to talk about their fears, concerns and worries. It was the first time in her life she didn't feel alone. She felt more encouraged and excited about the future knowing when she does go to university, she won't be alone."

The relationship between incoming students, facilitators and other Infinite Reach community members is determined by the needs of individual first year students. Some students may wish to communicate with facilitators through email for quick advice regarding university life and some may want to meet with their facilitators for coffee or at cultural events. The goal of the Infinite Reach program is to create a community of students who can easily connect with one another.

The camp helped me make decisions and they answered my questions in regards to post-secondary education and the different options available. It's comforting to know that there are people out there to help me and I have made friendships that will last a lifetime.

—Melanie-Rose Frappier

"Instilling the importance of education is the first step towards something that is truly great," said Tegan Mandeville, an Infinite Reach Facilitator at Loyalist College. "And you can't know where you are going in the future if you don't know where you come from in the past. Being able to help them through this process is pretty amazing."

MNO Infinite Reach facilitators are upper year students who can offer assistance to incoming students by helping them adjust to university life. They also work to create and maintain a sense of community among Métis students. Throughout the year, Infinite Reach facilitators host cultural and informative events to connect students to the local MNO community councils and to the various programs, services and events of the MNO. The Infinite Reach Network serves as a community of learners with the ability to inspire Métis students to achieve their full potential and provide the support of the Métis community.

"The camp was an experience of a lifetime. I made so many good friendships and I will never forget it," said Melanie-Rose. "I wouldn't have wanted to spend my March break any other way!"

GET INVOLVED

The MNO is looking for postsecondary students interested in becoming Infinite Reach facilitators. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming involved with Infinite Reach contact Sheila Granham at **1-800-263-4889** extension 137 or e-mail **infinitereach@metisnation.org**. Application forms and more information are also available on the MNO website at **www.metisnation.org**.

Deadline for applications is August 15, 2013

▼ Activities of the 2013 and 2013 Infinite Reach March break camps.



YOUTH LEADERS SPEAK OUT ABOUT MÉTIS RIGHTS

We can’t make right of the past, we can only make justice in our time,” stated Mitch Case, the Youth Representative for the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) when asked about the recent court cases affecting Métis rights. “Precedent is huge and the Métis need to be recognized. Justice needs to be done and the recent court cases are recognizing what is morally right.”

It has been a big year in the struggle for justice. The ongoing litigations for Métis rights in Ontario, Alberta and Manitoba are making a huge impact on the future of the Métis Nation and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO).

“The recent court cases bring us much closer to finding our rightful place within the Canadian Federation,” said MNO President Gary Lipinski. “It is important for Métis youth to have a solid understanding of the history and development of these cases so that when the time comes they can continue our progress as we have for those before us.”

A great accomplishment in the struggle for Métis rights across the Nation is the recent *Manitoba Metis Federation v. Canada* decision that favored the Métis. The case which took over 30 years to reach the Supreme Court, established that Canada breached its fiduciary and constitutional obligations owing to the Manitoba Métis by failing to fulfill the lands and benefit they were promised as Aboriginal negotiating partners in Confederation. These promises are embedded within sections 31 and 32 of the *Manitoba Act, 1870* which is part of Canada’s Constitution. The Supreme Court held that the federal government did not act honorably in implementing the constitutional obligation in s. 31 of the *Manitoba Act* and affirmed that the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) could advance Métis collective claims.

“The biggest thing is that we are rewriting history,” said Case. “We are writing history the way that it should have been written in the first place. At the heart of it and what is most important, is that we come to understand our history in a better light and are fully aware and proud of our contributions to that history.”

“In the past,” he continued, “our history, contributions and the commitments made to Métis were not fully appreciated and



As a youth, these cases mean everything to my future and the generations which will follow. The federal government has a duty to consult with our Nation and will hear my voice...

—Jennifer Henry

respected, the courts are finally making it right and providing new hope for our rightful place in the future again.”

Still ongoing is *Daniels v. Canada*. The January 8 ruling by the Federal Court of Canada declared that the federal government has jurisdiction for Métis under s. 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*. The decision stated that the federal government has exclusive legislative authority with respect to “Indians and Lands reserved for the Indians.” The case effectively found that Métis are “Indians” within the meaning of s. 91(24). This decision is a great accomplishment for Métis even though it is currently being appealed by the federal government.

“I am extremely proud of the Métis Nation of Ontario for intervening in the Daniels case to ensure our voice is heard by the courts,” said Jennifer Henry, PCMNO Post-secondary Representative. “This is something we have been fighting for since Louis Riel.”

“As a youth, these cases mean everything to my future and the generations which will follow,” she continued. “The federal government has a duty to consult with our Nation and will hear my voice. Although we may not see the changes happening immediately, the Daniels case and others like it, ensure that the federal government realizes we are here and we are a strong and vibrant Nation.”

The Alberta Métis harvesting rights case *R. v. Hirsekorn* is also still ongoing. The case dates back to the 2007 cancellation of a Métis harvesting agreement that implemented the Powley decision in Alberta. Following the cancellation of this agreement, the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) proceeded to organize traditional hunts across the province to protest the cancellation. At which time Métis citizen, Mr. Hirsekorn was charged and later convicted for hunting without a license. The case was brought to the Alberta Court of Appeal and the verdict has not yet been released.

“We have lost too many years fighting these issues in court,” stated Henry. “It is now time for the federal government to recognize the Métis Nation and being the process of working together and begin negotiations on the many important issues we face. Only when we work together can we make a positive change and have our rightful place within the Canadian Federation fully appreciated.”

AN UPDATE ON MNO FINANCES

Setting an example of fiscal responsibility

By Gary Lipinski

One of the most important things we can do for future generations is to leave a legacy of a strong financially solvent Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). Leaving behind a financially sound MNO will help ensure that generations to come are able to continue and build upon our work to advance the interests of and for Métis citizens in Ontario.

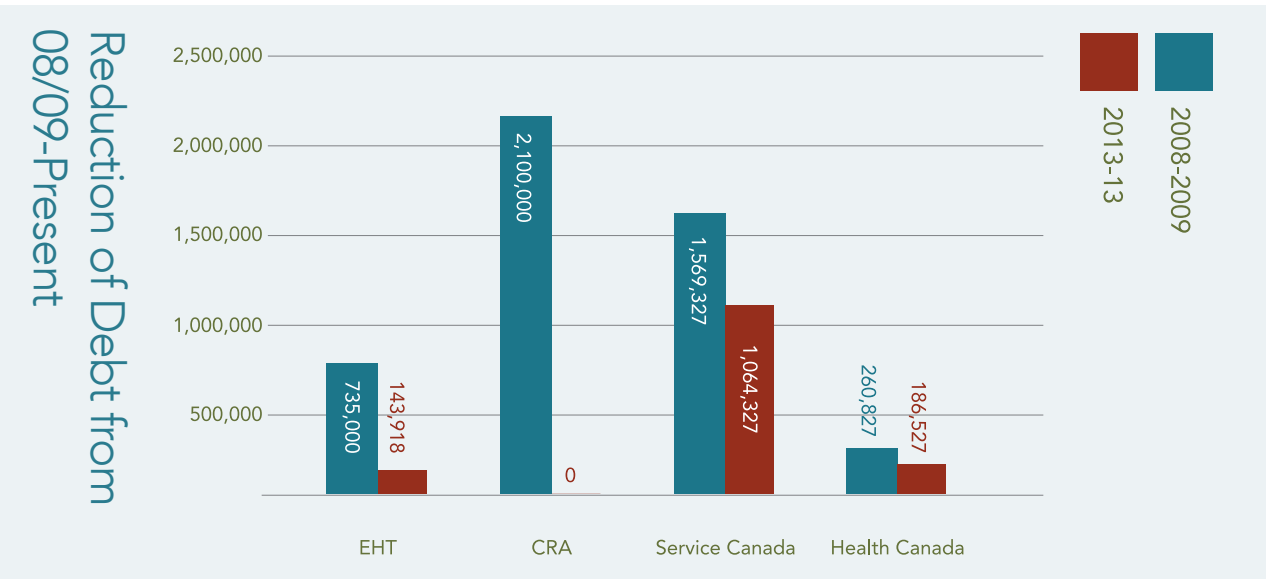
In 2008, we were in a serious financial situation and on the verge of bankruptcy. MNO’s debt from the years 1999 through 2008 had accumulated to some \$4.6 million. That level of debt was not sustainable and seriously endangered the MNO’s ability to continue working for future generations.

Instead of placing blame, we accepted responsibility. We made a commitment to address the MNO’s financial situation by creating a stronger financial plan to ensure deficits became a thing of the past. We wanted to build a solid foundation for our children.

In 2009 we doubled the size of our Financial Branch in order to effectively manage all necessary reporting and tracking. Together, we set a goal to be completely debt-free and collectively our efforts and sacrifices over the last few years have brought us much closer to this goal.

As part of our goal we implemented an action plan throughout all levels of MNO. This plan put in place strong financial management processes, increased transparency and effective checks and balances. Stringent financial policies and procedures were implemented and have led to increased credibility in the eyes of our funding partners. We developed budgets, spent funds where they were supposed to be spent according to contribution agreements, and did not initiate activities where there was no budget to support it.

Today, I am pleased to report that our efforts have made



tremendous progress. In only four years we have reduced the MNO’s debt by roughly 70 per cent. As of March 31, 2013 the MNO’s debt repayable has decreased to \$1.4 million.

The MNO has been able to completely pay off its Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) debt. The amount owing to CRA was originally \$2.1 million, this debt as of March 31, 2013 has been completely paid off. The repayment of this debt took only three years instead of the estimated 11.5 years originally planned, eight and a half years ahead of schedule.

The MNO has additionally significantly reduced its debts owing to Service Canada and Ontario for the Employer Health Tax (EHT).

The amount originally owing to Service Canada in 2008 was \$1.5 million and an estimated 24 years for repayment, but

as of March 31, 2013 this has been reduced to \$1.06 million and only two and a half years left to repay.

The amount owing to EHT was originally \$735,000 in 2008, as of March 2013 it has been reduced to \$144,000.

It is our collective sacrifices and strict discipline over the last few years that have made these results achievable. We are one step closer to our vision of a debt-free MNO.

We must continue this progress so that generations to come can build upon a solid foundation and continue moving forward without the burden of a large debt. One day soon, this new reality will allow for increased focus on providing additional supports to issues that are most important to our citizens!



MÉTIS YOUTH IMPRESS INDUSTRY LEADERS

MNO Generation Innovation challenge

Recreation therapist, Métis youth and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Deanna Parker's dream is to build an aquatic rehabilitation centre where she can practice aquatic therapy for communities in need. As part of the second MNO Generation Innovation challenge, Parker was given the opportunity to pitch her business idea to a panel of judges for a chance to win \$1,000, a laptop and a printer.

Modeled after the popular CBC television program, *The Dragon's Den*, the Generation Innovation: Métis Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge is a MNO project designed to provide Métis youth (aged 13-29) with confidence, motivation and above all, concrete business skills and mentoring.

Parker pitched to the panel of judges her business plan for an aquatic rehabilitation centre that she hopes to start in the Sioux Lookout, commonly known as the "Hub of the North," which would be first of its kind in the region. She plans to provide aquatic therapy for the 29 remote First Nation communities in her area. Totalling a market of 30,000 people, the centre will help prevent the need for urgent care visits. Along with costs, projections and statistics, Parker's business plan included the designs for a culturally appropriate rehabilitation program for elders and an overview of the benefits of aquatic therapy versus more traditional physiotherapy methods.

"I am very privileged and honoured to have been selected to participate," said Parker. "This opportunity is very important to

me because I have gone through everything possible in trying to complete my business plan and now with the support of the MNO Generation Innovation challenge I have completed it."

The MNO Generation Innovation panel of judges were very impressed with Parker's business plan and awarded her first place.

The judges included: Chinyere Eni, National Director, Aboriginal and Public Sector Markets at RBC; Peter Smith, President Commerce Assessment Group; Larry Mah, Director of Programs at Youth in Motion; and Paul Ungerman, Manager of Government Affairs at Union Gas.

Contestant Renée Michaud, a Liaison Officer with the University of Ottawa, placed second for her business plan for a mobile restaurant (food truck) that would serve Aboriginal cuisine cooked over a wood fire. Proposed menu items included deer sausage, buffalo burgers and side salads while promoting Aboriginal cultures through her truck design and music. Michaud's goal is to provide a "cultural experience for the eyes, the ears and also the taste buds."

Although the judges were very impressed by Michaud's passion they believed the business plan required a little more work due to the competitiveness of the mobile food industry.

"It was really nice having a company organization backing me up and helping me get there," said Michaud. "I only recently found out that I am of Métis descent so this experience

is allowing me to get to know a bit more about my culture."

Taylor Hari, a Ph.D. candidate from the University of Ottawa, placed third for his pitch for an exclusive sock company "Sockterate". Following the business model "everything for someone and not something for everyone," Hari planned to target the "GQ" man by providing a new and sophisticated style for business socks. His plans also included future expansion to diversify his product into a clothing line.

Acknowledging the great potential in the niche market, the judges believed that Hari's business plan has great opportunity but were questionable on whether manufacturing the product overseas was the right route for his product.

"The training has helped because just learning off of everyone else around me and getting different opinions on how I am delivering my material is bettering my delivery and product," said Hari.

Through the MNO Generation Innovation challenge contestants gained valuable business experience and insights to jump-start their entrepreneurial dreams. The MNO hopes that all contestants continue to move forward with their business plans.

For more information on the MNO Generation Innovation challenge please see p.19 in issue 76 of the MNO *Métis Voyageur*.

Discovering, building & promoting Métis identity

THE MNO SUMMER CULTURAL PROGRAM

"As I have come from a background that had consisted of very little to no Métis knowledge or teachings," said Genevieve Routhier, a previous Summer Youth Cultural Interpreter (SYCI), "coming on board to work with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) through the Summer Youth Cultural Program was definitely a life changing experience."

Designed to strengthen and share Métis culture and history, the MNO Métis Summer Cultural Program (MSCP) is a community based initiative comprised of two key components. The first involving comprehensive training of all summer students in culture and history including workshops on MNO programs and governance, Métis history and culture, finger weaving, beading, embroidering, snowshoe making and paddle making. The second and primary part of the program is the actual delivery of Métis culture and history programs by the students to community groups.

"This program allowed me to gain valuable work experience while gaining personal interest, culture and history, building

stronger community and stepping out into the workforce with a sense of individuality all the while having a great summer," said Melody Chislett-Morris, past SYCI.

The MSCP gives enthusiastic Métis students the opportunity to go out into the community and share their experiences and raise awareness about Métis. The participation in community events allows knowledge sharing in an interactive and engaging manner. Each Métis student brings a unique voice to the project and will continue to grow through the learning experience.

"This program allows you to be who you are and build on that confidence in a warm and friendly environment," said Chislett-Morris. "The SYCI position has helped me gain a stronger sense of who I am both as an individual and as a member of a team."

This year's MSCP has an added focus on highlighting the Métis contributions to the War of 1812. Participants will take part in the re-enactment of the war along with building upon the success of previous years cultural activities.



▲ Summer Cultural Program students learn about Métis culture and then promote it across Ontario.



▲ PCMNO Post-secondary Representative Jennifer Henry



▲ MNO Youth Council members (left to right) Phoebe Mandry (Region 6), Janine Landry (Region 2), Sylvie Forest (Region 5), Nicholas Delbaere-Sawchuk (Region 8), Brianne Gosselin (Region 3), Mitch Case (Youth Representative on PCMNO), Kyle Grenier (Region 7). Missing Kristie Caouette (Region 1), Alex Young (Region 9).

The leaders of tomorrow today

Young Métis are stepping up to fill leadership positions in the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and among them are Jennifer Henry, Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Post-secondary Representative; Mitch Case, PCMNO Youth Representative; and MNO Youth Council (MNOYC) representatives Kristie Caouette, Janine Landry, Brianne Gosselin, Sylvie Forest, Phoebe Mandry, Kyle Grenier, Nicholas Delbarere-Sawchuk and Alexander Young.

The MNOYC is part of the MNO governance structure with the mandate to identify issues impacting Métis youth and to work with the MNO to ensure those issues are addressed. Métis youth are represented by the PCMNO Youth Representative, who holds a voting seat on the PCMNO and each MNO community council has a position for a local Youth Representative who promotes youth initiatives, works directly with the MNOYC and represents the voice of Métis youth in his or her area.

Members of the MNOYC take part in meetings across the province, including the MNO's Annual General Assembly, attend national conferences such as the National Métis Youth Role Model Conference and also sit on the Métis National Advisory Council. The MNOYC representatives are elected in province-wide elections held every three years.

Our mandate is to prepare and make sure we are ready to someday do our part in the leadership of the Métis Nation...

—Mitch Case

“Our mandate is to prepare and make sure we are ready to someday do our part in the leadership of the Métis nation,” said Case. “We try to involve ourselves as much as we can to bring the youth voice and opinion to all aspects of the Métis nation.”

Participation at the community, regional and provincial level enables Métis youth across Ontario to have a voice and ensures Métis youth are engaged in all levels of governance, decision-making and policy-making, both within and outside of the MNO.

“It is crucial for our future as a people,” said MNO President Gary Lipinski, “that we not only have the youth perspective in all the activities of the MNO but work together to create institutions and provide services that allow Métis youth and children to be all they can be.”

As the PCMNO Post-secondary Representative, Henry represents the youth voice at the post-secondary level. She gathers knowledge, creates a network, makes connections and supports Métis students who are pursuing a post-secondary education.

“Getting involved with the MNO has given me experience that many organizations and committees are looking for,” said Henry. “By having many years of volunteer experience I’ve had the opportunity to participate in many unique conferences as both a youth panel member and workshop facilitator.”

Recently, Henry has represented the Métis youth voice at conferences such as: Circle of Light: First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education, the Aboriginal Education Advisory Circle, and the Minister of Education’s Student Advisory Council.

“We need to let our voices be heard as we have a strong and important voice in our communities,” said Henry. “We are the future, therefore we need to ensure that we encourage our youth to emerge as the next generation of leaders.”

Métis students, please stand up!

THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTARILY SELF-IDENTIFYING AS A MÉTIS STUDENT

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) encourages students to self-identify in order to show pride in their culture and heritage.

In the past, due to prejudice and discrimination, Métis young people were often afraid to self-identify, especially in schools, and as a result the Métis became known as the “forgotten people”. Fortunately, the same increase in pride that led to the creation of the MNO helped us understand that the first part of asserting Métis rights is asserting Métis identity.

Supporting schools in developing policies for voluntary confidential self-identification of First Nation, Métis and In-

uit students is one of the main strategies under the Province of Ontario’s First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework released in 2007.

The MNO has been a vocal supporter of this self-identification approach and has not only encouraged students and families to self-identify but has worked with school boards to encourage policy development and implementation.

While the Ministry of Education has recently reported that every school board has adopted an Aboriginal self-identification policy, these remain at varying stages of implementation. As such, the ability to acquire detailed data on Métis student

achievement and graduation rates will require a sustained effort.

Métis families and communities are encouraged to self-identify as it can result in added funding and resources dedicated to Métis students but more importantly, it can bring greater visibility to Métis students in the school system. This data is critical to determining the successes and challenges that may still exist within schools across Ontario. The ability to have Métis specific data on students will allow for programs and resources to be targeted to assist students to be all they can be.

