



Métis Nation of Ontario | 2012-2013

ANNUAL REPORT

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MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO 1993-2013: CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

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Métis Nation
of Ontario
20th Anniversary
1993-2013



01: Delegates at 2004 MNO AGA cheer as the interim Harvesting Agreement is announced.

02: Arrival of the Youth Canoe Expedition at the 2003 MNO AGA.

03: The late great Steve Powley; whose historic court case won Harvesting rights for Métis across the homeland.

04: The signing of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement in 2008.

05: MNO founding delegates meeting in Toronto in 1994.



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2012-13 MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT

We are a Nation, born of independence, and self-sufficiency whose teachings are founded on the values of honesty and truth. We are proud of our rich heritage. We are inspired by the values and traditions of our ancestors. The strength of our society is based on democracy, freedom, fairness, equality, generosity, justice and the customary and written law of our people. Above all, we cherish harmony and peace.

As Aboriginal people we hold sacred the rights of the individual and of the collective. We have respect for each other, for the land and for the animal and plant life that surrounds us. We are people who honour and respect the family, our elders who hold the key to the past, and our children, who are our future.

“Guided by our spiritual values we aspire to attain our highest potential.”

—from the Métis Nation of Ontario *Statement of Prime Purpose*

MNO President Lipinski and MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette accept the War of 1812 banner and medal from Prime Minister Harper and Governor-General Johnston at a ceremony in Rideau Hall on October 25, 2012.



GREETING FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is my privilege to welcome you to the 20th Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and to provide greetings for the MNO 2012-13 Annual Report.

Whenever MNO citizens gather at an AGA, we return to our founding document *The Statement of Prime Purpose*, which has served the MNO well for two decades and is a testament to the vision of our founders. In it, we declare that **“we aspire to attain our highest potential.”** Building towards that ideal we work together for Métis rights, improved social conditions for our people and promoting Métis culture and heritage. I am pleased to report that in the last year, the MNO has moved forward on the objectives of *The Statement of Prime Purpose* and will see even more success in the years to come.

It is particularly poignant that we return to *The Statement of Prime Purpose* this year because 2013 marks the 20th anniversary of the Métis Nation of Ontario. This AGA affords us the opportunity to look back on two decades of achievement and remember the hard work, vision and leadership of our founders who against what often must have seemed like insurmountable odds, prevailed; and in fact, as we know today, triumphed!

As it has every year, the AGA brings Métis leaders and citizens from across Ontario together with friends, family and colleagues to showcase our rich culture, pass on our traditions to younger generations, and celebrate our stories. This year's AGA in Ottawa brings the MNO to a city and area that has been historically significant to the Métis generally and the history of the MNO specifically. During the fur trade era, the Ottawa River was a key trade route for Métis voyageurs who constantly navigated its currents. In more recent times, Ottawa was the site of constitutional conferences that ultimately led to the inclusion of Métis in the Canadian constitution in 1982. Ottawa is home of the Supreme Court that affirmed Métis harvesting rights in the landmark Powley case in 2003. The Aboriginal Veterans' Monument can also be found in Ottawa. This monument assures that the sacrifices of our Métis veterans will never be forgotten.

The AGA, however, is just as much about making history as it is about remembering history. The AGA is where the business of the MNO is conducted and like all our contemporary Métis governance structures is unique. Our annual assemblies are Métis self-government in action, where we affirm our nationhood, our status as one people and our traditions. Through resolutions and discussion the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) takes direction from the AGA and works closely with its 29 Chartered Community Councils and their democratically elected leadership. At the AGA, you the citizens can review the work of your leadership over the last year and consider the MNO's direction for the future. That is because for all the lists of achievements in this Annual Report and all the accomplishments for the last 20 years; everything has ultimately been done to build a stronger future.



GARY LIPINSKI

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
PRESIDENT

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MNO elections

This year was the first in the term of the new PCMNO that was elected in May 2012. I am very happy to report that this election had the largest turnout ever for a MNO election. The high participation of MNO citizens in this election demonstrates the MNO's strength and that our citizens are engaged in the Nation. I feel very fortunate to serve with these dynamic leaders, as well as the dedicated citizens who came forward at the 2012 AGA to serve as PCMNO Senators, and in the Women's Secretariat of the MNO, the MNO Veterans' Council and the MNO Youth Council. Together we are working hard to strengthen the MNO's governance structure and ensure that it meets the needs of all our citizens.

Tenth Anniversary of Powley Decision

In addition to the MNO's 20th anniversary, 2013 also marks the 10th anniversary of the Powley decision. On September 19, 2003, after ten years of litigation, the Supreme Court of Canada, in an unanimous judgement, declared that Steve and Roddy Powley as members of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community had the Métis right to harvest and that this right is protected under section 35 of *the Constitution Act, 1982*.

The MNO will commemorate this anniversary during the annual Louis Riel Day ceremonies at Queen's Park on November 15 this year. Events will include a legal panel that will discuss the significance of the Powley case; past, present and future, followed by a feast that will recognize the people who played important roles in this great victory for Métis rights.

MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement

When reviewing this past year, it is worth remembering that together in 2008, we set an agenda that built on our past achievements and has been the basis for the MNO's work since then. A key foundational element of that agenda was the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, which we signed November 17, 2008. It outlined mutually agreeable objectives for: strengthening the MNO; recognizing and promoting Métis history and culture; enhancing the wellbeing of Métis individuals, families and communities; and facilitating the recognition of Métis rights in Ontario. It has proved the lynchpin for our relationship with the Ontario government and has led to a number of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with other Ontario government ministries, agencies and post-secondary institutions. It has also facilitated economic development initiatives that were part of the MNO's first strategic plan and economic development strategy.

New Relationship Fund

Along with the Framework Agreement, the New Relationship Fund (NRF) has been a pillar in the assertion of Métis rights in the province. The NRF has provided funding for MNO staff that work with regions and communities to ensure that Ontario Métis are at the table and able to participate in a meaningful way whenever the Duty to Consult is triggered. The work of this staff has included facilitating Chartered Community Council and Regional Consultation Protocols, which have now been signed in all nine regions. NRF funding also supports a



variety of Traditional Knowledge and Métis Way of Life activities, such as Traditional Knowledge gatherings and celebrations that were held this year.

Encouraging Métis children and youth to be all they can be

In my President's report at the 2012 AGA, I challenged all MNO citizens to begin thinking about how we all can encourage our Métis children and youth to take advantage of every opportunity and become all they can be. The MNO currently offers programs that help parents expecting children, pre-school and school age children as well as young adults in postsecondary education, which is how we should look at children and youth; as being from the womb to young adulthood.

Providing every opportunity to our young people is not simply the responsibility of the PCMNO and MNO staff. Every MNO citizen needs to step forward and encourage young people to be their best. This may mean helping them save for a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) or simply communicating to our sons, daughters, nieces, nephews and grandchildren that completing high school and going onto post-secondary is not only possible but something they should expect.

It was very appropriate that only minutes after I had issued my challenge to MNO citizens regarding encouraging children and youth, that the MNO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth. Our agreement with the Provincial Advocate compliments our success in lobbying the provincial government to incorporate a report produced by the MNO about reforming child and youth services in Ontario from a Métis perspective into their previously created report about Aboriginal child and youth services, which had unfortunately missed the Métis perspective.

MNO President Lipinski and Vice-chair Sharon McBride signing their Oaths of Office at the 2012 Annual General Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie.



On Sept. 24, 2012, President Lipinski and MNO Chair France Picotte participated with members of the Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women in a meeting in Toronto. The Hon. Laurel Broten, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues and Premier Wynne, who was Minister of Aboriginal Affairs at the time, were part of the meeting.

The MNO's work with government agencies, combined with MNO citizens encouraging our young people will generate the kind of intergenerational success necessary to build a stronger Métis Nation in the future.

Education

A key element in building that stronger future is securing the Métis place in the provincial education system. Accordingly, this year the MNO released three major reports on the status of Métis within the Ontario education system. *The Our Place in the Circle* report examined teacher training in Ontario to determine what teachers are being taught about the Métis. Another report studied Métis content in the Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum and school programming while another study looked at similar issues at the post-secondary level. While all these reports showed a need for improvement, they also demonstrated a strong interest in the part of educators and government officials to work together with the MNO for meaningful change.

Post-secondary education is an area where of the MNO is increasingly making its presence felt. In October 2012, I represented the Métis Nation at the Indigenous Education Summit, where I was a key note speaker along with the former Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Paul Martin as well as other nationally and internationally known experts on Aboriginal education. MNO staff also presented at the summit as well as at other national and provincial educational conferences throughout the year.

Contributing to our growing influence in the post-secondary field is the Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network, which had a highly successful year. It trained 22 Infinite Reach facilitators who attend 15 Ontario post-secondary institutions. These enthusiastic Métis youth assist other Métis students adjust to academic life and identify services and programs that can help them. They also encourage our students to participate in the

wider Métis community and embrace their heritage. These facilitators play a key role in the exciting March break camps the MNO organizes to help prepare Métis high school students for post-secondary education.

We continue to sign MOUs and build partnerships with post-secondary institutions. Our most recent MOU was signed with Niagara College in September 2012 and like all our MOUs with other institutions it will lead to increasing Métis participation in, and access to, Niagara programs and services, engagement in joint Métis research initiatives, and the promoting of Métis content across the curriculum.

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has also provided support for the MNO's own job training programs including Employment in Energy. All these efforts are opening doors for our young people and will provide them with great opportunities in the future.

Increasing the Métis presence in the K-12 system is critical as well and has been supported by the Ministry of Education. Ministry funds have been used for delivering Métis Education Kits to teachers and volunteers. These kits are becoming increasingly popular and are constantly updated and improved.

Economic development

Another major element that needs to be in place for a strong Métis future is jobs and opportunities for economic growth. In 2011, the MNO worked closely with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs to establish the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) and in August 2012, the MVDF opened its doors for business. Since then the MVDF has provided financing and related support to Métis entrepreneurs with existing businesses, or those looking to establish businesses, in the resource sector or in resource-related businesses. In its first year of operation, the MVDF was very successful with all available funds being used towards a mix of established and start-up Métis businesses.

The MNO also built strong relationships with resource companies including an MOU signed in April 2012 with Osisko Hammond Reef Gold Ltd. This MOU set out the way in which the local Métis community, as represented by the MNO Treaty #3/Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul/Rainy River/ Rainy Lake Consultation Committee and the MNO community councils that are part of the committee, will be consulted regarding the development of the Hammond Reef Gold project in northwestern Ontario.

The MNO was very pleased at the 2012 AGA to renew its MOU with Union Gas, who has been a stalwart partner of the MNO for many years now.

In 2012-13, the MNO was starting to see results from the Impact and Benefit Agreement (IBA) signed between the MNO and Detour Gold last year. This was the first agreement of its kind between a Métis government and a proponent anywhere in the homeland, and in it, Detour Gold committed to providing employment and business opportunities, training and education initiatives as well as financial participation in the Detour Lake project. Among the benefits already accrued have been the joint MNO and Detour Gold Employment in Mining project, which is providing Métis individuals and businesses with economic opportunities.

Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy

Another cornerstone in building a strong future for Métis people in Ontario is the agreement the MNO has had for the last several years with the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (AHWS). AHWS funds support the MNO's Community Wellness Worker, Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children and Mental Health programs.



 President Lipinski reacts to hearing the *MMF v. Canada* decision.

“

Métis are a proud people who have contribute to the building of this province and Canada. ASETS funding will have a lasting inter-generational impact...

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01: President Lipinski is greeted by War of 1812 historical re-enactors at the 2012 Annual General Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie.



02

02: The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the MNO and Osisko on April 3, 2012. Representing the MNO are President Lipinski and President of the MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council Marlene Davidson.

03: President Lipinski with Premier Wynne at the 2013 PDAC conference in March 2013.



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04: The formal launch of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) on August 14, 2012. (Left to right) the Hon. Chris Bentley, who was Minister of Energy at the time; President Lipinski; Steven Morse, MVDF CEO; Premier Wynne, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs at the time; and Paul DeVillers, Chair of the MVDF Board of Directors.



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One of the highlights for these programs this year was the hosting of several Métis community festivals in the summer and fall of 2012. These events attracted hundreds of participants and promoted Métis culture and heritage.

MNO leads the way

The MNO's work with the AHWS is partly how the MNO has built a strong reputation as a leader and a strong partner in the field of Aboriginal healing and wellness. Last year we released our ground-breaking research on chronic diseases within the Ontario Métis population and this critical work with the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Science continued this year. Recognizing the excellent work the MNO is doing in chronic diseases and other areas, the Ministry of Youth and Child Services approached the MNO to organize training sessions for the Ontario Aboriginal community in several areas of healing and wellness. This training took place in March 2013 and attracted 20 Aboriginal organizations who received training in such areas as trauma, mental health and victim services.

Similarly, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care selected the MNO to take on the role of lead co-ordinator for the Ontario Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program. The MNO was selected because of our administrative capacity, experience working with Aboriginal partners and our responsiveness to the needs of the Ministry. In this capacity we hosted a meeting of all nine members of the OARGP in March 2013 and began laying out plans for the upcoming years.

The MNO is also a leader in the area of ending violence against Aboriginal women. In September 2012, MNO Chair France Picotte and myself participated in a meeting of the Joint Working Group on Violence Against Women, which was brought together by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues. The MNO has been a key player in advancing the agenda to end violence against Aboriginal women. We have participated in five summits, are a full signatory to the Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women and are an active member of the Joint Working Group. The MNO is integrating awareness of violence against Aboriginal women with all MNO programming and the Women's Secretariat of the MNO has been heavily involved in this critical issue. In addition, the MNO launched its Victim Services Program this year, which receives support from the Ministry of the Attorney-General.

Infinity Property Services

Another area where the MNO has shown leadership is in the field of social housing, which it formerly participated in through the MNO Housing Branch. In 2012-13, the MNO took its experience in this area to a new level by transforming the branch into Infinity Property Services. Infinity Property Services is a new agency of the MNO that provides a one-stop shop for clients and delivers expertise in property management, property administration, lease administration, facility management, marketing, building condition assessment, financial management and reporting, construction administration and management, asset management and eco-energy audits.

We are confident that Infinity Property Services will grow to become the first Aboriginal independent energy contractor that Aboriginal peoples will turn to for home inspections, energy audits both on and off reserve. As Infinity Property Services grows it will generate revenue that will allow the MNO to provide our citizens with greater services and programming that will contribute to a brighter future for all Métis in Ontario.



▲
President Lipinski with Dr. Rui Wang, Lakehead University's Vice-President of Research, Economic Development and Innovation during the Research Rendezvous event held at Lakehead University on April 17, 2012.



▲
President Lipinski with the Hon. Michael Gravelle, who was Minister of Natural Resources at the time, following their meeting on April 18, 2012.



▲
President Lipinski (left) with Dr. Brenda Macdougall (centre), Chair of Métis Studies at the University of Ottawa and Maria Campbell, renowned Métis author.

■ **Aboriginal Skills and Employment Strategy (ASETS)**

One of the most important relationships contributing to building a better future for MNO citizens has been the relationship we have built with the federal government through ASETS. In 2010, the MNO signed a five-year \$30.6 million agreement for employment and training programs through the federal government's ASETS program. The MNO's solid employment and training delivery foundation combined with an ongoing commitment to partnership and skills development resulted in the MNO being the first ASETS agreement approved in Ontario.

ASETS funding supports a wide range of employment services for Métis people across Ontario including job training programs such as Employment in Energy, Navigating Employment Pathways and the Métis Mining Strategy as well as job search assistance, client assessment, case management, action plan development, labour counseling, job placement and follow up. The funding also helps MNO staff maintain job boards, toll-free phone lines, research material, computer access and updated reference materials for clients.

ASETS funding also supported the Infinite Reach March break camp, Métis cultural summer student programs, inter-branch collaboration training, youth networking and brainstorming meetings and youth and client success story videos.

Métis are a proud people who have contributed to the building of this province and Canada. ASETS funding will have a lasting inter-generational impact as it will help our citizens develop skills sets and qualifications that will have ripple effects across the province because having a career will improve life in all other areas, which will then have positive impacts on families and communities.

■ **Citizenship applications**

The ongoing support of the Office of the Federal Interlocutor (OFI) in the Federal Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development is also a key to creating positive impacts for Métis families and communities. OFI funding supports the work of the MNO Registry which made major strides in 2012-13 in its Root Families work. The genealogical information of these families will provide citizenship applicants with access to valuable data that will streamline the process of becoming a citizen. Impressively, the Registry processed 675 citizenship cards and 485 replacement cards in 2012-13 and made significant progress in processing the backlog of applications that resulted from understaffing during 2010-2011. The MNO experienced a significant increase in the number of people applying for citizenship in 2012-13. This increase clearly shows that more and more Métis want to be part of the future of the MNO.

■ **War of 1812 Bicentennial**

The increase in interest in MNO citizenship was likely partly influenced by the attention Métis people finally received this year for their contributions in the War of 1812. The Métis role in the War of 1812 has long been ignored by historians but the MNO was determined that during the War of 1812 bi-centennial that our ancestors' sacrifices would be remembered. Accordingly we applied for funding through the War of 1812 Bicentennial Secretariat and incorporated War of 1812 themes into the AGA and the *Métis Voyageur* newspaper. Although initially the Métis role continued to be ignored, our persistence paid off when we were invited to participate in a

ceremony at Rideau Hall in October 2012 to receive along with other Aboriginal groups who had contributed to the war, the official War of 1812 commemorative medal and banner from Governor General David Johnson and Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Following this ceremony, the War of 1812 Secretariat that had initially rejected our funding request, accepted our applications and the MNO will have funds to educate the public about our role in the War of 1812 during the summer of 2013.

It was my honour to speak at Rideau Hall on behalf of the Métis during the presentation ceremony which included First Nations and Métis groups from across Ontario and Canada. It is very important that I also recognize the tireless efforts of the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council, who vigorously reminded the government and public of the Métis role during the war and demanded that it be recognized. Their leadership was crucial to turning the tide so that both government officials and the public are now much more aware of what our Métis ancestors did to defend Canada before there was a Canada.

■ Métis rights

The Métis contribution to the War of 1812 is of course only one part of the legacy that came down to us from our ancestors. Our Aboriginal and Treaty rights as recognized in *The Constitution Act, 1982* and as affirmed by the Supreme Court in *R. v. Powley* remain our most sacred. Protecting these rights was the reason that the 2012 AGA instructed the MNO leadership to perform an internal audit of harvest files. The AGA resolution required that all Harvesters, lacking evidence demonstrating they meet the criteria of the Powley test, submit the necessary documentation. The MNO Registry is working with impacted Harvesters to help them obtain the necessary documentation as this is essential not only to meet the requirements of the Supreme Court of Canada but to maintain our harvesting rights as Métis.

In early 2012, federal courts came down with two landmark decisions and both were victories in the struggle for Métis rights. In January, the Federal Court of Canada ruled in *Daniels v. Canada* that according to the Canadian Constitution, Métis fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government. This has potential wide-ranging benefits to Métis but the federal government has appealed this case. While it is disappointing the government has decided to go the way of an appeal, it in no way diminishes the recognition from the Federal Court. Their judgement is part of what the Métis have been fighting for since Louis Riel and puts us closer to finding our rightful place within the Canadian federation.

In March the Métis Nation found itself back at the Supreme Court of Canada to hear the decision on the arguments made before it in December 2011 on *Manitoba Metis Federation v. Canada* (the "MMF case"). The MNO joined the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis National Council in intervening in the MMF's historic land claim that went back to Manitoba's entry into Confederation in 1870 and that has important implications for Métis here in Ontario. I had the privilege to be at the Supreme Court along with Métis from across the homeland when the decision was announced and joined in the excitement when it was clear that the decision favoured the Métis. In its decision the Supreme Court acknowledged that there is unfinished business with the Métis and this includes land issues. Hopefully the federal government will begin to negotiate with the Métis on these and other related issues.

Both of these cases represent a continuing advancement in the recognition of Métis rights which will be crucial to building the future of the whole Métis Nation.



▲ President Lipinski speaks at 2012 Louis Riel Day ceremony at Queen's Park.



▲ President Lipinski addresses Senate committee on Aboriginal peoples in May 2012.



▲
President Lipinski with his wife Diane viewing Métis exhibition in the Fort Frances Museum.



▲
MNO President Lipinski met with the Hon. Eric Hoskins, who at the time was Minister of Children and Youth Services, on March 21, 2012.

■ Financial accountability and management

Also critical to the future will be the MNO's ability to continue managing its financial affairs as a competent and responsible government. When I accepted the position of president, one particularly important commitment in our agenda was to strengthen the MNO's financial management, administration and accountability. Although this has proven to be the most challenging of all the commitments, I am pleased to report that in the past year we have continue to make significant headway in getting MNO's "financial house" in order. While we have received accolades and acknowledgement from most of our funders for these dramatic improvements, we must continue to demonstrate real effort and diligence on this front as both are critical to ensuring the MNO remain strong for the future.

■ Challenges ahead

The list of highlights I have provided can leave no doubt that the MNO had a busy and successful year. These successes are in no small way owed to the contributions of our citizens. We take every opportunity to remind all levels of government and other funders of the contributions of our volunteers. These women, men young people and elders, are called on more often than those of any other Aboriginal group to support the work of advancing Métis rights and something has to be done to compensate them for their many contributions.

On a personal note, I think it is appropriate as this is our 20th anniversary to thank and acknowledge the MNO's founders and all the individuals who have served on the PCMNO, MNO Chartered Community Councils and in other leadership positions over the last 20 years. Nothing that took place in the last year, let alone the last 20, could have been achieved without their selfless dedication and vision. Future generations owe a tremendous debt to these amazing men and women.

Following in the footsteps of our founders and early leaders, we will continue to move forward with our work as guided by *The Statement of Prime Purpose* and directed by MNO citizens at every AGA. With ever increasing attention from governments at all levels, industry proponents and the public, there may never be a better opportunity to capitalize on the gains made to date. "We aspire to attain our highest potential," is a worthy goal and I challenge all MNO citizens to embrace it.

So this AGA, enjoy the Métis music, dance and storytelling, knowing that you are the heart and soul of this Nation and your participation and your voice is critical to our continued success. Thank you to all of you for making time in your busy schedules to be here. Thank you to the MNO Region Six community councils and the Delta Ottawa City Centre Hotel for hosting the 2012 AGA. These assemblies would not be possible without the support of dedicated volunteers, MNO staff and our sponsors. I look forward to a productive assembly and working with all of you for many years to come in order to ensure that our Nation continues to grow and prosper.

Thank you, Marsi, Megwetch!

Gary Lipinski

President, Métis Nation of Ontario

WHO ARE THE MÉTIS?

The Métis are a distinct Aboriginal people with a unique history, culture, language and territory that includes the waterways of Ontario, surrounds the Great Lakes and spans what was known as the historic northwest. The Métis Nation is comprised of descendants of people born of relations between Indian women and European men. The initial offspring of these unions were of mixed ancestry. The genesis of a new Aboriginal people called the Métis resulted from the subsequent intermarriage of these mixed ancestry individuals. Distinct Métis settlements emerged as an outgrowth of the fur trade, along freighting waterways and watersheds. In Ontario, these settlements were part of larger regional Communities that were interconnected by the highly mobile lifestyle of the Métis, the fur trade network, seasonal rounds, extensive kinship connections and a shared history and identity.



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MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE

The Statement of Prime Purpose

expresses the values and principles of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). The *Statement* embodies the vision of the Métis nation and is central to all aspects of the MNO, from the genesis of our written constitution, policies and laws, to our democratic processes and institutions. The MNO operates in accordance with a developing constitution, which includes not only the *Statement of Prime Purpose*, but also the MNO Secretariat By-Laws, the MNO Electoral Code, the MNO Community Charter Agreements and the *Métis Nation Rules of Order*.

Where We Got Our Name

The paternal ancestors of the Métis were the former employees of the Hudson Bay Northwest Fur Companies, and their maternal ancestors were Indian women of the various tribes. The French word “Métis” is derived from the Latin participle *mixtus*, which means “mixed;” in French “*mele*”; it expresses well the idea that is sought to be conveyed. However appropriate the corresponding English expression “Halfbreed” might have been for the first generation of the mixture of blood, now that European blood and Indian blood are mixed in every degree, it is no longer general enough.

The French word “Métis” expresses the idea of this mixture in the most satisfactory manner possible, and thus becomes a proper race name. Why should we care to what degree exactly of mixture we possess European blood and Indian blood? If we feel ever so little gratitude and filial love toward one or the other, do they not constrain us to say: “WE ARE MÉTIS!”

- Louis Riel, 1885

Who We are as a People

We, the Métis are a people of the lands, which gave rise to our history and tradition and culture.

We call those lands the Métis Homelands. The Homelands stretch from the lakes and rivers of Ontario; cross the wide prairies, traverse the mountains into British Columbia and into the northern reaches of the Northwest Territories. They include the hills and valleys of the north-central American States.

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

As Métis who live in the Homelands, we hold it to be a fundamental truth that we are one of the Aboriginal peoples of the Americas.

The Métis Nation continues today to be the embodiment of our past, the source of sustenance for our present while giving rise to our hopes and aspirations for the future.

We are a Nation, born of independence, and self-sufficiency whose teachings are founded on the values of honesty and truth. We are proud of our rich heritage. We are inspired by the values and traditions of our ancestors.

tors. The strength of our society is based on democracy, freedom, fairness, equality, generosity, justice and the customary and written law of our people. Above all, we cherish harmony and peace.

As Aboriginal people we hold sacred the rights of the individual and of the collective. We have respect for each other, for the land and for the animal and plant life that surrounds us. We are people who honour and respect the family, our elders who hold the key to the past, and our children, who are our future.

Guided by our spiritual values we aspire to attain our highest potential.

Now Therefore We Declare as Follows:

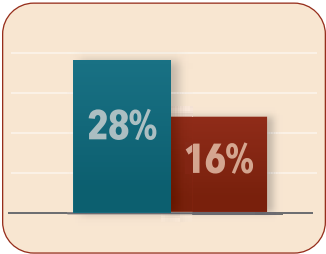
We, the Métis Nation, are a distinct Nation among the Aboriginal peoples in Canada and as such our Aboriginal and treaty rights are recognized and affirmed under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

We, the Métis Nation, have the inherent right of self-determination and self-government.

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 with the following aims and objectives:

- to research, publish and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and to establish and maintain a registry of the Métis Citizens of Ontario;
- to establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government;
- to encourage the full participation of all Métis in the Métis Nation;
- to promote and foster community development;
- to re-establish land and resource bases;
- to develop prosperity and economic self-sufficiency within the Métis Nation;
- to provide care and support necessary to meet the fundamental needs of the citizens of the Métis Nation;
- to promote the improved health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community;
- to establish effective means of communication for the Métis Nation;
- to encourage academic and skills development and to enable citizens of the Métis Nation to attain their educational aspirations;
- to promote the history, values, culture, languages and traditions of the Métis Nation and to create an awareness of our proud heritage;
- promote Métis artistic and cultural achievement;
- to ensure that Métis can exercise their Aboriginal and Treaty rights and freedoms and in so doing, act in a spirit of cooperation with other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people;
- to establish good relations with all Aboriginal peoples for the pursuit of our common interests and goals;
- to continue our affiliation with the Métis National Council for the representation of the interests of the Métis Nation in Ontario at the National and International levels; and
- to gain the recognition and respect of the Métis as a Nation and a people.

MÉTIS PEOPLE IN CANADA



28% of the Métis population in Canada was 14 years or younger in 2011, compared to 16% of the non-Aboriginal population.
Source: 2011 National Household Survey

According to the 2011 Statistics Canada National Household Survey (NHS), 452,560 Canadians self-identified as Métis. That number compares to 389,780 who self-identified as Métis in the 2006 census.

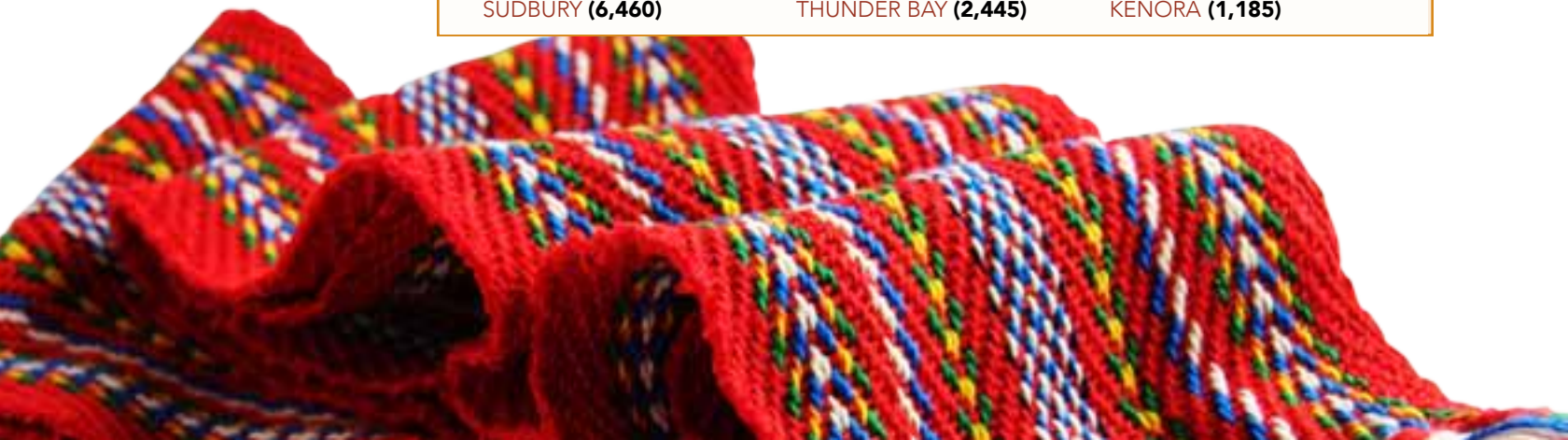
In Ontario, the number of people who self-identified as Métis rose from 73,605 in 2006 to 86,020 in 2011, which represents 19 per cent of all Métis in Canada.

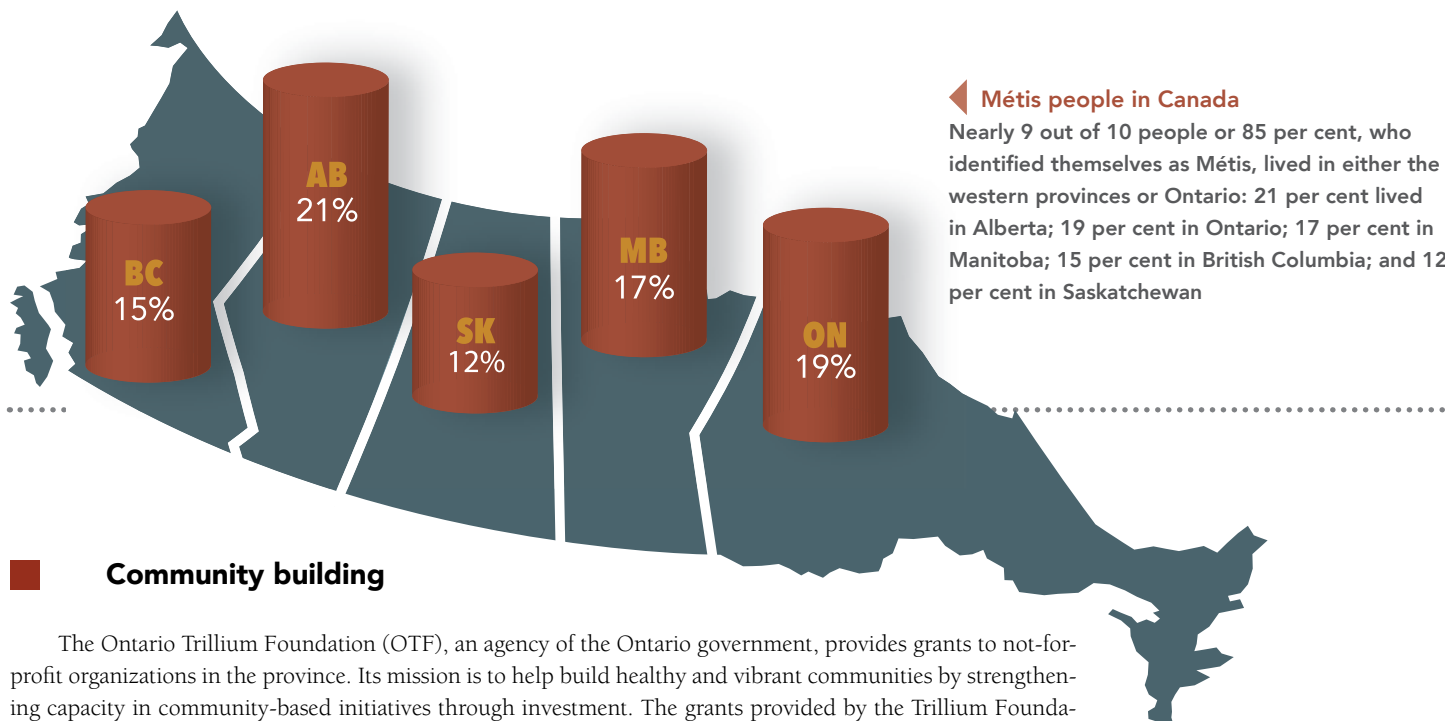
Also according to the NHS, nearly 9 out of 10 people or 85 per cent, who identified themselves as Métis, lived in either the western provinces or Ontario: 21 per cent lived in Alberta; 19 per cent in Ontario; 17 per cent in Manitoba; 15 per cent in British Columbia; and 12 per cent in Saskatchewan.

Across Canada, 28 per cent of the Métis population was 14 years of age or younger in 2011. That compares to 16 per cent of the population in that age bracket amongst non-Aboriginal people. Métis are younger than the non-Aboriginal population in Canada, with a median age of 31 years compared with 40 for the non-Aboriginal population. Métis are also younger than the non-Aboriginal population in Ontario, with a median age of 35 years compared with 40 for Ontario's non-Aboriginal population.

As was the case in 2006, in 2011 the majority of Métis continue to live in urban settings. The cities with the largest Métis populations are:

TORONTO (9,980)	MIDLAND (3,420)	TIMMINS (1,860)
OTTAWA (6,860)	SAULT STE. MARIE (2,995)	NORTH BAY (1,860)
SUDBURY (6,460)	THUNDER BAY (2,445)	KENORA (1,185)





◀ Métis people in Canada

Nearly 9 out of 10 people or 85 per cent, who identified themselves as Métis, lived in either the western provinces or Ontario: 21 per cent lived in Alberta; 19 per cent in Ontario; 17 per cent in Manitoba; 15 per cent in British Columbia; and 12 per cent in Saskatchewan

■ Community building

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), an agency of the Ontario government, provides grants to not-for-profit organizations in the province. Its mission is to help build healthy and vibrant communities by strengthening capacity in community-based initiatives through investment. The grants provided by the Trillium Foundation enable organizations to build on their strengths and develop new ideas.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation regularly produces profiles of the communities it supported through its grants. The findings help provide valuable insight into where additional programs and services are needed. In April 2010, it released a report called *Aboriginal Communities in Profile: Ontario*.

The report confirms that the Aboriginal community in Ontario is growing at a rate much faster than the overall population. Between 2001 and 2006, the community grew by 28.8 per cent compared to Ontario's overall population, which increased by 6.6 per cent. The Métis population represented the most growth (59.5 per cent) in the five year period and remains the second largest Aboriginal group in the province (30.4 per cent). A higher birth rate and more people identifying as Métis are two of the factors contributing to this growth.

Without providing a breakdown, the profile confirms that the Aboriginal population in Ontario is highly mobile, with frequent moves between urban and rural areas. This trend is more common amongst younger individuals within the population because of moves to and from more remote communities to urban centres for school or work. A complete copy of the report is available through the

Trillium Foundation website: www.trilliumfoundation.org.

86,020

◀ Self-identified

Métis Population in Ontario

National Household Survey 2011



MÉTIS REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

“...the permanent Métis Identification and Registry Policy will support a rigorous application process, which must be undertaken by individual applicants because it establishes the credibility and integrity of the MNO’s citizenship application process”

Métis living in Ontario can make an application for citizenship to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), which maintains in Ottawa, the only provincial registry for Métis recognized by the governments of Ontario and Canada. An independent registrar assesses applications and authorizes citizenship when applicants meet the criteria set out in the national definition for Métis, adopted at the Métis National Council’s 18th General Assembly in 2002 and subsequently accepted by the MNO.

Once accepted, MNO citizens become part of a centralized registry, which has valid genealogical documentation on file. Through the administration of its own registry, the MNO exercises the Métis Nation’s fundamental right of self-determination by establishing its own citizenship based on the international principles of self-identification and community acceptance.

In order to provide clarity on the national definition and ensure the MNO Registry was applying the new definition consistently, an Interim Registry Policy was developed and approved by the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) in May 2009. The Interim Registry Policy did not change the national definition in any way. It simply provided clarity to the principles on how the national definition of Métis should be applied based on the principles set out in the *Statement of Prime Purpose*, the MNO bylaws, the MNO Harvesters policy and other MNO governance documents.

In 2009, the MNO lacked the funding necessary to conduct province-wide consultations on the Interim Registry Policy that would have explained its purposes and sought input from MNO citizens. In the resulting vacuum, misinformation arose about the policy leading to misunderstandings about its purpose and value.

To provide citizens with the correct information and to develop a permanent Métis Identification and Registry Policy, citizens at the 2010 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) passed a resolution establishing the process for developing a permanent Métis Identification and Registry Policy. The two-year process included two rounds of community consultations. The first round took place between October 2010 and March 2011. The MNO leadership travelled to 29 different communities across Ontario and met with over 3,000 citizens to hear their views on every issue surrounding the MNO Identification and the Registry Policy. Their views were compiled into a “What We Heard” report that was released and discussed at the 2011 AGA.

The “What We Heard” report was posted on the MNO website and was used as the basis for discussion at a second round of community consultations that took place in the first three months of 2012. In this round, the

MNO leadership travelled to 23 communities and heard from 1,500 citizens. A second “What We Heard” report has been compiled and was discussed at the 2012 AGA.

Once put in place, the permanent Métis Identification and Registry Policy will support a rigorous application process, which must be undertaken by individual applicants because it establishes the credibility and integrity of the MNO’s citizenship application process and distinguishes the MNO from other provincial or federal Métis organizations that grant or sell memberships without requesting supporting documentation. This in itself provides assurances to government and industry representatives who negotiate with the Métis Nation of Ontario that they are dealing with democratically elected representatives of rights-bearing Métis communities.

NATIONAL DEFINITION OF MÉTIS

- 1.1** “Métis” means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of Historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.
- 1.2** “Historic Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people then known as Métis or Half-breeds who resided in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland.
- 1.3** “Historic Métis Nation Homeland” means the area of land in west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis or Half-breeds as they were then known.
- 1.4** “Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people descended from the Historic Métis Nation which is now comprised of all Métis Nation citizens and is one of the “aboriginal peoples of Canada” within the meaning of s.35 of the *Constitution Act 1982*.
- 1.5** “Distinct from other Aboriginal peoples” means distinct for cultural and nationhood purposes.





MNO citizens during the 2011 MNO AGA in Parry Sound.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO SELF-GOVERNANCE

“

...the MNO designed its governance structure to support the achievement of the Nation's self-government aspirations at a local, provincial and national level.

”

In 1993, The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was established through the will of Métis people and historic Métis communities coming together to create a Métis-specific governance structure. Foundational principles were set at a founding meeting which brought together Métis representatives from communities throughout the province. Those principles continue to guide the evolution of the MNO today. The foundational principles focus on:

- Creation of a Métis-specific governance structure for the implementation of the Nation's inherent right to self-government.
- Establishment of a credible and recognized identification system for Métis people within the province.
- 'Nation building' through work as a collective to support Métis citizens and communities.
- The pursuit of a rights-based agenda and proud assertion of Métis existence as a distinct Aboriginal people within Ontario.
- The protection and preservation of the distinct culture and heritage of the Métis Nation in the province.
- Improvements to the social and economic well-being of Métis children, families and communities throughout the province.

The founding delegates put in place the fundamental principles of a representative Métis government which reflects the values and aspirations of a proud people. The delegates made a conscious decision to bind their people together in the spirit of nation-building; not to pursue a corporate focus. Based on this democratic, representative model, the MNO designed its governance structure to support the achievement of the Nation's self-government aspirations at a local, provincial and national level. It is also based on the Métis Nation's inherent and legal rights as distinct Aboriginal peoples.

MNO citizens exercise their collective right to self-government through a governance structure that continues to evolve as the MNO moves forward in the implementation of Métis self-government. A series of documents which includes the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*, MNO bylaws, MNO Community Council Charter Agreements, MNO Interim Harvesting Policy, MNO Electoral Code and the Métis Nation Rules of Order, which are supported by the policies and procedures adopted and implemented by the MNO, guide the work of the Nation. Every four years Métis citizens have the opportunity to choose their provincial leadership, by voting in province-wide ballot box elections. Community councils have been chartered throughout the province. The councils get their mandate to support local governance from the MNO through signed Community Charter Agreements, and work collaboratively with the MNO and other community councils to represent the rights and interests of regional rights-bearing Métis communities throughout the province.

As the only recognized provincial Métis governance structure in Ontario, the MNO advanced the Métis rights agenda nationally through the precedent setting Powley case. The MNO has established bilateral and tripartite processes with the federal and provincial governments and in November, 2008 signed an Ontario-Métis Nation Framework Agreement with the Government of Ontario. The MNO has also negotiated an interim accommodation agreement with the provincial government on Métis harvesting rights.

With over 100 staff, and support from many volunteers, the MNO's province-wide infrastructure delivers a range of programs and services in the areas of healing and wellness, education and training and housing to Ontario self-identified Métis and other Aboriginal clients. It administers Duty-to-Consult and Accommodate processes, protects and preserves the Métis Way of Life and promotes Métis culture and heritage.



MÉTIS SELF-GOVERNANCE

The MNO's Annual General Assemblies and the elected Provisional Council of the MNO are vital aspects of Métis self governance in Ontario.



▲
MNO Region Nine
Consultation Committee
tours the Bisnett wind farm,
hosted by the Niagara
Region Wind Corporation in
November 2012.

THE DUTY OF THE CROWN TO **CONSULT** AND **ACCOMMODATE**

“
...to ensure that all MNO
citizen...have an oppor-
tunity to be consulted on
policies, plans, projects and
developments that have the
potential to impact the col-
lective rights and interests
of the Métis.
”

Since its inception, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has focused its efforts on building Métis-specific governance structures that will facilitate the self-government aspirations of Ontario Métis. From the Registry to chartered community councils, the MNO, guided by its citizens and communities, has developed unique Métis governance institutions that advance Métis interests. It is a structure that continues to evolve and in 2008-2009, the MNO added a new dimension to Métis governance, called Regional Consultation Protocols. These agreements advance the MNO's overall nation-building efforts and help ensure the Crown fulfills its duty to consult and accommodate regional rights-bearing Métis communities throughout the province.

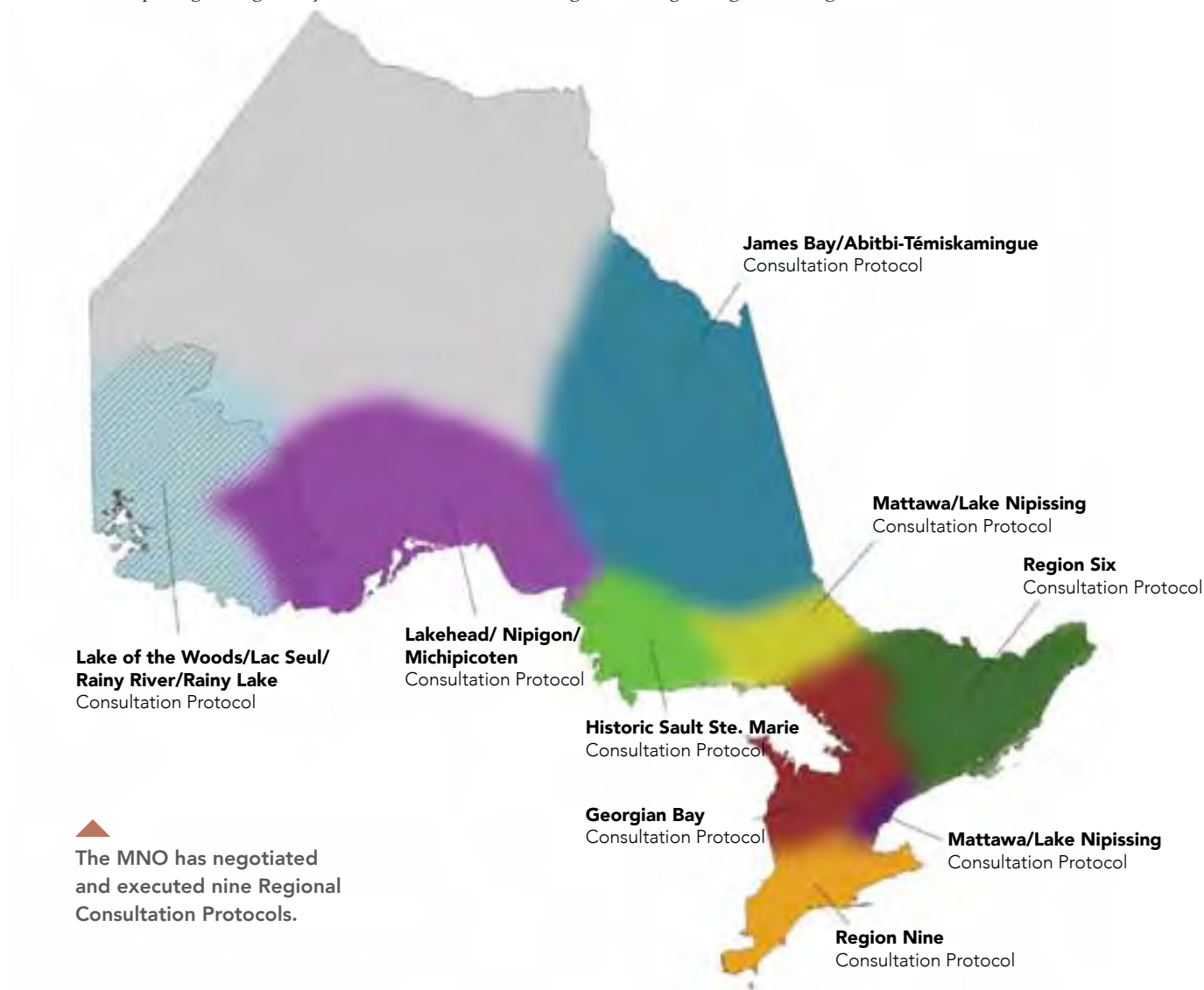
MNO Regional Consultation Protocols are based on the historic and contemporary reality that rights-bearing Métis communities in Ontario are regional in size and scope, connected to other regional rights-bearing communities throughout Ontario, and are an inseparable part of the larger Métis Nation. Simply put, Métis communities are not limited to dots on a map: one settlement; one extended family; or a localized area. They are a matrix of interconnected Métis families and settlements living in, and relying on, a shared traditional territory.

The overarching goal of the protocols is to ensure that all MNO citizens who are members of regional rights-bearing 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. Each protocol includes a regional consultation committee comprised of the MNO's Regional Councillor and a representative from each community council in a given traditional territory.

The committees work in collaboration with the MNO staff to ensure inclusive, transparent and meaningful Métis consultation and accommodation processes with the Crown and proponents are in place. As well, this

collective-based, aggregate approach enables the MNO to ensure that regional rights-bearing Métis communities have access to the technical and scientific expertise they need to effectively engage in consultation and accommodation processes.

The MNO has negotiated and executed nine Regional Consultation Protocols. These are: Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul/Rainy River/Rainy Lake; Lakehead/ Nipigon/Michipicoten; James Bay/Abitibi-Témiskamingue; Mattawa/Lake Nipissing; Georgian Bay; Historic Sault Ste. Marie; Region Six; Region Eight; and Region Nine.



HARVESTING POLICY AND CAPTAINS OF THE HUNT



▲
Region 3 Captain of the Hunt Andy Lefebvre cutting a moose open at the Métis Community Festival held at Camp Bickell in the fall of 2012.

The existence of Métis rights, including the right to harvest was affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in the September, 2003 *R v. Powley* decision. Ontario was the first jurisdiction in the Métis Homeland to successfully complete negotiations on Métis harvesting. An interim agreement between the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) which recognized the MNO's existing harvest card system was reached in 2004. The interim agreement is short and set out in four points. The essence of the agreement is that MNR will apply its Interim Enforcement Policy (IEP) to each MNO Harvester's certificate holder who is harvesting for food within his or her traditional territory. This means that MNO Harvester's certificate holders, engaged in traditional Métis harvest activities will not be charged unless they are in violation of conservation or safety standards.

The annual harvest is integral to the Métis Way of Life. Since it began issuing Harvester's certificates in 1995 the MNO's own Harvesting Policy helps to facilitate the annual Métis harvest by allowing MNO citizens to exercise their right to harvest in a structured and responsible manner. It outlines the MNO's conservation values, the requirements for a Harvester's certificate, and the role of the Captains of the Hunt in responsible co-management of the harvest.

Throughout 2012-13, the MNO continued to work collaboratively with the MNR on the implementation of the July 2004 MNO-Ontario Interim Harvesting Agreement and other issues relating to Métis harvesting. The work relating to Métis harvesting included:

- A Captains of the Hunt and knowledge holder workshop to allow MNO and MNR to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern, particularly with respect to wildlife management.
- A Captains of the Hunt meeting to discuss matters relating to the MNO harvest.
- Discussions with MNR regarding a Policy Dialogue Table to discuss lands and resources management; build cooperative processes through engagement on policies and programs; and allow for reciprocal learning opportunities or knowledge forums.
- Completion of the annual MNO Métis Harvester's survey, which was distributed to all MNO Harvester's certificate holders.

Captains of the Hunt

The Captains of the Hunt (COTH) play an integral role in the management of the Métis harvest in Ontario. One COTH is assigned to each of the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) nine regions within Ontario and is mandated by the MNO to have full authority over the Métis harvest in the traditional harvest territories within that region. The COTH acts as a direct line of communication between Harvesters and the MNO and MNR. They help manage the annual harvest in concert with the province of Ontario, support the implementation of the Interim Harvesting policy and determine the appropriate management of the harvest in their respective regions. The COTH also acts as a liaison between Harvesters and the MNO in situations where charges have been filed. The duties of the COTH include:

- Travel throughout their region and into MNO communities in their region to work with councils on Harvester's certificate issues.
- Assist Harvesters in the completion of applications for Harvester's certificates.
- Review and sign Harvester applications prior to sending them to the MNO Registry Branch for processing and final approval.
- Verify that Harvesters can properly and safely employ firearms.
- Answer inquiries from MNO citizens regarding harvesting rights and criteria surrounding harvesting.
- Investigate complaints and charges; act as liaison between the MNO and Harvesters.
- Act as point of contact for MNR Field Officers in their region.
- Prepare incident reports.
- Ensure Harvesters are in compliance with the MNO Harvesting Policy.
- Participate in the MNO/MNR Working Table as a source of "on the ground" information.
- Serve as a source of information on the Métis Way of Life Framework and Traditional Knowledge.

The Captains of the Hunt also support the Annual Harvester's survey and help to gather information on the number, species and location of animals taken by MNO Harvester's certificate holders.



▲
MNO Region Two Captain of the Hunt Ken Simard getting ready to conduct a moose survey.

CAPTAINS OF THE HUNT as of June 30, 2013:

Gary Lipinski
Chief Captain of the Hunt

Andy Lefebvre,
Region Three

Greg Garratt,
Region Seven

Louise Goulding
Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt

Art Bennett,
Region Four

Gerry Bedford,
Region Eight

Dean McMahon,
Region One

Richard Sarrazin,
Region Five

Peter Rivers,
Region Nine

Ken Simard,
Region Two

Patricia Thibault,
Region Six



**Theresa
STENLUND**
Region 1



**Cameron
BURGESS**
Region 2



**Marcel
LAFRANCE**
Region 3



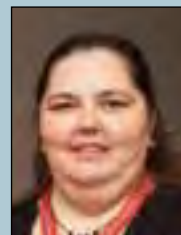
**Ernest
GATIEN**
Region 4



**Juliette
DENIS**
Region 5



**Tom
THOMPSON JR.**
Region 6



**Pauline
SAULNIER**
Region 7

PROVISIONAL COUNCIL

PCMNO 2012-16

Gary Lipinski – President
France Picotte – Chair
Sharon McBride – Vice-chair
Tim Pile – Secretary-Treasurer
Reta Gordon – Executive Senator
Theresa Stenlund – Region One
Cameron Burgess – Region Two
Marcel Lafrance – Region Three
Ernest Gatién – Region Four
Juliette Denis – Region Five
Tom Thompson Jr. – Region Six
Pauline Saulnier – Region Seven
Anita Tucker – Region Eight
Peter Rivers – Region Nine
Mitch Case – Youth Representative
Jennifer Henry – Post-secondary Representative
Rene Gravelle – Senator
Verna Porter – Senator
Joseph Poitras – Senator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is governed by the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). The Executive members of the PCMNO are the president, chair, vice-chair, secretary/treasurer, and Executive Senator. The Executive is responsible to the PCMNO for the day-to-day operations of the MNO. Nine regional councillors, a provincial youth representative, a post-secondary representative, and three Senators also sit on the PCMNO. The PCMNO takes its direction from and is required to report to its citizens at general assemblies, which are held once a year, usually in August.

The position of spokesperson for the Women's Secretariat of the MNO (WSMNO) is assigned to an elected Métis woman who sits on the PCMNO. The structure of the PCMNO ensures that community and regional interests are represented, as well as other demographic segments like youth, women and elders. Province wide ballot box elections are held every four years pursuant to the MNO Electoral Code.

MNO elections for executive, regional councillor, youth and post-secondary positions were held on May 7, 2012. These positions were all filled at that time except for the Region Five councillor position because an appeal was filed. A by-election was held in the fall of 2012 in Region Five and that position was then filled. The Region Six Councillor resigned after the election, and the PCMNO filled that position with an appointment in the fall of 2012. Elections for the Senator positions on the PCMNO took place at the 2012 AGA in Sault Ste. Marie and these positions were all filled at that time.



**Anita
TUCKER**
Region 8



**Peter
RIVERS**
Region 9



**Mitch
CASE**
Youth
Representative



**Jennifer
HENRY**
Post-secondary
Representative



**Rene
GRAVELLE**
Senator



**Verna
BRUNELLE**
Senator



**Joseph
POITRAS**
Senator

PCMNO EXECUTIVE



GARY LIPINSKI
PRESIDENT

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski hails from Fort Frances, Ontario, where he was born, raised and still currently resides with his wife Dianne, and daughter Rachel. President Lipinski's Métis roots go deep as his ancestors were part of the group of Métis who negotiated the "half-breed" adhesion to Treaty No. 3. President Lipinski comes from a long line of Métis commercial fishermen and traditional resource users and continues today to practice the Métis traditional way of life: hunting; fishing; and camping with his family and friends.

President Lipinski holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lakehead University, a Bachelor of Education from Queens University and, Honours in Technological Studies from the University of Western Ontario. He started teaching at Fort Frances High School in 1987 and became actively involved in the discussions that eventually led to the creation of the MNO in 1993. In 1994, President Lipinski was elected as a councillor for the MNO Sunset Country Métis Community Council and then shortly afterwards to the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PC-

MNO) as the regional councillor for Region One. As a PCMNO member, President Lipinski was an instrumental part of the leadership team that advanced *R. v. Powley* – the ground breaking Métis rights litigation initiated in 1993 that would eventually go to the Supreme Court of Canada. In 1999, President Lipinski was elected MNO chair and with his ever increasing involvement in the MNO, he left his teaching position to focus his full attention on the pursuit of Métis rights.

President Lipinski was re-elected MNO chair several times, and when in 2003, the Supreme Court in *R. v. Powley* affirmed that Métis are a full-fledged rights-bearing people; he was selected as the MNO's chief negotia-

“

President Lipinski's Métis roots go deep as his ancestors were part of the group of Métis who negotiated the 'half-breed' adhesion to Treaty no. 3

”



▲
**MNO President Lipinski
 being interviewed by the
 media following the historic
 Supreme Court Ruling of the
 Manitoba Metis Federation
 Case on March 8, 2013.**

tor in talks with the Ontario government to implement the Powley decision. These negotiations resulted in an agreement on Métis harvesting rights between the MNO and the Ontario Ministry for Natural Resources in July 2004. This was the first agreement of its kind in Canada.

Shortly after being elected president in 2008, President Lipinski successfully negotiated the MNO - Ontario Framework Agreement. This agreement represented a notable turning point in Ontario-Métis relations as it recognizes the unique identity, history, culture and rights of Ontario Métis communities, in stark contrast to generations of government policy that denied the very existence of Ontario Métis. The Framework Agreement led to similar agreements with other government ministries, agencies and post-secondary institutions.

Among other highlights of President Lipinski's first term was progress in the area of the Duty of the Crown to Consult and Accommodate. This led to regional protocols being signed that permitted regional rights-bearing Métis communities to be consulted on projects and plans that will impact their collective rights and interests. It also led to agreements with private sector companies such as Detour Gold, Osisko and Union Gas.

Under President Lipinski, the MNO secured funding through the Ontario New Relationship Fund, which allowed the MNO to advance projects on both the provincial and local levels.

In 2011, President Lipinski secured a \$30 million commitment from the Ontario government for the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF). Ontario will provide \$3 million a year for ten years to allow the MVDF Métis entrepreneurs and businesses.

During President Lipinski's tenure, the MNO's profile has increased. As a result in 2010, the Ontario Legislature declared that year "the year of the Métis," and President Lipinski has been asked to speak at international, national and provincial conferences and participate in panels with renowned speakers such as Don Drummond and appear on television programs such as *The Agenda with Steve Paikin*.

In May of 2012, President Lipinski was re-elected with 87.2 per cent of the vote, and carrying the majority in every polling station.



▲
**Chair Picotte presents
 participant in MNO cultural
 camp with a Métis sash.**



FRANCE PICOTTE
 CHAIR

France Picotte succeeded President Lipinski as the chair of the MNO in 2008. She first became involved in Métis politics when she served as president of the MNO Timmins Métis Community Council and then later became PCMNO vice-chair.

Chair Picotte is a strong woman and proud Métis citizen, fluent in Michif, English and French. Currently, she is the PCMNO provincial secretary for Education and Training and Healing and Wellness. Besides taking an active role in the oversight of these branches, Chair Picotte travels across the country and throughout the province raising awareness about the Métis and Métis culture in Ontario. In January 2010, she told the Fifth Annual Ontario Aboriginal Women in Leadership Forum in Ottawa that success lies in "having confidence in who you are, confidence in your ability and not being stopped at not knowing something. You have to ask, you have to know and you have to move forward."

Chair Picotte's professional training is as a lab technician, and as a result she has taken a strong interest in promoting and advancing health

issues in the Métis community. Her passion for the preservation of Métis culture was recognized when she received the Ontario Heritage Trust Award for her dedication to preserving the Michif language and the traditional Métis finger weaving practice. Her efforts to record more Métis stories is now taking her into the area of research and she has been instrumental in establishing relationships with research bodies and institutions that can shine light on the often untold stories of the Métis in Ontario.

In May of 2012, Chair Picotte was re-elected with a strong majority of the vote and she received the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal at the 2012 MNO AGA



SHARON MCBRIDE
VICE-CHAIR

Sharon McBride is a municipal law enforcement officer and has served as MNO Vice-chair and spokesperson for the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Secretariat (WSMNO) since 2008. She became actively involved in Métis politics in 1999 when she first learned of her Métis ancestry. She was founding president of the MNO Credit River Métis Council and has served as PCMNO councillor for Region Eight. Her work on behalf of the Women's Secretariat for the MNO is focused on securing the funding required to carry out the important advocacy and public awareness role of the WSMNO.

Vice-chair McBride's Métis roots go back to Penetanguishene. She was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and has lived in Germany, Nova Scotia and Ontario. Her contributions to the Métis community include work on several different boards and committees. She is committed to ensuring the voice of the Métis Nation is heard throughout the province. Vice-chair McBride received the Ontario Heritage Trust Award in recognition of her work with Mississauga Heritage and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. She has also earned one of the highest honours that

her community can bestow; two eagle feathers.

In May of 2012, Vice-chair Sharron McBride was re-elected with a strong majority.



▲
Chair Picotte assisting participants in the MNO Cultural Camp with finger weaving.



▲
Vice-chair McBride speaking to WSMNO Representative Barbaranne Wright.



MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile (right) with Joseph Carrabba, President and CEO of Cliff's Resources (centre) and the Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Natural Resources, at the Aboriginal Business Luncheon in Thunder Bay.



TIM PILE
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Tim Pile lives in Thunder Bay and has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the PCMNO since 2001. As Secretary-Treasurer, he is chair of the Finance Committee and he also serves as Provincial Secretary for Infinity Property Services and has some responsibilities for the Healing and Wellness and Education and Training branches. He was born in the Northwestern Ontario gold-mining town of Geraldton, but traces his Métis roots to Peace River, Alberta, where his paternal great-grandmother, Ida Cameron, was raised.

Secretary-Treasurer Pile represents the MNO as a member of the Aboriginal Management Council and the Aboriginal Reference Group for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) at Lakehead University. He has been active in supporting the one month community placement for students, which is one of the more unique aspects of NOSM. He has helped ensure that annual placements include two students in Métis communities. This promotes student engagement in Métis culture and community health issues. The students return to the NOSM with greater knowledge and appreciation of the Métis in Ontario. The students who

participate also make presentations to their classmates about their experience in the community raise additional awareness of the unique culture of the Métis in Ontario.

In May of 2012, Secretary-Treasurer Pile was re-elected with a strong mandate.



RETA GORDON
EXECUTIVE SENATOR

Senator Reta Gordon was a founding member of the MNO and has been actively sharing Métis culture since 1993. She became the Senator for the MNO Ottawa Métis Council in 1999 and was elected PCMNO Executive Senator in 2002.

In addition to her work as a liaison for MNO Senators, Senator Gordon has, over the past 17 years, represented the MNO at hundreds of gatherings from small intimate workshops to large conferences and similar events. One of the most memorable events of her career as Senator was joining then Governor General Michaëlle Jean and the Commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at Rideau Hall in 2009 for "Witnessing the Future," a poignant and emotional event that launched the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. During the event, Senator Gordon presented Governor General Jean with a Métis sash.

Every November 11, Senator Gordon represents the MNO at National Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa where she lays a wreath

at the National War Memorial.

Senator Gordon is very proud of her Métis culture and is always open to sharing her knowledge with audiences young and old. She takes seriously the need to educate and inform people about Métis culture and governance, and to explain what makes the Métis distinct among the three Aboriginal peoples of Canada recognized in the Canadian Constitution.

In August 2012, at the Sault Ste. Marie MNO AGA, Senator Gordon was re-elected as a PCMNO Senator and asked by her fellow PCMNO Senators to continue on as PCMNO Executive Senator. Senator Gordon was also a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal in 2012.



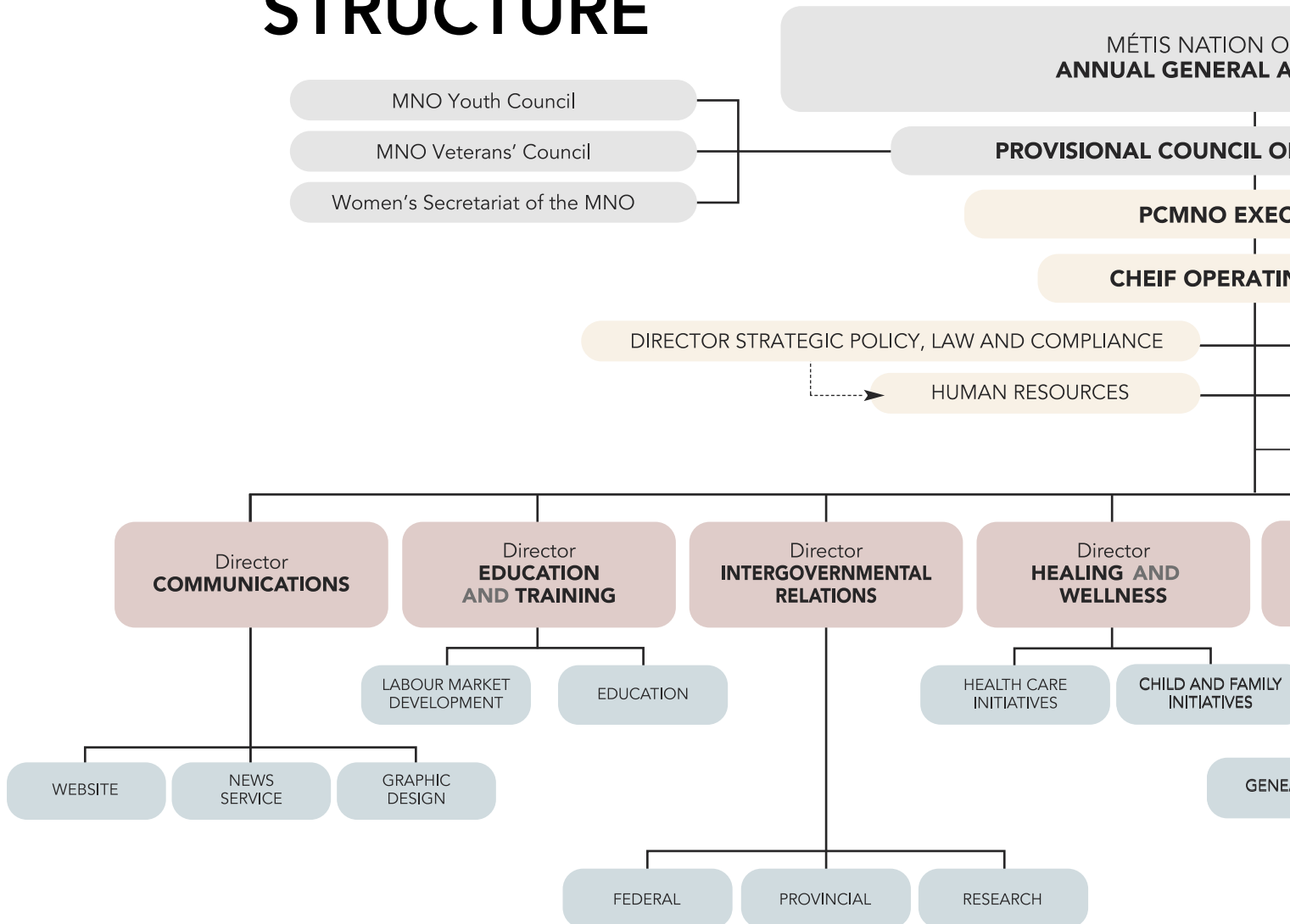
▲
Senator Gordon speaking in Parliament on the occasion of the dedication of stained glass windows to residential school survivors.

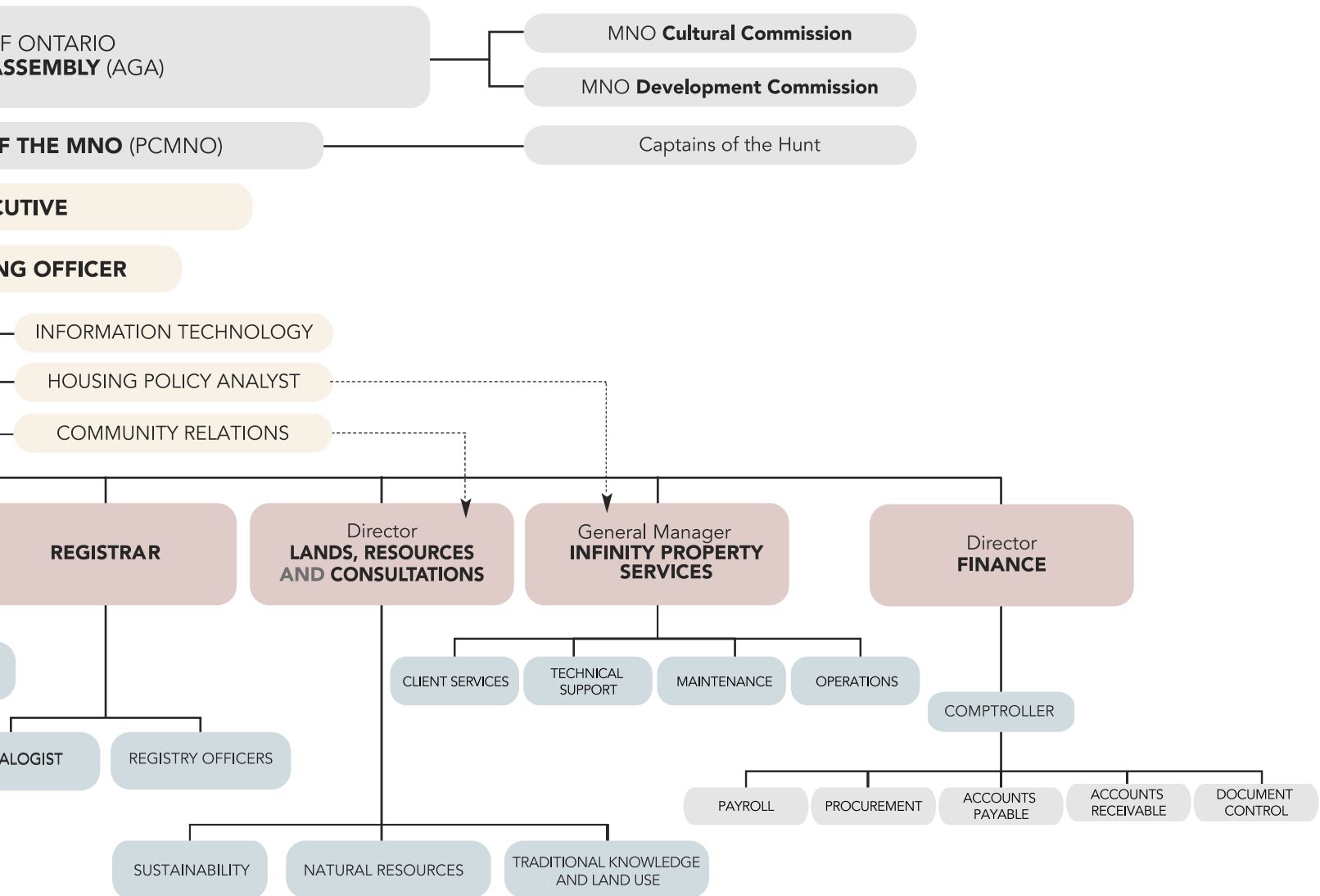


▲
Members of the PCMNO Executive and other PCMNO members read their oaths of office as administered by Métis National Council President Clément Chartier. (left to right) President Clément Chartier, Senator Reta Gordon, MNO President Gary Lipinski, MNO Chair France Picotte, Region 3 PCMNO Councillor Marcel Lafrance and MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE







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01: MNO Georgian Bay Council members with other volunteers who took part in tree planting near Lafontaine, Ontario in May 2013.

02: MNO Grand River Métis Council teaching students on Aboriginal Day at St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic School.

03: On June 21, 2013 the MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council raised the Métis National flag for the first time in front of Windsor City Hall. (Left to right) Jon Rochon, Wilfred Rochon and Donna Grayer.

04: Métis children part of the MNO Kenora Métis Council participated at the International Women's Day celebration in Kenora on March 9, 2013. (Left to right) Hailey Fortier, Katelyne Stenlund, Hayden Stenlund and Lacy Kerr.

05: Drum making workshop hosted by the MNO Moon River Métis Council in Parry Sound.



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MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO CHARTERED 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 engaging proponents in Duty to Consult meetings. Composed entirely of volunteers, the members of MNO community councils play a crucial role in the fight for Métis rights and in promoting Métis culture and traditions.

The structure of MNO Chartered Community Councils

The MNO fulfills the inherent right to self-government for Métis in Ontario by representing and advocating for the distinct interests of Métis in the province. The overarching goals and aspirations of the MNO are articulated in *The Statement of Prime Purpose*. These values and principles are fundamental building blocks, and they guide the MNO's governance and decision-making systems.

MNO citizens are represented at the local level through MNO Chartered Community Councils. The MNO community councils support the push toward self-government and are important communication hubs for the MNO citizens. MNO community councils facilitate community empowerment for Métis citizens living within geographic boundaries specified for each council by its MNO Charter.

Community councils operate in accordance with MNO Charter Agreements. The agreements give councils the mandate to govern, while ensuring accountability, transparency, and consistency. The MNO Charter Agreements along with the Community Code and the Community Electoral Code are the policy documents that guide MNO community councils when holding mandatory elections.

These documents also serve as a resource to MNO community councils because they outline the rules and regulations for conducting council business, and for ensuring accountability through good fiscal management.

As part of the MNO, MNO community councils help provide effective self-government and economic development for Métis in Ontario.



▲ A scene from one of the Métis Community Festivals held in the summer and fall of 2012.



▲ MNO Grand River Métis Council participated in a restoration work day at the Glenorchy Conservation Area in the fall of 2012.



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01: MNO Credit River Métis Council hosted a Métis Medicine Walk at the Crawford Lake Conservation Area on September 9, 2012.

02: MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Consultation Committee participated in a meeting with Tembec in Chapleau, Ontario on August 1, 2012.

03: MNO Great Lakes Métis Council held its third annual fish fry at Hibou Conservation Park on July 20, 2012.

04: MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council embarked on a heritage canoe excursion that focused on War of 1812 activities in June 2013.

05: MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council among participants during the War of 1812 Fort Michilimackinac re-enactment in July 2012.

06: MNO Ottawa Regional Métis Council National Aboriginal Day celebration at the Summer Solstice Aboriginal Arts Festival in June 2013.



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▲ The Kwijikwewag Métis Women's Drum Group performing at the Talbot Park Métis Festival near Port McNicoll on September 23, 2012.



▲ MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council Councillor Kristy Cameron with her painting Grandmother Spider that was featured at the Pictograph Gallery in Atikokan in September 2012.

■ Growing stronger within the MNO

MNO citizens in an area where no MNO community council has been chartered can approach the MNO leadership indicating their interest in forming a council. The MNO leadership will dispatch MNO Community Relations staff to work with these citizens to plan community meetings to gauge local interest in forming a council.

The initial meeting between interested citizens and a MNO Community Relations staff is for information sharing and, if appropriate, the election of an interim council. Once in place, the interim council sets the direction for the council and looks for ways to strengthen community relationships and develop sustainable partnership with all citizens in the area.

Once a council signs its MNO Charter, MNO Community Relations staff will work with the council to develop and ratify their governing documents and set an election date for their ballot box elections in which a president and council executive will be elected.

■ Capacity building

Métis citizens who support the MNO with thousands of hours of volunteer work are at the heart of the Métis Nation. Some of these generous individuals who allow their names to stand for election, however, do not have training in the area of local governance. To assist these citizens develop this expertise, the MNO provides local governance training for MNO community council members with funding from the Ontario government's New Relationship Fund (NRF).

MNO local governance training is offered through MNO Community Relations staff and provides instruction and resources needed to start building capacity at the local, regional and provincial levels. In addition to ensuring that MNO community councils operate in a transparent and accountable way, the training ensures that core capacity is in place at the community level to facilitate consultation work with government and industry.

Currently MNO Community Relations staff offers two types of training sessions. These are the Governance and Finance course and the Meetings and Negotiations Workshop. The Governance and Finance course is a two-day seminar. It explains where MNO community councils fit into the MNO governance structure and explains their role as local government. 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 MNO community councils must follow. The MNO started offering the course in 2010 and over a dozen MNO community councils have taken the training since then.

The Meetings and Negotiations workshop was only introduced at the end of 2010-11. The first workshop was offered in August 2011 to all MNO community council members and PCMNO regional councillors



WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT

OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

The Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation in Ontario (WSMNO) is part of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) governance structure and includes Métis women from across Ontario who are committed to promoting women's issues and advocating on their behalf within the MNO. The WSMNO advises the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) on matters pertaining to women and cooperates with Aboriginal groups, government bodies and women's groups to assist Métis people with issues of specific concern 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.

The spokesperson for the WSMNO is MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride and four elected women serve as WSMNO regional representatives. They are: Barbaranne Wright of St. Catharines; Candace Lloyd of Napanee; Shirley Lynn Pantuso of Ottawa; and Pearl Gabona of Bowmanville.

The terms of office for the regional representatives will expire at the 2016 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) where elections will take place for these positions.

Recent notable achievements:

The newly elected WSMNO has been involved in the following:

- Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women - June 2012
- Victim Services Training - March 2013
- Women of the Métis Nation - Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak AGM - March 2013

The WSMNO has created the Métis Angel Fund with all funds raised going to the MNO Victim Services program.

▲ The Women's Secretariat of the MNO (left to right) Back row: Barbaranne Wright, Pearl Gabona and Shirley Lynn Pantuso. Front row: Candace Lloyd and WSMNO Spokesperson Sharon McBride.



▲
PCMNO Youth
Representative Mitch Case
speaking at a Métis youth
meeting.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO YOUTH COUNCIL



▲
**Senator Gordon beading
with PCMNO Youth
Representative Mitch Case.**

The Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) is part of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) governance structure with the mandate to identify issues impacting Métis youth and to work within the MNO to ensure these issues are addressed. The MNOYC consists of nine regional representatives who are elected in the MNO provincial ballot-box elections held every four years. MNOYC elections were held in conjunction with the most recent Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) elections on May 7, 2012.

In addition to the MNOYC, Métis youth are also represented by the PCMNO youth representative, who holds a voting seat on the PCMNO. The MNOYC and PCMNO youth representative brings forth the voices of the regional youth representatives and local community youth representatives at the provincial level. Each region has a regional youth representative 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.

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. Through understanding the history of the Métis people and a deep commitment to the *Statement of Prime Purpose* the MNOYC strives to prepare Métis youth to be leaders of the Métis Nation of the future.

The MNOYC is striving to fill its current vacancies, engage youth across the province and further define its governance structure and policies and procedures. Each year, the MNOYC attends the MNO Annual General Assembly to bring together the regional youth representatives for consultation and planning.

Recent notable achievements:

- The MNOYC held monthly conference calls and one face-to-face meeting.
- Developing relationships with Métis youth across the rest of the homeland.
- Participated in Nuclear Waste Management consultations.
- Participated in Métis education think tanks.
- Continued to use the MNOYC Facebook page and email lists to increase communication with community council youth representatives and other Métis youth in Ontario.
- Many MNOYC representatives are involved in the MNO Infinite Reach Program.
- MNOYC representatives facilitated Métis cultural workshops in communities, schools and post-secondary institutions.
- MNOYC participates in MNO Michif Language Committee meetings.
- MNOYC participated in training sessions with community councils, and MNO LRC staff.
- Participated in numerous meetings, conferences and gatherings regarding issues affecting Métis youth.

“

... the MNOYC strives to prepare Métis youth to be leaders of the Métis Nation of the future.

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2012-16 MNOYC REPRESENTATIVES

PCMNO Youth Representative
Mitch Case

Region Four
Vacant

Region Eight Representative
Nicholas Delbaere-Sawchuk

Region One Representative
Kristie Caouette

Region Five Representative
Sylvie Forest

Region Nine Representative
Alex Young

Region Two Representative
Janine Landry

Region Six Representative
Phoebe Mandry

Region Three Representative
Brienne Gosselin

Region Seven Representative
Kyle Grenier

Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (left to right) Phoebe Mandry (Region 6), Janine Landry (Region 2), Sylvie Forest (Region 5), Nicholas Delbaere-Sawchuk (Region 8), Brienne Gosselin (Region 3), Mitch Case (Youth Representative on PCMNO) and Kyle Grenier (Region 7). Missing are Kristie Caouette (Region 1) and Alex Young (Region 9).





MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO SENATORS

▲
MNO Senators at the 2012 MNO
AGA. (Left to right) Sitting:

Senator Ruth Wagner. Front
row: Senators Joseph Poiras,
Rene Gravelle, Elmer Ross, Reta
Gordon, Olivine Tiedema, Lois
McCallum, Audrey Valle, the late
Earl Scofield and Gerry Bedford.

Middle row: Senators Verna
Brunelle, Doris Lanigan, Karen
Cederwell, Marlene Greenwood,
Brenda Powley, Cecile Wager, Dr.

Alis Kennedy, Patricia Dryden,
Micheline Boisvert and Eugene
Contant. Back row: Senators

Terry Bloom, Romeo Sarrazin,
Roland St. Germain, Ed Hass,
Gary Laframboise, Al Roussin,
Ray Bergie, Malcom Dixon, John
George and Bob McKay.

Senators have a special place in Métis culture, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and in its governance structure. Highly respected for their knowledge, values, and experience, Senators provide an elder's presence at community events and meetings, and help keep Métis culture alive by sharing Métis traditions and Way of Life. One Senator is elected at the community level to sit on the community council executive. Four Senators from across the province are elected by all the other Senators in the province to sit on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). One of the four PCMNO Senators is chosen by the group of four to sit as the Executive Senator.

As the MNO grows, the requests for Senators to attend events to lead opening or closing prayers or to talk about Métis history and culture are also growing. Our Senators continue to solidify on with these increasing demands on their time and the whole MNO is grateful for their dedication.

MNO SENATORS (Current to June 28, 2013)

PCMNO Executive Senator

Senator Reta Gordon

PCMNO Senators

Senator Rene Gravelle

Senator Verna Brunelle

Senator Joseph Poitras

MNO CHARTERED COMMUNITY COUNCIL SENATORS

MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council - Vacant

MNO Chapleau Métis Council - Senator Micheline Boisvert

MNO Credit River Métis Council - Senator Ray Bergie

MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council - Senator Dora McInnis

MNO Greenstone Métis Council - Senator Patricia Dryden

MNO Grand River Métis Council - Senator Carol Levis

MNO Great Lakes Métis Council - Senator Malcolm Dixon

MNO Hamilton- Wentworth Métis Council - Senator Doris Lanigan

MNO High Land Waters Métis Council - Senator Robert Lloyd

MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council - Senator Brenda Powley

MNO Kenora Métis Council - Senator Karen Cederwell

MNO Mattawa Métis Council - Senator Romeo Sarrazin

MNO Moon River Métis Council - Senator Larry Duval

MNO Niagara Region Métis Council - Senator Gary Laframboise

MNO North Bay Métis Council - Senator Marlene Greenwood

MNO North Channel Métis Council - Vacant

MNO Northern Lights Métis Council - Senator Eugene Contant

MNO Northwest Métis Council - Senator Alphonse Roussin

MNO Oshawa and Durham Métis Council - Senator Cecile Wagar

MNO Ottawa Métis Regional Council - Senator Lois McCallum

MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council - Senator Terry Bloom

MNO Sudbury Métis Council - Senator Kempton Gravelle

MNO Sunset Country Métis Council - Senator John George

MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council - Vacant

MNO Temiskaming Métis Council - Vacant

MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council - Senator Bob McKay

MNO Timmins Métis Council - Senator Len Rondeau

MNO Toronto-York Region Métis Council - Vacant

MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council - Senator Robert Leboeuf

Veterans Senator

Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy

Honourary Senators

Senator Gordon Calder

Senator Audrey Vallee

Senator Roland St.Germain

Senator Olivine Tiedema

Senator Ruth Wagner

Senator Gerry Bedford



PCMNO Senator Joseph Poitras lays a wreath during 2012 Louis Riel Day provincial ceremonies at Queen's Park.

“

Our Senators continue to soldier on with these increasing demands on their time and the whole MNO is grateful for their dedication.

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MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO VETERANS' COUNCIL

▲ In 2012 MNO Veterans Chris Plummer (Courtice), Senator Rene Gravelle (Val Caron), Guy Mandeville (Trenton), the late Senator George Kelly (Ottawa), Senator Earl Scofield (Lasalle), Senator Elmer Ross (Bobcaygeon), Greg Garrett (Penetanguishene), Kerry McLaughlin (Thunder Bay), Gerry Bedford (Orangeville), Senator Ray Bergie (Brampton), Jean Camirand (Thunder Bay) and Maurice Sarrazin (Val Caron) Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, MNOVC President Joseph Paquette and Senator Romeo Sarrazin were awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal.

The Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council (MNOVC) was established in 2001 to represent the interest of veterans within the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) governance structure. The MNOVC's structure was formalized at the 2009 Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Sudbury with the election of an executive. Elections for the executive position on the MNOVC are held every four years. The most recent election was held May 7, 2012, in conjunction with the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) elections.

Recent notable achievements:

- The MNOVC ratified their Charter and Community Code (bylaws).
- The MNOVC held its spring elections in May 2012. The newly elected council has brought forth a responsible and accountable team of veterans.
- In May 2012, MNOVC veterans participated in the official unveiling of the War of 1812 commemorative banner and medal at Fort York in Toronto. In attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Charles and the Duchess of York, Governor General Johnston, Prime Minister Harper, and many other dignitaries, military and civilians.
- MNOVC veterans participated at the 2012 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA).
- In August 2012 the MNOVC began issuing Louis Riel Certificated to verified veterans. This certificate compliments the Louis Riel medal and is a Métis document for the future.
- On October 25, 2012 MNO President Lipinski and MNOVC President Joseph Paquette attended the formal presentation of the War of 1812 commemorative banner and medal from Prime Minister Stephen Harper and His Excellency, Governor-General David Johnston at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

- In November 2012 MNOVC Veterans Harvey Horlock and Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy CD attended the provincial Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Queen's Park in Toronto.
- The MNOVC held meetings in July 2012, October 2012 and February 2013.
- On April 27, 2013 Veterans Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy CD and MNOVC President Paquette attended the War of 1812 celebrations held at Fort York in Toronto.

MNO Veterans' Council

President

Paquette, Joseph

Sgt-at-arms

Garratt, Greg

Women's

Representative

Vacant

Chair

Mandeville, Guy

Secretary

Vacant

Treasurer

Plummer, Christopher

Senator for Veterans

Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy



▲
Veterans Colour Part during the 2012 Annual General Assembly opening ceremonies in Sault Ste. Marie.



The MNO Veterans' Council members at the 2012 AGA (left to right) Greg Garratt (Sergeant-at-Arms), the late Senator George Kelly, Joseph Paquette (President), Guy Mandeville (Chair) and Chris Plummer (Treasurer). Missing is Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy (Senator for Veterans).
▲

MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL



▲
**Métis National Council Board
of Governors meeting in
February 2013 in Ottawa.**

Throughout history, the Métis people have acted collectively to protect and fight for their rights, land, and on-going existence as an Aboriginal people within west central North America. Beginning in the 1960s, the Métis Nation joined with First Nation and Inuit in pan-Aboriginal political organizations to push forward their shared agendas.

In 1982, as a result of these united efforts, Canada's Aboriginal peoples achieved monumental success with the protection of their existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights in s. 35 of *The Constitution Act, 1982*. In particular, the explicit recognition of the Métis as one of Canada's three distinct Aboriginal peoples was a watershed for the Métis Nation.

Following this success, it became apparent that the Métis Nation needed to be able to represent Métis-specific interests at a national level. As a result, in March 1983, the Métis Nation separated from the Native Council of Canada to form the Métis National Council (MNC). Since then, the MNC has represented the Métis Nation nationally and internationally. It receives its mandate and direction from the democratically elected leadership of the Métis Nation's governments from Ontario westward.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is a governing member of the MNC, along with the Manitoba Metis Federation, the Métis Nation Saskatchewan, the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis Nation British Columbia. The MNO President sits on the six-member MNC Board of Governors with the president of each of the governing members and the MNC President. The MNC president is elected by the MNC's general assembly. In addition, the MNO, in collaboration with other governing members, participates within the Métis Nation Cabinet, the MNC's general assembly, and the MNC's secretariats, as well as national working groups and committees.

The MNC's main goal as the representative body of the Métis within Canada is to move forward on implementing the Métis Nation's inherent right to self-government at a community, regional, and national level.

The Women of the Métis Nation - *Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak*

Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak, carrying on business as “Women of the Métis Nation” (WMN), is the national body that represents the interests of Métis Women and provides a much-needed voice for women at the local, provincial, national and international level. It is WMN’s primary goal to improve the lives and well-being of Métis Women and the Métis Nation. WMN invites the participation of all Métis Women in the formulation of its policies and strategies for dealing with issues important to Métis Women and their community.

WMN is governed by its Board of Directors. Currently the president of the WMN is Melanie Omeniho. MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride currently sits as part of the Board of Directors as Secretary.

Membership in the WMN consists of the Métis Women’s provincial organizations of each of the Governing Members of the Metis National Council (MNC).

Information on The Women of the Métis Nation - *Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak* can be found at: www.metiswomen.org



▲
MNO delegates to the Annual General Meeting of the Women of the Métis Nation – *Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak*.



▲
National Executive of the Women of the Métis Nation: (Left to right) Monell Bailey, Donna Wright, MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride, Brenda Bourque-Stratichuk and Melanie Omeniho, President of the Women of the Métis Nation.

NATION TO NATION



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MNO President Lipinski and Chair France Picotte represented the MNO at the Métis and Urban Aboriginal Leadership Roundtable in Toronto with the Honourable Teresa Piruzza, Minister of Children and Youth Services, the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and representatives from the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres and the Ontario Native Women's Association on June 10, 2013.

In Canada, *The Constitution Act, 1982*, acknowledges that the Métis, along with the Indians and Inuit, are one of three Aboriginal peoples of Canada. The term “Indians” is used in this context because its meaning is legally-defined. In contemporary society and in intergovernmental relations work, the term “First Nations” is the term most often used.

A number of international documents, including the United Nations' *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, and the United Nations' *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, acknowledge the right of all peoples to self-determination.

The Métis are a people whose legitimacy is established by history, territory, language, custom, values and law. Having both national and international recognition as a people, who together form a Nation, is the basis on which the

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) maintains nation to nation relationships with other nations. The MNO, through the Métis National Council, works closely with the Assembly of First Nations and Inuit *Tapiriit Kanatami* on issues of common concern at the national and international levels.

The MNO continues to make efforts to preserve and promote its customary relationships with First Nations, but more interaction is required particularly in the areas of mutual concern around economic development and the Duty to Consult and Accommodate.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

▲ Participants of the 2013 MNO Infinite Reach March break camp in Mattawa, Ontario.

To carry out the work outlined in *The Statement of Prime Purpose*, the MNO established a province-wide infrastructure to deliver and manage programs and services for Métis people in Ontario in healing and wellness, education, labour market development, housing, Duty to Consult and Accommodate, community relations, traditional knowledge, intergovernmental relations, economic development, finance, communications, human resources and information technology. Directed through seven branches, the MNO employs over 100 people located in 20 offices across Ontario.

“

MNO established a province-wide infrastructure to deliver and manage programs and services for Métis people in Ontario

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MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO BRANCHES

HEALING AND WELLNESS

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) approach to healing and wellness is founded upon the *Statement of Prime Purpose* and Métis traditions, culture and values. It is responsive to individual and community needs, is highly accountable to both the Métis communities and its partners, including funding agencies and has a proven track record of excellence in policy, program and service provision.

The mission of the MNO Healing and Wellness Branch, in accordance with the *Statement of Prime Purpose*, is to provide culturally appropriate, supportive, self-directed health and wellness opportunities to address the emotional, spiritual, mental, physical and social requirements of individuals, families and communities.

In keeping with Métis culture and values, the branch promotes respect, compassion, dignity and empowerment to foster unity, balance, hope, belonging and pride for all generations. Core activities of the branch are centered on prevention and promotion and extend to treatment, maintenance and rehabilitation interventions for Métis in Ontario. The service provision aspect of operations is client-centred, holistic and focused on individuals, families and communities across the province. Programs and services are Métis-designed and delivered and are shaped by Métis-identified needs.

A significant direction of the branch is on ensuring policy and program decisions are being made based on evidence. Knowledge and evidence comes from a variety of sources including: client-centred information through the Health Activity Tracking System (HATS); program performance and results that are also tracked through the HATS; program evaluation; and research that is integrated, multi-disciplinary and collaborative in scope.

The Healing and Wellness branch has built a solid reputation with other Aboriginal organizations, partners and funding agencies from its record of managing funds, participating on various Aboriginal committees and taking leadership roles in a range of initiatives.

Recent notable achievements:

- In 2012-2013, the MNO participated in the Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women (VAAW) with ten provincial Ministries and four other Aboriginal partners. The “Aboriginal caucus” of the Joint Working Group has been in discussion to formalize its relations and to develop Aboriginal priorities to shape the direction of the Joint Working Group.
- In addition, following a Request for Proposal submission to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, the MNO was selected to play a lead coordinating role at the provincial level with the Ontario Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program (OARGP) Working Group which consists of eight members including the MNO. The MNO engaged and coordinated a meeting of the Working Group in March 2013. The MNO

“...promote the improved health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community.”

– From the Métis Nation of Ontario
Statement of Prime Purpose

BRANCH DETAILS

Number of Staff: 67

Staff located in: Bancroft, Brampton, Dryden, Fort Frances, Hamilton, Kenora, Maynooth, Midland, North Bay, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Renfrew, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Toronto, Welland and Windsor



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01: MNO Responsible Gambling Mock Casino during a Métis celebration in Fort Frances on January 20, 2013.

02: Women's Secretariat and MNO Women Community Council Representatives at Victim Services Training in Toronto in March 2013.

03: Métis crafters collect and clean spruce roots to be use in tradition Métis basket making on June 6, 2012.

04: President Lipinski and Chair France Picotte signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth during the 2012 Annual General Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie.



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will be the lead agency on this provincial file until at least March 31, 2014.

- With funding provided from the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (AHWS) the MNO provides “flow through” services for satellite projects operated by other Aboriginal agencies involved in healing and wellness. Through this process the MNO has developed successful working relationships with the Ontario Native Women’s Association (ONWA), Nijkiwendidaa Anishinabe-kewwag Services Circle, the Native Women’s Resource Centre (NWRC), Aboriginal Peoples Alliance of Northern Ontario (APANO), Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre, and the Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre in Peterborough.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS WORKER (CWW)

Through the Community Wellness Worker (CWW) program, the MNO works closely with Métis individuals and families to reduce the risk and incidence of family violence in Métis communities and to promote informed decisions and actions that will facilitate greater safety, health, healing and wellness.

There are three areas of intervention through which CWW supports Métis communities: networking, participant based education and direct client service.

Networking: CWW coordinators build upon existing relationships with other stakeholders to foster a collaborative spirit, maximize resources, create a stronger voice for the Métis perspective and develop the most effective processes for providing referral services.

Participant-based education: Each fiscal year, CWW workers in each MNO community plan and deliver a variety of educational/supportive gatherings to improve the capacity to thrive, increase knowledge/skills and help change the unhealthy attitudes and behaviours of participants. CWW gatherings address the MNO’s educational goals as well as the local preferences and needs of each community.

Direct client service: The most prominent aspect of CWW is the provision of specific, client-driven supports to Métis and other individuals and families. The primary goal of CWW is to reduce family violence and facilitate informed decision making towards greater community health, wellness and safety. Through training, practice and ongoing support, CWW coordinators are able to utilize intervention strategies including advocacy, referral, wellness planning and individual health promotion that meet clients’ needs.

Recent notable achievements:

- There was marked growth, as indicated in the chart, in both the number of clients supported and the number of services provided by CWW. This growth was the result of improved management capacity to review and support community services via the HATS system and a fully staffed CWW team compared to 2011-12 when several sites were undergoing turnovers.
- A MNO inter-branch training and plenary session held in the autumn of 2012 allowed CWW coordinators to significantly expand their understanding of the spectrum of Métis needs, stakeholders and services. This resulted in improved quality of service for clients and participants in CWW programming.
- Métis community festivals were held at several locations and attracted hundreds of participants in the fall and summer of 2012.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Ministry of Community and Social Services /Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (AHWS)
Government of Ontario

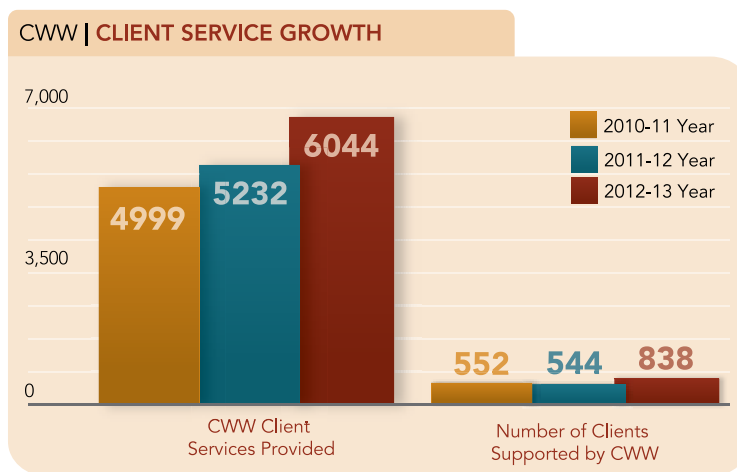
Number of Staff: 19

Staff located in: Bancroft, Brampton, Fort Frances, Hamilton, Kenora, Midland, North Bay, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Renfrew, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Welland, and Windsor.

Eligible Clientele: Any person (Métis and others).



Participants in training MNO facilitated for 20 Aboriginal organizations in Toronto in March 2013.



Community Wellness Worker Client Service Growth

The chart above illustrates the total number of client service encounters provided by MNO CWW coordinators during the indicated fiscal years.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Ministry of Community and Social Services / Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (AHWS), Government of Ontario

Number of Staff: 15 (including supervisor shared with CAPC and CPNP program)

Staff located in: Bancroft, Dryden, Fort Frances, Midland, North Bay, Renfrew, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Welland, Windsor, Maynooth and Toronto.

Eligible Clientele: Any family with children ages 0-6 years old at risk (Métis and others).

MÉTIS HEALTHY BABIES HEALTHY CHILDREN (MHBHC)

The MNO Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children (MHBHC) program provides non-clinical, non-medical review and supportive services for Métis and other families who may be planning or be in the midst of a pregnancy or have children aged 0 - 6 years. Through the primary intervention areas of networking, participant based education and direct client service, the MHBHC program provides assistance to families in order to facilitate the best opportunities for a healthy birth and the growth and development of their children within safe living environments.

Networking: MHBHC coordinators build upon existing relationships with other stakeholders in order to foster a collaborative spirit, maximize resources, create a stronger voice for the Métis perspective and develop the most effective processes for providing services.

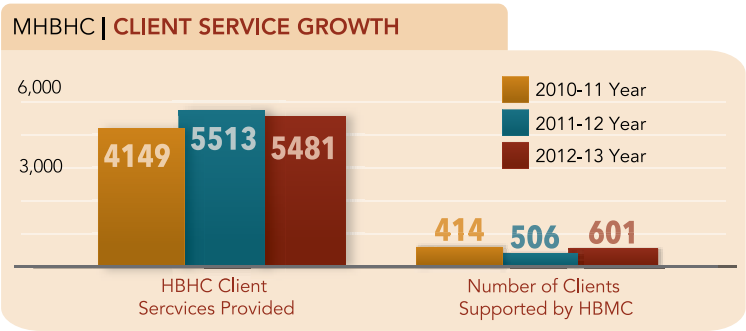
Participant based education: Every year the MHBHC coordinators plan and deliver a variety of educational/supportive gatherings that improve the capacity to thrive, increase knowledge and skills and help to change the unhealthy attitudes and behaviours of participants. MHBHC gatherings address the MNO's educational goals as well as the local preferences and needs of each community.

Direct client services: The most prominent aspect of MHBHC service is the provision of home visits and review of supports for Métis and other individuals/families. The primary goal of the program is to ensure that families with young children are provided equitable access to resources and knowledge that will facilitate optimal growth and development of children/families and promote the maintenance of safe family living environments. Through training, practice and ongoing support, coordinators are able to utilize intervention strategies including advocacy, referral, wellness planning that help clients meet their needs.

Recent notable achievements:

An MNO inter-branch training and plenary session held in the autumn of 2012 allowed MHBHC coordinators to significantly expand their understanding of the spectrum of Métis needs, stakeholders and services. This resulted in an improved quality of service for clients and participants of MHBHC programming.

- As indicated in the chart, in 2012-2013, there was growth in the number of clients who received MHBHC services. The number of MHBHC client services provided remained consistent in spite of it being a transition year for some communities that resulted in a temporary halt to programming in the Kenora area. This transition period caused only a minor reduction in client services and is an illustration of the program's strength.
- Métis community festivals were held at several locations and attracted hundreds of participants in the fall and summer of 2012.
- Through appropriate discussions with funders, the MNO has been provided the unique opportunity to refer to coordinators delivering the previously named Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children program as Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children coordinators. This became effective April 2013.



Métis Healthy Babies/Healthy Children Client Service Growth
The chart above illustrates the total number of client service encounters provided by MNO MHBHC coordinators during the indicated fiscal years.



▲ Dr. Allan Prowse, Vice-President of Patient and Client Care at Providence Dare accepts a gift from PCMNO Region 2 Councillor Cam Burgess at the 2012 MNO AGA.



▲ A Women's drumming group that participated in an MNO Community Feast.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MHLTC), Government of Ontario

Number of Staff: 18
(including supervisor and three part-time staff)

Staff located in: Bancroft, Dryden, Fort Frances, Kenora, Midland, North Bay, Ottawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Timmins, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Welland, Windsor

Eligible Clientele: Métis and other people who are frail and/or elderly as well as Métis and other people with a chronic disease or terminal illness in need of assistance and support regardless of age.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (CSS)

The MNO Community Support Services (CSS) program supports Métis and other Aboriginal people to live safely and independently in their own homes and communities for as long as they wish. While the primary service targets of the CSS program are the elderly and the chronically ill, it is community-focused and open to people of all ages. CSS provides support for individual community members as well as their families and caregivers.

CSS services include:

Transportation to medical appointments: Trained employees and volunteers transport and escort clients to medical appointments.

Home and telephone visitation: CSS coordinators regularly follow up with clients in person and through the telephone to provide holistic support and wellness planning services which promote safety, independence and continued immersion of clients in the Métis community.

Facilitate access additional supports: CSS coordinators maintain viable community relationships with a variety of stakeholders, which in turn facilitate valuable client referrals and opportunities for advocacy.

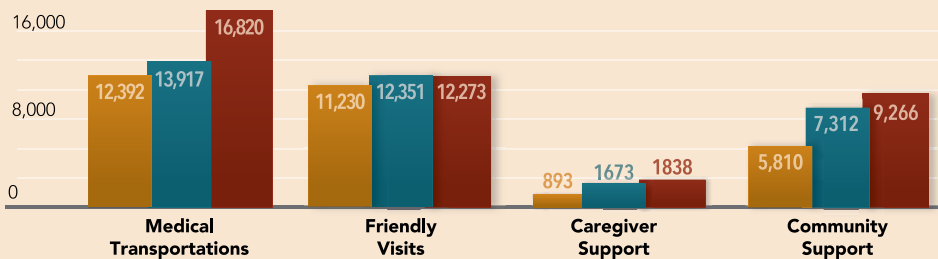
Support to caregivers: Collaborative education and varied support is provided by CSS coordinators to the care providers in a client's family.

Participant-based education: Targeted partnerships between CSS coordinators and other stakeholders allow for increased education and prevention in regards to issues pertinent to consumers of CSS services. CSS involvement in MNO gatherings facilitates cultural immersion for clients and participants who may not otherwise be able to attend on their own.

Recent notable achievements:

- The CCS team was fully staffed this year which as indicated in the charts, resulted in an increase in both the services provided and the number of clients receiving support from coordinators.
- An MNO inter-branch training and plenary session held in the autumn of 2012 allowed CSS coordinators to significantly expand their understanding of the spectrum of Métis needs, stakeholders and services. This resulted in improved quality of service for clients and participants of CSS programming.
- Métis community festivals were held at several locations and attracted hundreds of participants in the fall and summer of 2012.

CSS | GROWTH IN SERVICES

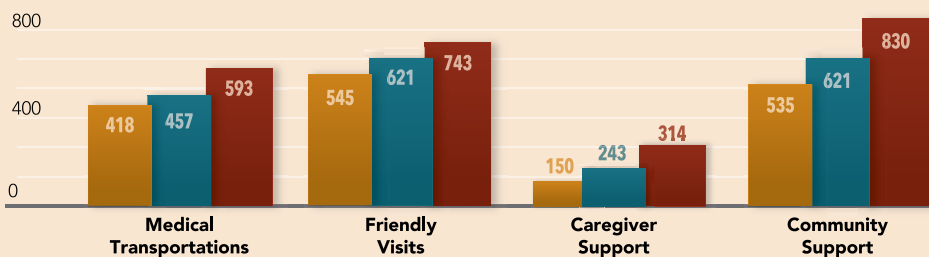


Community Support Services Growth in Services

The chart above illustrates the total number of client services provided by MNO CSS coordinators during the indicated fiscal years.



CSS | CLIENT ACCESS



Community Support Services Client Access

The chart above illustrates the total number of clients supported by MNO CSS coordinators during the indicated fiscal years.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

Number of Staff: 3
(including supervisor shared with CPNP and MHBHC programs)

Staff located in: Bancroft, Dryden, Thunder Bay and Timmins

Eligible Clientele: Any child under six years of age and their parents, who may be living under conditions of risk (Métis and other people).

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN (CAPC)

The MNO Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) provides Métis sensitive services that focus on improving the health and development of infants and young children. Program workers help new parents prepare for parenthood by building their parenting and care-giving skills through culturally tailored programs, interventions and traditional teachings, and by linking them with the services and supports for healthy family development.

The target group for CAPC are children “at-risk” who are likely to experience a higher than normal incidence of family poverty, abuse or neglect, poor health and nutrition, developmental delay, social and emotional problems, family breakdown, and injury or disability.

The overall objective of the CPAC is to enable communities to develop comprehensive, culturally appropriate programs that improve the health and development of Métis children (0-6 years) and their families who are living in conditions of risk. The program improves prenatal, infant and child nutrition, parenting and caregiving skills, reduces the incidence of children at-risk, and promotes healthy lifestyles through cultural teachings and community development.

Recent notable achievements:

- An MNO inter-branch training and plenary session held in the autumn of 2012 allowed CPAC coordinators to significantly expand their understanding of the spectrum of Métis needs, stakeholders and services. This resulted in improved quality of service for clients and participants in CPAC programming.
- In 2012-2013, 200 individuals participated in CAPC on an on-going basis while many others participated on a one-time basis.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

Number of Staff: 1 (plus supervisor shared with CAPC and MHBHC)

Staff located in: Dryden, Thunder Bay and Timmins

Eligible Clientele: Any parent or family with a child 0-6 months old (Métis and others).

CANADIAN PRE/POST NATAL NUTRITION (CPNP)

The MNO Canadian Pre/Post Natal Nutrition Program (CPNP) provides support to Métis parents and families to help them meet the nutritional needs of their infants and young children. Beginning during pregnancy and continuing through the child's infancy and early years, program staff work closely with families to provide ongoing guidance and support on how best to feed themselves and their young children in order to ensure healthy child and family development.

Recent notable achievements:

- An MNO inter-branch training and plenary session held in the autumn of 2012 allowed CPNP coordinators to significantly expand their understanding of the spectrum of Métis needs, stakeholders and services.

This resulted in improved quality of service for clients and participants in CPNP programming.

- In 2012-2013, 30 individuals participated in CPNP programs on an on-going basis while many others participated on a one-time basis.

AGING AT HOME (AAH)

The MNO Aging At Home (AAH) program facilitates client safety, independence and connectivity to their community by providing home support services, (light housekeeping, cooking, laundry and help with groceries, banking and lawn care/snow removal).

Recent notable achievements:

- In 2012-2013, the Aging At Home program continued to maintain a full caseload and provide ongoing services throughout the year.
- Aging at Home moved from yearly contract to permanent funding with the Local Health Integration Network.
- The Aging At Home program expanded partnerships with existing MNO programs in Midland.

CHRONIC DISEASE SURVEILLANCE (CDS)

The MNO Chronic Disease Surveillance (CDS) program conducts population-based studies to determine the prevalence of chronic disease rates among Métis. It uses various health administrative databases cross-referenced with data from the MNO citizen registry through the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences (ICES). Studies completed to date have focused on diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease and respiratory disease rates, treatment, and outcomes of care. An additional study to assess prevalence and incidence of musculoskeletal disease has begun while a study to assess renal disease is scheduled to commence in the fall/winter of 2013/2014.

Recent notable achievements:

- In the fall of 2012, MNO successfully submitted three abstracts and an outline for a 90 minute workshop to the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) Annual Conference held in Ottawa, June 9-12, 2013. Four MNO staff presented in collaboration with ICES and other university partners at this conference. The workshop was accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, with all participants receiving Continuing Medical Education credits.
- In December 2012 and February 2013, MNO's CDSP research coordinator presented CDSP results at two meetings of the CANRADnetwork, a national network that shares information on arthritis research across

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Funding funnelled through the Barrie Area Native Advisory Council (BANAC) from the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network (NSM LHIN)

Number of Staff: 1 full-time and 1 part-time staff, and 1 shared/part-time supervisor)

Staff located in: Midland and Ottawa

Eligible Clientele: Métis and others, aged 55 and over who are frail and need assistance to remain in the home. For some services, proof of financial need is required.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

Number of Staff: 2.25 (full-time equivalent)

Staff located in: Ottawa

Eligible Clientele: MNO Citizens



▲
MNO staff were part of organizing committee for a Diabetes Expo in Timmins in October 2012.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Ministry of Community and Social Services /Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (AHWS)

Number of Staff: 1.5 support staff

Staff located in: Ottawa

Eligible Clientele: At-risk or high-risk Métis and other individuals and their families as well as Métis and other individuals with “diagnosed” mental illness or mental health conditions.

Canada.

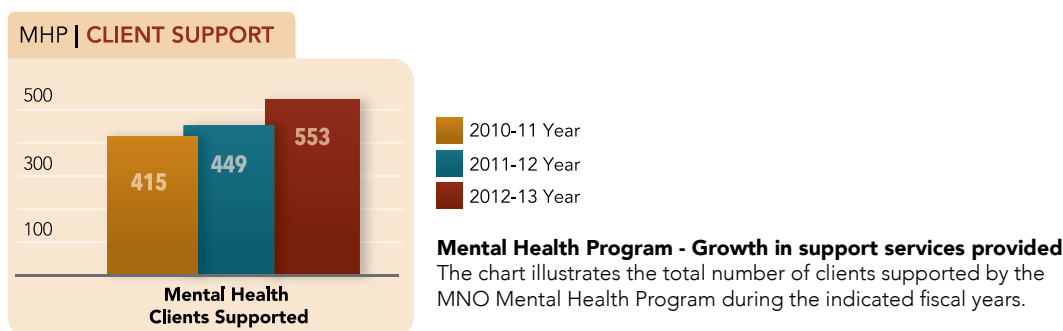
- In January 2013, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) published a report on Heart Disease among Aboriginal peoples in Canada which used the CDSP data.
- On February 28, 2013, MNO researchers presented a report on the CDSP research and knowledge translation activities at the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Chronic Disease Surveillance Project partners, hosted by PHAC.
- In February and March of 2013, the MNO and ICES contracted Dr. Elizabeth Badley and Dr. Suzanne Cadarette to carry out the research on musculoskeletal disease among MNO citizens. The study is scheduled for completion in the fall 2013.
- In March 2013, an independent consultant was contracted to carry out a program evaluation of the CDS project. Work is scheduled for completion in the late summer of 2013.
- In March 2013, the MNO began work on CDS Knowledge Translation and Mobilization Strategy 2013-2015 in order to support MNO front line workers’ efforts to promote healthy living and prevent chronic disease in Métis communities.
- The MNO and ICES are currently collaborating on an article highlighting results from the cancer research completed to date, which will be submitted to a major Canadian medical journal.

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM (MHP)

The MNO Mental Health program utilizes outreach and video-conferencing technologies to link MNO citizens to culturally meaningful counselling and healing services, psychiatric consultations, and opportunities to share their experiences with other community members in group meetings and talking circles. The MNO has the ability to link citizens in communities throughout the province to confidential, specialized mental health care as a result of a service agreement with Queen’s University and Providence Care in Kingston. The project also provides important training, education, professional development opportunities designed to increase staff and overall community capacity.

Recent notable achievements:

- MNO Healing and Wellness staff were provided mental health training to increase capacity and to provide direct client services and participant based activities in the following modules:
 - Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVCi)
 - Safe Talk
 - Mental Health First Aid
 - Grief and Bereavement
 - Incorporating Hands-On activities into Wellness Planning
 - Effective communication to establish healthy boundaries in the provision of mental health services
- All MNO offices with Healing and Wellness staff are now equipped with video-conferencing units and all



sites are members of the Ontario Telemedicine Network.

- All MNO offices have received equipment, as required, to enhance the existing infrastructure and further protect the confidentiality and integrity of system usage.
- As illustrated in the charts, there has been a noted growth in the number of mental health support services provided and the use of mental health video conference infrastructure.

VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM

The MNO Victim Services program provides support to MNO Healing and Wellness coordinators who are providing client-driven services to Métis women and children who are at risk and/or have been victims of crime. Services include short-term peer counselling, referrals, and assistance with the development of individual safety plans. As well, Métis-specific resources are being developed to orient clients to the court process including preparing victim impact statements, arrangements for court accompaniment, advocacy and follow-up.

Recent notable achievements:

- Two program staff were hired in January 2012.
- A program evaluation framework was established.
- Guidelines for client services were drafted.
- Home-flight kits have been created in collaboration with MNO frontline, to be disseminated as required by victims.
- Women Secretariat of the MNO (WSMNO) received trauma training and orientation to the MNO Victim Services program in March 2013.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Ministry of the Attorney General, Government of Ontario

Number of Staff: 2

Staff located in: Bancroft and Thunder Bay

Eligible Clientele: Self-identified Métis women and children

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MHLTC) Government of Ontario

Number of Staff: 1

Staff located in: Ottawa

Eligible Clientele: Métis and other Aboriginal people.

MÉTIS RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING PROGRAM (MRGP)

The Métis Responsible Gambling Program (MRGP) is part of the Ontario Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program (OARGP) that informs and supports Métis people in making responsible, healthy choices about gaming and gambling. The program strives to provide culturally relevant and current information about gaming, problem gambling and related issues. The focus of this program is prevention of problem gambling issues through the dissemination of information, collaboration in educational/supportive community events, ongoing literature review and development of tools for frontline MNO programs.

Recent notable achievements:

- The MNO was selected to play a lead coordinating role at the provincial level with the Ontario Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program (OARGP) Working Group which consists of eight members including the MNO.
- The MNO engaged and coordinated a meeting of the OARGP Working Group in March 2013. The MNO will be the lead agency on this provincial file until at least March 31, 2014.
- Over 1,200 copies of the MNO's *Métis Youth Speak Out* – Responsible Gambling DVD have been distributed.
- Five thousand copies of MNO's Métis Youth and Internet Gambling pamphlets have been distributed.
- The online responsible gambling trivia slot machine received 150 completed responses in eight weeks. Raw data gathered from responses will be used to focus on future educational materials.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO BRANCHES

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Education and Training Branch is driven by the priorities of the MNO's *Statement of Prime Purpose* and is committed to the strategic goal of healthy, thriving individuals, families and communities. It offers a full range of skills development, employment and educational initiatives to Métis people across Ontario. The MNO has been delivering employment and training services and supports through the branch since 1996 when it first signed ongoing agreements with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

Over the past number of years, through an expanded partnership with the province of Ontario, and additional funding for sector focused skills development projects, the size and scope of services and supports offered by the MNO has expanded. The MNO has effectively increased industry partnerships, educational outreach capacity, Métis community engagement opportunities and has implemented a number of new programs and services to support Métis on their path to education and employment. Programs and services are accessible through a community-based province wide one stop delivery network. A large percentage of operations focus on direct employment and training client service delivery, however, the scope and delivery parameters vary depending on funding mandates.

MNO's employment and training services are funded by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada through its Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) and focus on three main priorities: demand driven skills development; partnerships; and accountability for improved results. In order to meet these identified priorities, the MNO has paid special attention to strengthening its program policies, reporting systems and assessment procedures. While the MNO was one of the only ASETS funded agencies across Canada to wit-

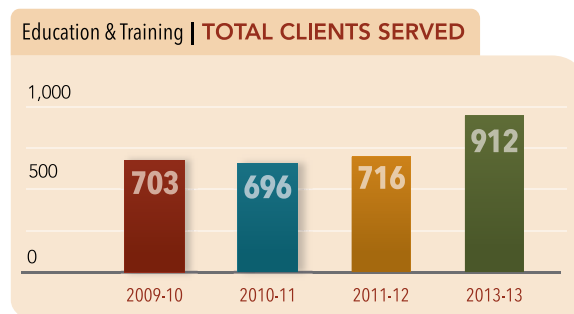
“...encourage academic and skills development and to enable citizens of the Métis Nation to attain their educational aspirations.”

– From the Métis Nation of Ontario
Statement of Prime Purpose

BRANCH DETAILS

Number of Staff: 34

Staff located in: Fort Frances, Dryden, Hamilton, Kingston, Midland, North Bay, Ottawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins and Toronto





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02

01: Participant of the 2012 MNO Infinite Reach March break camp.

02: President Lipinski with MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator at the University of Ottawa Sahra MacLean.

03: Aboriginal Education Advisory Council meeting of Métis representatives in November 2012. (Left to right) MNO Sunset Country Councillor Wanda Botsford, MNO Chair France Picotte, MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride and PCMNO Senator Verna Brunelle.

04: Niagara College President Dr. Dan Patterson sign historic Memorandum of Understanding on September 30, 2012.

05: MNO citizens in traditional Métis garb waiting to greet Royal Highnesses the Earl and Countess of Wessex, Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones, on September 16, 2012 near Midland. (Left to right) Scott Carpetner, Britney Chapman, Karly Chapman, Ruth Quesnelle and Alexis Chapman.

06: Participants of the 2012 MNO Métis Summer Cultural Program training.



03

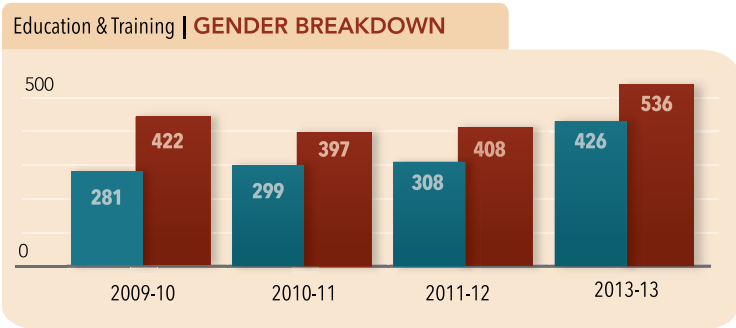
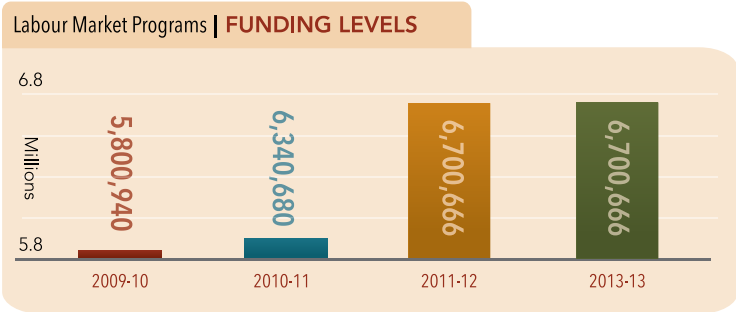


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ness an increase in its annual funding, the demand for skills training continues to grow and budgets remain limited. In an effort to expand funding opportunities, the MNO has leveraged additional project funding through both federal and provincial partners. This has created new skills development and employment opportunities within sectors such as mining, tourism and hospitality and energy.



Some of the items in the Métis Education Kit.



(Left to right) MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President Stephen Quesnelle, Niagara College Métis student Zachery Cousineau and MNO Regional Employment and Training Intake Officer Sean Vanderklis at the April 19 Niagara College Awards Night.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Human Resources Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) Government of Canada

Number of Staff: 20

Staff located in: Fort Frances, Dryden, Hamilton, Kingston, Midland, North Bay, Ottawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins and Toronto

Eligible Clientele: Self-identified Métis in Ontario who are unemployed or underemployed

Target Market: Potential employers, industry sectors and education and training stakeholders

ABORIGINAL SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING STRATEGY (ASETS) AGREEMENT

The MNO provides a range of culturally appropriate programs and services that include career counselling, employment readiness training, wage subsidies, apprenticeship support and mobility assistance in nine regions throughout the province. In this way, the MNO helps Métis acquire the skills they need for successful careers while making a contribution to a vibrant and prosperous province. A skilled Métis workforce will also help address the growing skills shortage and bolster opportunities for Métis in emerging industries.

Recent notable achievements:

- A March break camp was held in Mattawa, Ontario to bring together high school students with Infinite Reach post-secondary role models to identify pathways to education and employment.
- The MNO hired employment developers in Dryden, North Bay and Timmins and plans to hire in Hamilton. These positions will focus on linking training to meaningful employment opportunities.
- The MNO has reviewed, updated and finalized an ASETS operations manual.
- The MNO received \$20,683 through Canada Summer Jobs to hire Métis students in Sault Ste. Marie, Midland, North Bay and Welland and leveraged ASETS youth program dollars to enhance the staff compliment. This funding allowed MNO to deliver a Métis cultural summer student program in several locations across Ontario and actively participate in displaying cultural activities during the Annual General Assembly (AGA).
- An inter-branch collaboration training session was held near Barrie, Ontario to facilitate connectivity between MNO branches and improve service delivery to Métis people.
- Two youth think tank sessions were held. These allowed youth to explore and address barriers to employment and provide recommendations on engaging youth.
- A series of youth and client success stories were captured on video to be utilized for highlighting achievements.



The paddles created by veterans and youth were presented to the MNO Veterans' Council at the 2012 MNO AGA (left to right) MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette, Senator and Veteran Rene Gravelle and MNO Postsecondary Officer Benny Michaud.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AGREEMENT

The MNO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Education in 2008, which established the basis for cooperation between the MNO and the Ministry. The MOU provides for ongoing meetings between MNO and Ministry officials that identify areas for future cooperation. The Ministry provides funding for the MNO to advance several projects including: the Infinite Reach March break camp, Métis language projects, Métis Education Kits, teacher resource development, facilitated resource sessions and regional meetings between school district boards and MNO community councils.

Recent notable achievements:

- MNO staffing was expanded to include increased outreach to Métis students, parents, teachers, and district school boards. Métis language speakers came together to explore opportunities to expand language retention. Videos to assist with instruction were posted on the MNO website.
- Further improvements were made to the Métis Education Kits, with new resources and additional supports added. The new timeline banners are being distributed to MNO offices.
- Métis representatives on government Aboriginal Education Councils met in Hamilton in March 2013.
- In March 2013, the second Infinite Reach March break camp was held at the Canadian Ecology Center, Mattawa. The camp attracted 12 students from ten different communities along with Infinite Reach facilitators and MNO staff.

MINISTRY OF TRAINING, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AGREEMENT

The MNO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities in 2008, which established the basis for cooperation between the MNO and the Ministry. The MOU provides for ongoing meetings between MNO and Ministry officials that will identify areas for future cooperation. The Ministry provides funding for the MNO to advance several projects including: the Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network; student talking circles and meetings with MNO Senators; establishing MOUs and similar agreements with Ontario post-secondary institutions and the research and development of reports on best practices in post-secondary institutions as related to Métis students.

Recent notable achievements:

- The Infinite Reach program continues to grow. Specific projects have included Infinite Reach resource materials such as posters, email distribution lists, manuals and a section on the MNO's website.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Ministry of Education, Government of Ontario

Number of Staff: 5
(responsibilities shared with staff hired under Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Agreement).

Staff located in: Ottawa, Thunder Bay and Timmins

Eligible Clientele: Ontario K-12 students, teachers, administrators, school board officials, Education Ministry officials; MNO community councils and citizens; self-identifying Métis students and parents.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Government of Ontario (MTCU)

Number of Staff: 3 (shared with Ministry of Education Agreement).

Staff located in: Ottawa

Target Market: Ontario post-secondary students, instructors, administrators, Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities officials; MNO community councils and citizens; self-identifying Métis students and parents.s.



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04



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03

01: MNO Veterans' Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, CD, OMC, speaking at the 2013 MNO Infinite Reach March break camp in Mattawa.

02: Participants in the 2013 Métis Summer Student Interpreter Training.

03: PCMNO Region 3 Councillor Marcel Lafrance presents University of Sudbury President Peter Zundel with a gift at the 2012 MNO AGA.

04: A discussion at the Aboriginal Education Advisory Council meeting in November 2012.

05: MNO Manager of Education and Training, Dr. Chris Paci providing a "Métis 101" workshop for the Peel District School Board in May 2013.



05

- Twenty-two Infinite Reach facilitators were trained to engage incoming Métis students at the college or university and provide support by connecting new Métis students to available student services, Métis cultural events, and MNO community councils.
- An Infinite Reach facilitator session was held in Ottawa in January 2013.
- Sharing circles were held with Conestoga College, Wilfred Laurier University, and follow ups were held with Lakehead University, Confederation College and Algoma University.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Niagara College.



The MNO produces **Voyages** to highlight Métis labour market success stories.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT CANADA (FORMERLY OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL INTERLOCUTOR, OFI) AGREEMENT

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada provided the MNO with funding for several education policy projects.

Recent notable achievements:

- Knowledge mobilization of the research report by Dr. Susan Dion, York University, for MNO on Métis content in teacher education programs in Ontario was presented to the College of Ontario Universities, Council of Ontario Universities Deans of the Faculties of the Education, Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities-Ministry of Education review of the Teacher Certification program.
- Conducted research to examine the nature and structure of Métis Education and Cultural Institutions in Canada (draft report remains under review).
- Parent student community engagement sessions were held. This included presentations by MNO staff to seven regional community based sessions to share information and gather input on the needs of parents and students in Ontario's school system.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Government of Canada

Target Market: Federal government policy related to Métis education.

WAR OF 1812 SECRETARIAT, CANADIAN HERITAGE AGREEMENT, GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

The War of 1812 Secretariat provides funds to organizations focused on commemorating the War of 1812. This project is focused on bringing attention to the contributions of Métis people in the war effort as well as raising awareness of Ontario Métis history and culture more generally.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada

Target Market: Métis community, history culture and language in Ontario

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Government of Canada

Target Market: Métis youth, Senators and the community



▲ MNO Manager of Projects and Partnerships Scott Carpenter promoting Métis culture at an MNO community event.

Recent notable achievements:

- MNO contracted a researcher to delve into the history of Métis involvement in the War of 1812.
- Project funding will assist in acquiring resource materials and cultural displays and route information for the summer student cultural project.

"ASPIRING TO OUR HIGHEST POTENTIAL" - COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FOR ABORIGINAL YOUTH (CCAY)

Recent notable achievements:

- CCAY funding provided MNO with support for the MNO Youth Council to come together for a planning and priority setting session.
- Project involved holding two youth think tank sessions to explore employment barriers and examine strategies for greater youth engagement.
- A video was produced to highlight success stories, role model activity and generate greater interest from youth.



▲ MNO "Métis 101" workshop held for the Peel District School Board in May 2013.

NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIORS PADDLE PROJECT – CANADIAN HERITAGE

Recent notable achievements:

- New Horizons for Seniors supported a workshop and presentation at the 2012 AGA. The workshop brought Métis seniors and youth from different parts of Ontario together to network and paint paddles to represent Métis culture. The workshop was held in Kenora. The paddles were put on display at the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Sault Ste. Marie, and they are held by the MNO Veterans’ Council, MNO Youth Council, Women’s Secretariat, and in the MNO head office in Ottawa.

EMPLOYMENT IN ENERGY PROJECT NORTH (EIEPN)

The Employment in Energy Project North (EIEPN) program is a partnership with Northern College that provides students with both in-class training and work placements that prepare them for careers in the energy industry.

Recent notable achievements:

- Twelve participants were admitted into the second year of the program and an overall total of 31 participants are in the program.
- In total, nine candidates found employment before the end of the project.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funder: Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada

Target Market: Métis youth, Senators and the community

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Human Resources Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) Government of Canada (through ASETS) and Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU), Government of Ontario

Number of Staff: 1

Staff located in: Timmins

Eligible Clientele Self-identified Métis and other Aboriginal people

Target Market: Potential employers, industry sectors and education and training stakeholders

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Service Canada – Strategic Partnership Fund, Government of Canada

Number of Staff: 6

Staff located in: Midland, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay

Eligible Clientele: Self-identified Métis and other Aboriginal people



NAVIGATING EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS (NEP)

Building on the success of the Ready to Work Tourism and Hospitality Program, the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) launched the new Navigating Employment Pathways Program (NEP), funded in part by the Government of Canada. The program is a partnership between the MNO and the Ontario Tourism Education Corporation (OTEC).

The program is designed to provide industry specific training to Aboriginal people looking for a career in the tourism and hospitality sector. The program is offered at four sites: Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, and Midland. This fully funded training opportunity was offered twice a year.

The program is comprised of two training components. The first is ten weeks of classroom training where participants gain certifications in Tourism Essentials, Service Excellence, Food Safety, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) and Smart Serve. Participants then take these skills and apply them during the second component, which is a paid work placement. During the work placement, participants will begin to log their work hours towards the second step of the Emerit National Professional Certification Process, bringing them one step closer to becoming a Certified Tourism Professional.

Recent notable achievements:

- As of March 31, there were 115 participants registered in the project.
- Participants completed the following certifications:
 - 97 Tourism Essentials
 - 99 Service Excellence
 - 90 Food Safety
 - 91 WHMIS
 - 49 Smart Serve
 - 26 Emerit
- A new partnership has been established with the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel. This partner has committed to take two to four placements per intake.

MÉTIS MINING STRATEGY (MMS)

The mining sector is providing growing opportunities in Ontario to Métis and other Aboriginal peoples who have historically been underrepresented in the labour force. The Métis Mining Strategy (MMS) is focused on providing skills development and placement opportunities for Métis to become employed in the mining sector. MNO is building partnerships with industry partners, mining companies, and post-secondary institutions to offer guidance and support to project implementation. The project enhances flexibility in the areas of study that can be covered through direct funding assistance. Areas of study can range from diploma programs to graduate level as long as the skills development is leading toward a career in mining.

Recent notable achievements:

- Although the first year of the program was abbreviated, eight clients were still funded.
- An Advisory Committee was set up with key mining sector employers, educational institutions and other MNO branch staff.
- As of March 31, 18 students had applied to fill 52 spots.

EMPLOYMENT IN MINING PROJECT-DETOUR (EIM)

In 2012, the MNO signed an Impact Benefit Agreement with Detour Gold to ensure that Métis people, along with Métis businesses, benefit from the Detour Lake mine.

The Employment in Mining Project-Detour (EIM) is a partnership between the MNO and Detour Gold that actively supports the recruitment of Métis people for employment at Detour Gold. Detour Gold offers a range of positions in a variety of disciplines to fulfill individual career goals.

The MNO and Detour Gold are also working together to allow Métis businesses to take advantage of contracting and subcontracting opportunities at the mine site.

Recent notable achievements:

- As of March 31, the MNO EIM project received 17 applications from MNO citizens.
- The MNO EIM project received 13 applications from self-identified Métis.
- The MNO received 54 job postings as part of the EIM project.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Service Canada – Strategic Partnership Fund, Government of Canada

Number of Staff: 2

Staff located in: Toronto, Thunder Bay and Sudbury

Eligible Clientele : Self-identified Métis and other Aboriginal people

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Detour Gold Impact and Benefits Agreement

Number of Staff: 1

Staff located in: Cochrane

Eligible Clientele: MNO Citizens and other Self-identified Métis

Target Market: Métis



02



01: MNO Region One consultation committee touring Red Lake Gold Mine wetlands in the spring of 2013.

02: MNO hosted Advanced Traditional Knowledge Collection Training for Métis youth near Thunder Bay on March 23-24, 2012.

03: Participants of the Métis Traditional Knowledge forum hosted by the MNO in Thunder Bay on March 27-28, 2012.

04: Members of MNO Grand River Métis Council and MNO Credit River Métis Council participating in Governance and Finance training. (left to right) Front row: Bridget Brown, Carol Levis, Karen Derocher, Darlene Lent, Barbara Lair; Middle row: Glen Lipinski, Jennifer Parkinson, Joyce Tolles, Jean-Marc Maheu, Richard Cuddy, Cora Bunn, Hank Rowlinson; Back: Bill Morrison, Ray Bergie, David Neville and Don Crawford.

03



04



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO BRANCHES LANDS, RESOURCES AND CONSULTATIONS

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch serves as a centre of excellence for technical expertise related to Métis rights, way of life, environmental impacts, policies and regulations, and resource-related developments. MNO LRC staff provide critical capacity support to Métis communities across Ontario to ensure the Crown's Duty to Consult and Accommodation are met.

In line with *The Statement of Prime Purpose*, the LRC Branch's objectives are:

- Be a "one-window" contact for MNO consultation.
- Triage and prioritize incoming requests for consultation to identify an acceptable level of MNO involvement in project development, municipal planning, mining exploration and government policy.
- Effectively manage MNO involvement in major project assessments.
- Hold regional workshops and/or provincial conferences to educate and train MNO citizens on consultation, assessment and accommodation issues.
- Initiate and carry-out MNO Traditional Land use studies.

"...re-establish land
and resource bases."

— From the Métis Nation of Ontario
Statement of Prime Purpose

BRANCH DETAILS

Number of Staff: 15

Staff located in: Fort
Frances, Guelph, Midland,
Ottawa, Owen Sound,
Sudbury, Thunder Bay,
Timmins, Toronto and
Welland

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Ministry of
Aboriginal Affairs,
Government of Ontario

Number of Staff: 13

Staff located in: Fort Frances,
Guelph, Midland, Ottawa,
Sudbury, Thunder Bay,
Timmins, Toronto and Welland

Eligible Clientele: MNO
Community Councils and
PCMNO Regional Councillors



MNO Region One consultation
committee touring Atikokan
power plant in the spring of
2013.

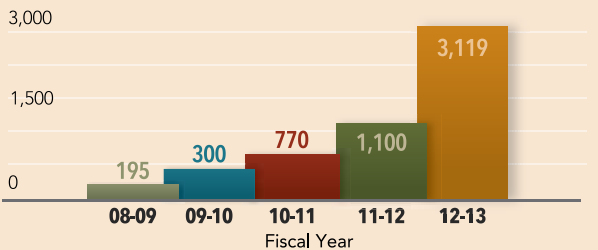
NEW RELATIONSHIP FUND (NRF) CORE AND ENHANCED CAPACITY FUNDING

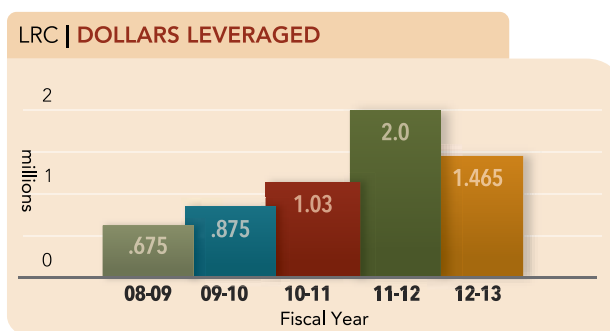
The main focus of the Government of Ontario New Relationship Fund (NRF) is to assist Métis and First Nations communities build fundamental consultation and engagement capacity, so they can better engage with governments and the private sector on lands and resources issues. Through NRF funding the MNO has developed multi-year consultation plans, trained staff, conducted Traditional Knowledge and Métis Way of Life studies, gatherings, interviews and related activities and developed a large number of communications resources.

Recent notable achievements:

- As the charts indicate, the MNO experienced a major increase in the number of consultations notices processed this year.
- In 2012-13, approximately \$1.5 million was leveraged from proponents and other stakeholders (see “Additional funding” and “WOLF” sections that follow).
- Five funding agreements were negotiated with proponents (see “Additional funding” section).
- Over 3,000 project notices were processed and disseminated to their respective consultation committees.
- The MNO was awarded nine federal government funding agreements for consultation and engagement.
- The MNO submitted 42 comments and/or reports regarding projects.
- The MNO delivered inter-branch collaboration, issues and opportunities training, for nine consultation committees.
- Traditional knowledge collection training sessions were conducted.
- Traditional knowledge group interviews were held in Kenora.

LRC | NOTICES RECEIVED AND PROCESSED





Dollars Leveraged from Proponents for Consultation Costs

The revenue in 2011-12 was markedly higher compared 2012-13 because in the previous fiscal year a major Impact Benefits Agreement (IBA) was signed, which increased the overall pace of revenue. There were no similar agreements signed in the 2012-13 fiscal year.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING OBTAINED TO SUPPORT CORE CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES:

MNO LRC staff work with MNO communities on consultation activities and obtain additional funding from proponents and government to support MNO communities in core consultation activities.

This funding can be divided broadly into three categories:

- Federal government support to engage in consultative processes.
- Proponent support to engage in consultation processes through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs):
 - MOUs have been established with some proponents to provide support to the potentially impacted regional, rights-bearing Métis communities, such that the community can be properly consulted in order to determine the potential impacts of the project to the community's Métis rights, Way of Life and interests.
 - These MOUs are specific to projects that are located throughout the province and therefore different communities are involved in different MOU activities. These arrangements include:
 - Nuclear Waste Management, Adaptive Phase Management
 - Bow Lake Windfarm
 - Bruce Power
 - Ontario Graphite
 - Hydro One Networks Inc.
- Proponent support to engage in consultative processes (through direct meeting support).
 - Regardless of the proponent, direct meeting support is utilized in the same fashion, to cover the expenses of an regional consultation committee to attend a meeting with the proponent.
 - Support of this type was leveraged for at least 56 meetings across the province in 2012-13.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Government of Canada (various departments including Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Environment Canada, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency [CEAA]); Nuclear Waste Management Organization (Adaptive Phased Management); Hydro One Networks Inc.; Ontario Graphite; Bruce Power; Bow Lake Wind Farm; Ontario Government (Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Transportation).

Number of Staff: See NRF funding (previous section)

Staff located in: See NRF funding (previous section)

Eligible Clientele: MNO Community Councils and PCMNO Regional Councillors



▲
Métis knowledge holders meet in Kenora to discuss the Métis way of life.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Government of Ontario; Environment Canada, Government of Canada

Number of Staff: 4 of the 15 full-time staff identified under NRF

Staff are located in: Fort Frances, Guelph, Thunder Bay and Toronto

Eligible Clientele: MNO Community Councils and PCMNO Regional Councillors

Recent notable achievements:

- Recognition of Métis rights and contributions in Lake of the Woods Watershed and the Great Lakes International Joint Commission.
- Engagement with certification activities of the Forest Stewardship Council.
- Engaged with Ontario Ministry of Transportation on consultation with respect to new highway development.
- Began formal engagement with proponents involved in Ontario's Ring of Fire area.
- Obtained municipal recognition by inclusion in long-term official plan for Owen Sound.
- Engaged in formal hearings related to quarrying, nuclear licensing, oil pipelines, transmission right of ways and the first joint federal provincial mine assessment.
- In 2012 MNO LRC staff put a large focus on working concurrently on multiple project deliverables to deliver faster results.
 - Put out a Request for Abbreviated Proposals and created standing offer agreements with highly specialized and comprehensive service firms in the areas of Traditional Knowledge studies and technical reviews
- The MNO LRC Branch underwent restructuring that increased efficiency in branch operations.

WAY OF LIFE FRAMEWORK (WOLF)

The objectives of the Way of Life Framework (WOLF) are to gather Métis Traditional Knowledge, conduct historical research, and provide training to MNO communities on Métis rights and Way of Life. To accomplish these goals WOLF conducts Traditional Knowledge and Land Use (TKLU) studies, an annual survey of MNO harvesters, and participates in the MNO/MNR policy dialogue table.

Recent notable achievements:

WOLF has carried out consultation-driven Traditional Knowledge and Land Use (TKLU) studies. Studies included interviews with knowledge holders, drafting reports and archiving study data. Studies continued and/or undertaken in 2012-13 were:

- Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Little Jackfish TKLU Study (21 knowledge holders, Region Two) (complete).
- Stillwater Canada TKLU Study (21 knowledge holders, Region Two) (complete).
- Osisko/Rubicon Minerals TKLU Study (30 knowledge holders, Region One) (complete).
- OPG Lower Mattagami / New Post Creek TKLU Study (20-30 knowledge holders, Region Three) (in progress).
- OPG Deep Geological Repository TKLU Study (approximately 20 knowledge holders, Region Seven) (complete).

- The 2012 MNO Harvesters survey was completed.
- Traditional Knowledge group interviews (two sessions) were held on the Phoenix Gold Project. Ten knowledge holders were interviewed in Kenora.
- A Youth-Senator Knowledge Exchange workshop was held (60 participants).
- Traditional Knowledge Collection Training on Traditional Knowledge and Land Use studies was delivered to two groups of participants (30 participants in total).
- A Way of Life colouring book was produced to engage youth.
- A Way of Life fact sheet was produced to engage government and industry (the Way of Life pamphlet produced in 2011-12 was also updated and re-printed).
- A Knowledge Holder survey was distributed to all MNO households. This survey provided a means for identifying knowledge holders who may want to participate in Traditional Knowledge and land use studies and/or knowledge exchange events.
- Four meetings of the MNO/MNR Policy Dialogue Table were held.
- A joint MNO/MNR Captains of the Hunt (COTH)/Knowledge Holder Workshop was held.



▲
MNO Community Relations Coordinator Glen Lipinski with MNO Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy at an MNO Community Relations training workshop.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) operates in accordance with written Charter Agreements at the community level which play a direct role in determining the progress towards the MNO's values and will set the stage for effective self-government and economic development. Central to all of these efforts is respect for accountability, transparency and good governance.

MNO Community Relations staff work to ensure that Métis people are fully engaged and informed throughout the consultation process and that strong relationships are formed and maintained between the MNO, regional consultation committees and MNO Chartered Community Councils. Community Relations liaises with the community councils and provides resources and training that assist them in their local governance roles (see MNO Chartered Community Councils section for more details).

MNO Community Relations staff serve as a focal point for dialogue with the community councils to assist with strengthening capacity, enhance governance structures and work with councils on the day-to-day operations that move the MNO towards greater self-government.

■ Asset Mapping

A major focus of Community Relations staff in 2012-13 was the Asset Mapping exercise. This exercise required collaboration with both elected officials and MNO staff at the community level, provided the opportunity to recognize what is working and what needs to be improved to meet the needs of all MNO citizens.

MNO Community Relations staff commenced the interviewing process on January 23 and completed the exercise on March 6. Two hundred and fifty participants were interviewed.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (NRF)

Number of Staff: 2 of the 14 full-time staff identified under NRF

Staff located in: Ottawa and Welland

Eligible Clientele: MNO Community Councils, MNO Citizens, All MNO Branches



▲
LRC publications produced in 2012-13.

Results from the asset mapping exercise will generate a review to make internal improvements. The data will be compiled and used as the MNO approaches the government for requisite funding to address key issues identified in the process.

■ Recent notable achievements:

- Conducted Meetings and Negotiations training on October 28, 2012 for the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council.
- MNO Community Relations staff held Governance and Finance training for MNO community councils from October 2012- April 2013. The following councils participated:
 - MNO North Bay Métis Council
 - MNO Mattawa Métis Council
 - MNO Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council
 - MNO Moon River Métis Council
 - MNO Grand River Métis Council
 - MNO Credit River Métis Council
 - MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council
 - MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council
 - MNO North Channel Métis Council
- Conducted New Relationship Fund training for Regions One and Two on February 23, 2013 in Thunder Bay.
- Assisted with the 2012/13 elections of the MNO Senators and Women's Secretariat of the MNO.
- Assisted with the following MNO community council elections:
 - MNO Northern Lights Métis Council
 - MNO Niagara Region Métis Council
 - MNO Grand River Métis Council
 - MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council
 - MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council
 - MNO Credit River Métis Council
 - MNO Moon River Métis Council
 - MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council
- MNO Community Relations staff, with the assistance of the MNO Registry Branch, provided 110 citizenship verification requests as of March 31. Verifications are required for community elections or for councils looking to fill vacancies on council.
- MNO LRC staff participated in approximately 24 community council Annual General Meetings or other meetings to answer questions and resolve concerns.
- Assisted six different councils in resolving conflicts at the council level which lead to the clarification of the roles of individual council members. Fielded over 1,600 phone calls and received approximately 2,800 emails generating approximately 1,900 responses from community councils, citizens, regional councillors, PCMNO Executive, other MNO branch staff or other organizations.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO AGENCY INFINITY PROPERTY SERVICES

Infinity Property Services, an agency of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), operates under fee-for-service contracted agreements to provide property management and program management on behalf of federal, provincial, and municipal governments. Infinity Property Services is self-sustaining, which means its operations are not maintained through grants or funding agreements but rather through result-based contracts payable to the MNO for work performed. All profits from revenues generated are reinvested into the MNO Secretariat to assist in repayment of the debt load and contribute to any operational costs.

Infinity Property Services continued to pursue new contract opportunities in 2012-13 in the property management and program administration sectors by developing business proposals and maintaining good relationships with local municipal governments. Furthermore, Infinity Property Services pursues housing related funding, such as capital, to build or acquire social housing units, and operating funding, for rent subsidies, for consideration for building Métis specific housing.

During 2012-13, Infinity Property Services phased out programs including the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program and the Building System and Technical Advisor Internship Program (BSTAIP). Infinity Property Services is excited about new opportunities and revenue streams of the Housing Assistance and Aboriginal Conservation Programs taking shape in 2013-14. These two new partnerships with Greensavers and First Nations Engineering enable development of Infinity Property Services' new business line in energy auditing.

RURAL AND NATIVE HOUSING PROGRAM (RNHP)

Infinity Property Services provides property management and administration for the Rural and Native Housing Program (RNHP) under a fee-for-service contract with Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHSC). The RNHP provides decent affordable rental housing to low-income families living in rural communities. Infinity Property Services is responsible for the Thunder Bay, Kenora and Rainy River districts, known as the Thunder Bay Portfolio; and parts of Sudbury, Nipissing and Parry Sound Districts, known as the North Bay Portfolio.

“...develop prosperity
and economic self-
sufficiency within the
Métis Nation.”

– From the Métis Nation of Ontario
Statement of Prime Purpose

BRANCH DETAILS

Number of Staff: 9

Staff located in: Innisfil,
Thunder Bay

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Service Canada
– Administration and fee-for-
service contract with Ontario
Aboriginal Housing Services
Corporation (OAHSC)

Number of Staff: 9

Staff located in: Innisfil,
Thunder Bay

Eligible Clientele: Low income
Métis, other Aboriginal people
and non-Aboriginal families



▲ In 2012, distinct branding was developed for Infinity Property Services.

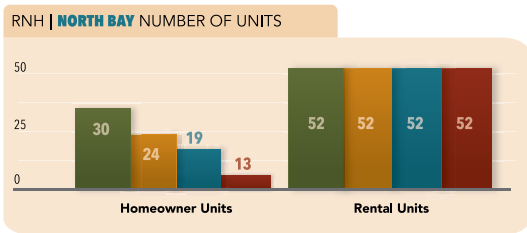
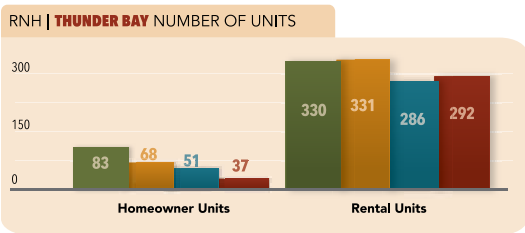
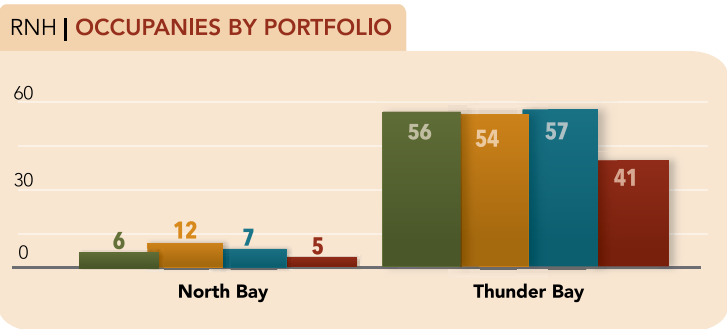
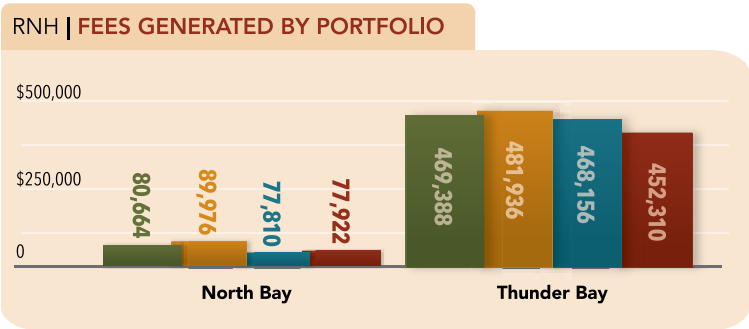


▲ Infinity Property Services puts customer service first.

Recent notable achievements:

Currently, the MNO manages 344 rental units and 52 homeowner unit subsidies (this component of RNH is no longer available for new applications). Infinity Property Services' successes include:

- Generation of \$ 530,232 of income for the MNO.
- Provision of affordable housing for 46 families.



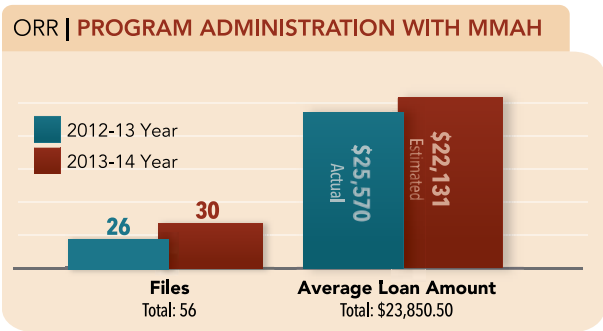
ONTARIO RENOVATES – REMOTE (ORR)

Infinity Property Services is program administrator for the Ontario Renovates – Remote (ORR) component of the Investment in Affordable Housing Program (IAH). This program is designed to provide low-income homeowners with financial assistance to repair, rehabilitate, and/or modify substandard housing to meet a minimum level of health and safety. The funds are specifically targeted to communities with a population of 2,500 or less. The maximum amount available for a household is \$50,000 and is completely forgivable over ten years as long as the client remains the owner of the home. In addition, up to \$3,500 can be obtained for accessible upgrades to the home without any commitment to repay.

As program administrator, Infinity Property Services is responsible for receiving, processing and approving applications, inspecting, preparation of scope of work, disbursement of funds and legal registration of mortgage or recording of promissory note.

Infinity Property Services approved and funded repairs and accessible upgrades in the following areas:

- Thunder Bay
 - Muskoka
 - Rainy River
 - Parry Sound
 - Kenora
- Nipissing
 - Algoma
 - Haliburton County
 - Cochrane
 - Simcoe



Recent notable achievements:

- Infinity Property Services delivered a full 12-month funding allocation of \$750,000 in only three months.
- Infinity Property Services received \$74,750 from Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) for administration of the program on behalf of MMAH and the province of Ontario.
- Since the execution of the agreement with MMAH, Infinity Property Services has assisted applicants in repairing and modifying their homes.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)– Administration and fee-for-service contract

Number of Staff: 4

Staff located in: Innisfil, Thunder Bay

Eligible Clientele :Low income Métis, other Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal homeowners and seniors



Infinity Property Services offers clients a full range of property management services.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Ontario Power Authority (OPA), Province of Ontario; Tripartite Funding, Province of Ontario, Aboriginal Skills and Strategic Investment Fund, Province of Ontario

Number of Staff: 2

Staff located in: Thunder Bay

Eligible Clientele: Self-identified Métis, other Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people with a grade 12 diploma or equivalent and demonstrable experience in trades or construction



▲
Infinity Property Services staff have over 60 years of combined experience in providing social housing services to Ontario people.

BUILDING SYSTEMS AND TECHNICAL ADVISOR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (BSTAIP)

The Building Systems Technical Advisor Internship Program (BSTAIP) was designed to develop a workforce of highly skilled building inspection and energy conservation advisors that will be leaders in the current trends influencing housing. Participants learned about:

- Construction materials and techniques, energy efficiencies, heating systems, and plumbing related to residential housing.
- Project management
- Enhanced client services
- Energy audits

Unique features of this two-year program included an emphasis on Métis culture, cross-cultural communication, and applied research in energy efficiencies and green technologies. The intent was that, upon successful completion of the BSTAIP, the graduates would be positioned for full-time employment in the housing industry or other provincial housing providers.

BSTAIP was intended to enable sustainable reductions in electricity usage in residential homes on a longer term basis. The vision was to effectively integrate new policies, procedures and programs into the umbrella public strategies.

Recent notable achievements:

- BSTAIP participants obtained long term employment in the energy conservation sector either through the MNO directly, through project partners or through other organizations and companies involved in the field.
- One Intern received Eco Energy Training and progressed to next stage in certification process through NRCan.
- One intern was offered full-time position within the Infinity Property Services.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO BRANCHES REGISTRY

The MNO Registry Branch works with, and within, the national definition of Métis, to research, publish, and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis. The Registry Branch is responsible to provide:

- Responsive, efficient and effective registry service to citizens and applicants.
- Accountability and transparency in registry operations.
- Citizens and applicants with a clear understanding of citizenship requirements.
- Safety and security of the registry database.
- Secure storage of registry files to ensure the physical safety and integrity the files.

More information on the MNO Registry Branch can be found in the Métis Registration and Identification section of this Annual Report.

Recent notable achievements:

- In 2012 – 2013, the Registry Branch made huge inroads in the Root Families project. This genealogical information about Métis families will be made available to citizens and applicants on the MNO website.
- The Registry Branch processed a total of 675 citizenship cards while simultaneously processing 485 replacement cards.

“...research, publish and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and maintain a registry of the Métis citizens of Ontario.”

– From the Métis Nation of Ontario
Statement of Prime Purpose

BRANCH DETAILS

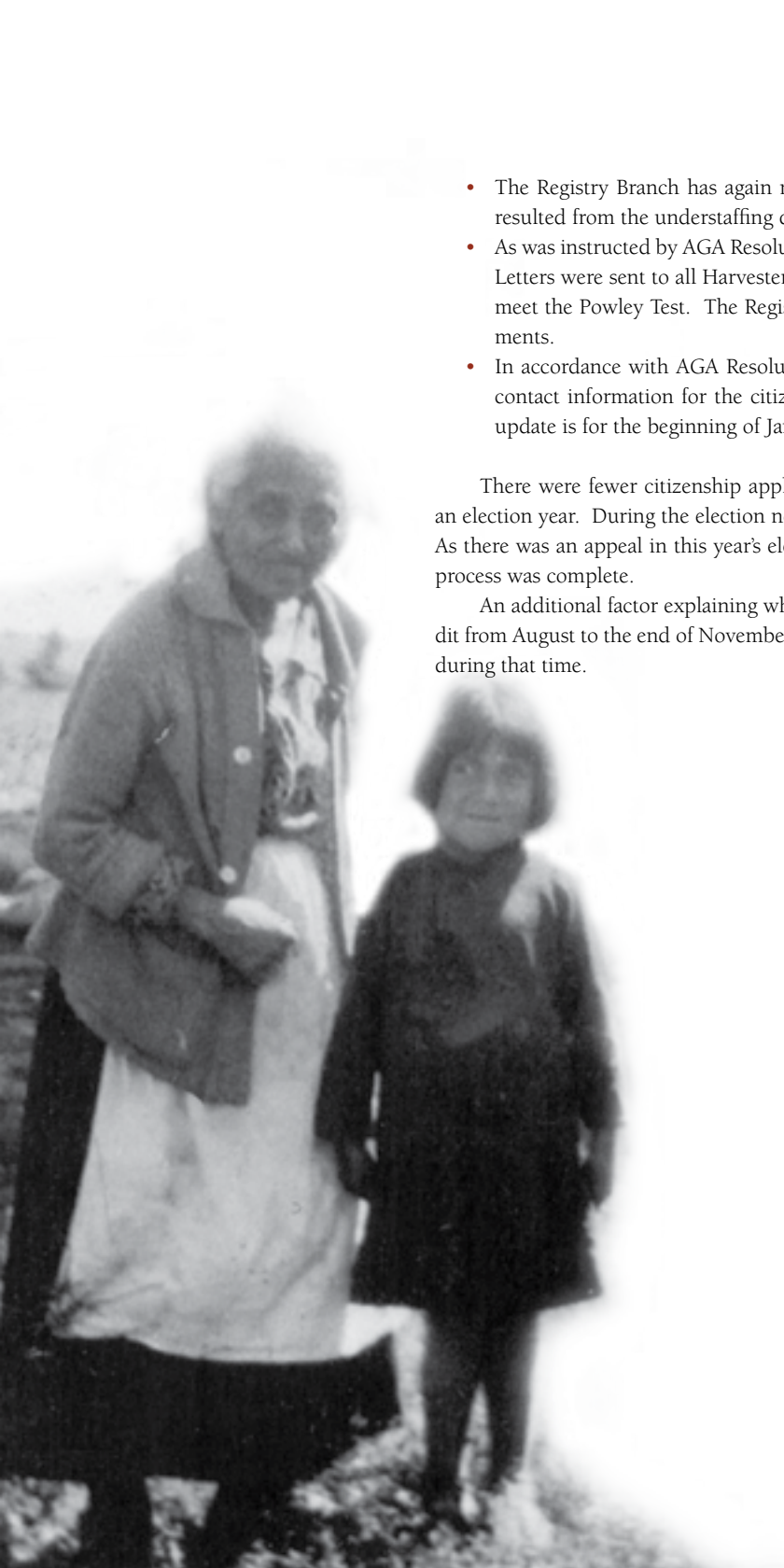
Funder: Office of the
Federal Interlocutor (OFI)

Number of Staff: 8

Staff located in: Ottawa

Eligible Clientele: MNO
citizens and citizenship
applicants

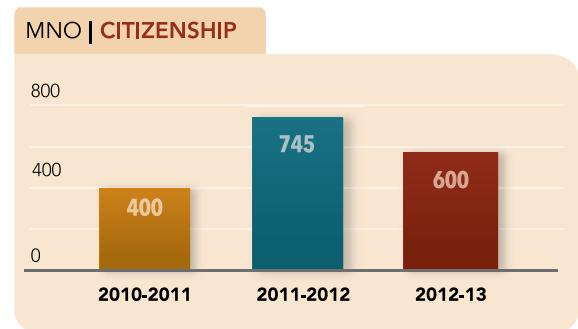




- The Registry Branch has again made significant progress in processing the backlog of applications that resulted from the understaffing during 2010-2011.
- As was instructed by AGA Resolution 2012-003, an internal audit of all MNO harvest files was completed. Letters were sent to all Harvesters requesting submission of documents required in order for their files to meet the Powley Test. The Registry Branch continues to work with all Harvesters to meet these requirements.
- In accordance with AGA Resolution 2012-009 all Community Councils were provided with up to date contact information for the citizens within their council, at the beginning of July. The next scheduled update is for the beginning of January.

There were fewer citizenship applications approved in 2012-13 compared to 2011-12 because 2012 was an election year. During the election no new citizenships are approved to avoid any changes to the electors list. As there was an appeal in this year's elections no changes could be made to the list of electors until the appeal process was complete.

An additional factor explaining why fewer citizenship applications were approved is that the Harvester Audit from August to the end of November 2012 monopolized Registry staff time so no citizenships were processed during that time.



2013 participants and judges in Generation Innovation Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge: (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.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Intergovernmental relations is the responsibility of the elected leadership of the MNO and is managed on a day-to-day basis by the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) with the assistance of MNO senior staff as required. The Director of Intergovernmental Relations facilitates meetings and serves as a staff liaison with other governments and agencies.

Intergovernmental Relations Branch (IGR) staff provide Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) liaison with government ministries, departments, agencies and stakeholders. MNO IGR staff support many initiatives including the Tripartite, MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement and Mattawa/Nipissing Research processes. In 2012-13, in addition to creating the successful funding proposals for the above processes, IGR staff secured funding for the following:

- The MNO election and byelection
- Basic Organization Capacity
- The MNO Generation Innovation project
- The New Relationship Fund core consultation capacity and enhanced capacity.
- Mining capacity support
- Mining Development Advisors
- MNO Human Resources Branch and Gap Analysis.
- Associate Deputy Minister working group processes.
- The development of a cultural portal and engagement processes with the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

IRG staff is also responsible for soliciting and coordinating sponsorship for the annual MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) and organizes MNO's provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony at Queen's Park.

“...gain the recognition and respect of the Métis as a Nation and a people.”

— From the Métis Nation of Ontario
Statement of Prime Purpose

BRANCH DETAILS

Funder: This Branch primarily obtains funding utilized by other MNO Branches

Number of Staff: 1

Staff located in: Toronto

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Government of Ontario

Eligible Clientele: MNO Community Councils; PCMNO Regional Councillors; MNO citizens

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Office of the Federal Interlocutor (OFI), Government of Canada

Eligible Clientele: MNO Community Councils; PCMNO Regional Councillors; MNO citizens

Some of the speakers at the 2012 Louis Riel Day Provincial Ceremony in Queen's Park (left to right) MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride, Michael Prue, MPP for Beaches-East York, PCMNO Postsecondary Representative Jennifer Henry, Métis lawyer and ancestor of Louis Riel, Jean Teillet, the Honourable Chris Bentley, then Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and MNO President Gary Lipinski.

CORE BILATERAL FUNDING AGREEMENT

The Core Bilateral Funding Agreement provides basic core capacity to the MNO. It also provides the funding to conduct bilateral relations with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, produce the MNO Annual Report, stage the MNO AGA and conduct the MNO audit.

Recent notable achievements:

- The 2011-12 MNO Annual Report was completed and distributed to all MNO citizens via the Métis Voyageur newspaper.
- The 2012 MNO AGA was held in Sault Ste. Marie in August, 2012.
- The 2011-12 MNO annual audit was completed and approved at the 2012 AGA.
- MNO general election was held on May 7, 2012 and the byelection was completed for Region Five in September 2012.

BASIC ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The Basic Organizational Capacity funding agreement provides funding to support basic core services to the MNO including partial funding for the AGA and PCMNO meetings.

Recent notable achievements:

- PCMNO, Executive and finance meetings were held throughout the last fiscal year.
- The 2012 MNO AGA was held in Sault Ste. Marie in August, 2012.



TRIPARTITE FUNDING

The Tripartite funding agreement is a joint project of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) and the Office of the Federal Interlocutor (OFI). For the last three years, Tripartite funding has been dedicated to economic development and the start-up of Infinity Property Services, an agency of the MNO (see section Infinity Property Services).

Recent notable achievements:

- A General Manager for Infinity Property Services was hired in 2012-13.
- A transition, marketing and implementation plan for Infinity Property Services was developed.

MINERAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATORS

This agreement came late in the fiscal year and provided the necessary funding to employ two technically knowledgeable Mineral Development Coordinators to support and advise the community councils and consultation committees that receive notices pursuant to the *Mining Act* and its regulations.



PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Office of the Federal Interlocutor (OFI), Government of Canada and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

Number of Staff: 3

Staff located in: Thunder Bay

Eligible Clientele: MNO citizens

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM), Government of Ontario

Number of Staff: 2

Staff located in: Timmins and one other location TBD

Eligible Clientele: MNO citizens

These long-time dedicated MNO citizens were recognized at the 2012 MNO AGA with Queen's Jubilee Medals (Left to right) Senator Bob McKay, MNO Chair France Picotte, MNO Northwest Métis Council President Alvina Cimon, Senator Joseph Poitras, Senator Ruth Wagner.



01



04



05



02

01: MNO President Gary Lipinski speaks with Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne at 2013 PDAC conference.

02: The MNO was joined by several dignitaries at the 2013 provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony at Queen's Park. Pictures here (left to right) are MNO President Lipinski with the Honourable Chris Bentley, who was Minister of Aboriginal Affairs at the time, and Speaker Dave Levac, who is the first Métis Speaker on the Ontario Legislature.

03: Traditional Métis dancers from Sault Ste. Marie performing at the Sharing Our Pride: An Evening of Métis Storytelling and Cultural Performance, which was one of the highlights of the 2012 MNO AGA.

04: Procession to the 1885 Riel Rebellion Monument at Queen's Park during the 2012 Louis Riel Day ceremony. Leading the procession is (left to right) MNO President Gary Lipinski, PCMNO Senator Joseph Poitras and MNOVC President Joseph Paquette.

05: Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between MNO and Union Gas at the 2012 Annual General Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie.

06: Dr. Brenda McDougall, Chair of Métis Studies at the University of Ottawa, speaking at the Law Society of Upper Canada on Louis Riel Day 2012.



03



06

GAP ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION OF GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The Gap Analysis and Resolution of Governance Issues funding agreement is in its second year. It provided funding for the MNO to further the work carried out in the 2012-13 fiscal year to address a number of key corporate gaps and policies that required expert advice and concrete solutions.

■ Recent notable achievements:

- A draft MNO Economic Development Policy was produced for consideration and approval at the 2012 AGA.
- A MNO Corporate Restructuring Action Plan was developed based on an approved MNO economic development model.
- A MNO Economic Development Business Model and Sustainability Plan was developed to support and maintain new MNO corporate structures.

ELECTION READINESS

The Election Readiness funding agreement provided the MNO with capacity to prepare for the May 7, 2012 election. The Electoral Officer and Deputy Chief Electoral Officer were hired to commence their work in preparation for the MNO election and polling Clerks and Returning Officers were secured for each of the polling stations. The funding also allowed the MNO to conduct the election appeal process required following the May 7, 2012 election.

■ Recent notable achievements:

- MNO election took place May 7, 2012.

MNO BYELECTION

The byelection funding agreement provided the MNO with capacity to hold a byelection for Region Five, retain the services of a lead investigator to render a decision on the Region Five appeal, retain the services of the Electoral Officer and Deputy Chief Electoral Officer and prepare the final election report.

■ Recent notable achievements:

- MNO byelection took place and a regional councillor for Region Five was elected.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Office of the Federal Interlocutor (OFI), Government of Canada

Eligible Clientele: MNO citizens

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Office of the Federal Interlocutor (OFI), Government of Canada

Eligible Clientele: MNO citizens

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Office of the Federal Interlocutor (OFI), Government of Canada

Eligible Clientele: MNO citizens

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Government of Ontario

Number of Staff: 1

Staff located in: Sudbury

Eligible Clientele: MNO Community Councils, PCMNO Regional Councillors, MNO citizens

MINERAL SECTOR CAPACITY

The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines provided additional capacity to the MNO for a mining support staff position and activities related to the mining sector.

Recent notable achievements:

- The MNO relationship with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines was strengthened and technical support came from the Ministry to MNO communities.
- MNO President Lipinski and the PCMNO regional councillors from Regions One through Five attended the annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) convention.
- Proponent collaborative workshops were held in Timmins and Thunder Bay with Regions One through Five regional consultation committees, industry proponents and Métis businesses.



▲
MNO delegates at the 2013 PDAC conference with Minister Gravelle. (left to right) Front row: Marlene Davidson, President of the MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council; Juliette Denis, PCMNO Region 5 Councillor; the Honourable Michael Gravelle, Ontario Minister of Northern Developments and Mines; Gary Lipinski, President of MNO; Theresa Stenlund, PCMNO Region 1 Councillor; Back row: Marc Laurin, President of MNO North Bay Métis Council; Cam Burgess, PCMNO Region 2 Councillor; Nelson Montreuil, President of MNO Mattawa Métis Council; Ernie Gatien, PCMNO Region 4 Councillor; Nina Henley, Secretary-Treasurer for the MNO Kenora Métis Council.

MATTAWA RESEARCH CAPACITY

This agreement provided MNO with capacity to participate in a tripartite process with the provincial and federal governments to conduct research in the Mattawa/Nipissing area. The research partners will consider this research in attempting to reach a consensus conclusion as to whether or not the Powley criteria are met in this region.

Recent notable achievements:

- A Memorandum of Agreement between the MNO, Ontario and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to work together on the Part A Phase 3 research has been developed for signature of the parties.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Government of Ontario

Number of Staff: .25

Staff located in: Toronto

Eligible Clientele: MNO citizens, in particular those in the Mattawa/Nipissing area

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM (GENERATION INNOVATION)

In 2012-13, the MNO in partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation and its sponsors launched the second year of an exciting program for Métis youth in Ontario. Generation Innovation: Métis Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge is a project designed to provide Métis youth (aged 18-29) with confidence, motivation and, above all, concrete business skills and mentoring.

The Generation Innovation project provided young Métis with the opportunity to apply to participate in a competition modeled after the popular television program The Dragon's Den, where they pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges with strong business backgrounds.

Recent notable achievements:

- On March 16 and 17, 2013, eight Generation Innovation applicants received face-to-face business training to supplement the on-line training provided by the GoForth Institute.
- At the end of their training business plans were submitted and three finalists were chosen to pitch their businesses ideas to the judges in the Generation Innovation final competition on March 25, 2012.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation, Province of Ontario; Union Gas, Royal Bank, Nuclear Waste Management and many Métis businesses in Ontario.

Eligible Clientele: All self-identified Métis youth ages 18-29



▲
President Lipinski with Minister Gravelle at the 2012 PDAC conference.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Office of the Federal Interlocutor (OFI), Government of Canada

Number of Staff: 7.75 and a Contract Genealogist

Eligible Clientele: MNO citizens

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA)

Eligible Clientele: MNO Citizens



▲
Métis Lawyer, Jean Teillet speaking at the Law Society of Upper Canada on Louis Riel Day 2012.

MNO REGISTRY FUNDING (ESTABLISHMENT OF OBJECTIVE AND VERIFIABLE MÉTIS IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS)

This Powley A funding agreement provides the necessary resources to maintain the MNO Registry. The funding also provided the MNO with the opportunity to hold the Métis rights presentation and genealogy workshop in Sudbury on March 26 - 28, 2013.

See Registry section for more details.

Recent notable achievements:

- Métis rights presentation and genealogy workshop was held in Sudbury on March 26 - 28, 2013.

NRF ENHANCED CAPACITY - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

The Economic Development Coordinator Enhanced NRF Project allowed the MNO to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) toolkit that can be used by regional consultation committees to assist them in their negotiations with proponents and to train new consultation committee members. In addition, it allowed the MNO to develop a training package on Duty to Consult - Legal Considerations when Negotiating IBAs and other proponent agreements. Training will be carried out in the 2013-14 fiscal year for the regions that are immediately impacted in the negotiation of MOUs, IBAs or letters of intent.

Recent notable achievements:

- A MOU/IBA Toolkit was produced for consultation committees immediately involved in negotiations with proponents.
- A training tool was developed for delivery in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION INTRODUCTORY ENGAGEMENT

The Ministry of Transportation provided funding for an introductory engagement session with the MNO Executive and regional councillors as a start in building a positive, respectful relationship with the MNO and its citizens.

■ Recent notable achievements:

- Introductory engagement session was held on November 17, 2012 in Toronto.

CULTURAL PLANNING ENGAGEMENT

The Cultural Planning agreement provided funding to organize a meeting on cultural planning. The engagement brought together community representatives to discuss cultural planning practices in Métis communities, their unique characteristics, goals, priorities and needs.

■ Recent notable achievements:

- Meeting took place on November 27, 2012 in Toronto.

CULTURAL PORTAL

The Cultural Portal funding agreement crosses over into the 2013-14 fiscal year and is intended to provide the MNO with the necessary resources to integrate information about Métis history, culture, and genealogy and root families in Ontario into the MNO website. This is meant to increase awareness of Métis people in Ontario and assist individuals wishing to apply for MNO citizenship.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Ministry of Transportation, Government of Ontario

Eligible Clientele: MNO
PCMNO Executive and
Regional Councillors

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Government of Ontario

Eligible Clientele: PCMNO
Regional Councillors; MNO
citizens and Community Councils

PROGRAM DETAILS

Funders: Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Government of Ontario

Eligible Clientele: MNO
citizens, Métis in Ontario,
general public internationally

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO CORPORATE SERVICES

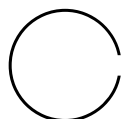
CORPORATE SERVICES

Number of Staff: 18

Staff located in: Ottawa

“...encourage the full participation of all Métis in the Métis Nation.”

— From the Métis Nation of Ontario
Statement of Prime Purpose



Corporate services consolidate specialized knowledge, best practices and technology to provide services required by all aspects of the MNO's operations as well as its internal and external clients. These services are provided in the areas of finance, communications, information and communications technology and human resources.

Unlike the branch programs described elsewhere in this document, corporate services does not receive funding directly from proponents, government agencies, partners or other sources. The costs described under corporate services are covered by direct allocations from other branches' programs on pre-approved budgets for pre-approved support service expenses and by management fees. Approximately three quarters of corporate services costs are covered by direct allocations from other branch programs while the remainder are covered by management fees.

FINANCE BRANCH

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Finance Branch staff implement sound financial policies and procedures throughout the MNO while maintaining a current status on its accounts payable to vendor and collection of sources of funds for its various programs. At the same time, Finance staff provide the various branches with current reports on the financial status of their programs. Finance staff are also responsible for maintaining a current database of all the MNO's contribution agreements.



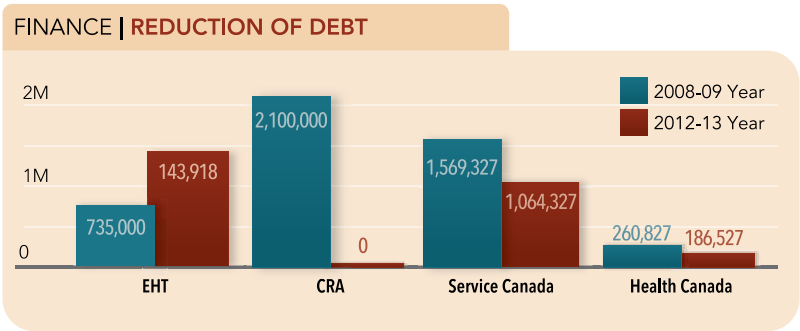
Services

The Finance Branch supports the MNO through the following services:

- Payroll
- Accounts payable
- Accounts receivable
- Purchasing
- Monitoring contributions agreements
- Financial statement preparation
- Budget management and variance analysis
- Banking
- Debt management
- Audit coordination

Recent notable achievements:

- 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 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.
- Relationships with funders have been solidified with respect to completion of past programs, enabling the MNO to be more secure in its reporting of amounts due to and/or from funders.
- Reporting capabilities have been improved which has been recognized by funders during field audits.



BRANCH DETAILS

Funders: The following branches contribute to the funding of the Finance Branch services: Education and Training; Healing and Wellness; Lands, Resources and Consultations; and Intergovernmental Relations

Number of Staff: 8

Staff located in: Ottawa

Eligible Clientele: MNO citizens

“...establish
effective means of
communications for
the Métis Nation.”

– From the Métis Nation of Ontario
Statement of Prime Purpose

BRANCH DETAILS

Funder: The following branches contribute funding to support the Communications Branch services: Education and Training; Healing and Wellness; Lands, Resources and Consultations; and Intergovernmental Relations

Number of Staff: 4

Staff located in: Ottawa

Eligible Clientele: MNO citizens

COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH

In keeping with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) *Statement of Prime Purpose*, the MNO maintains effective means of communications that reflect the history and traditions of the Métis Nation, and respect the wealth of creativity that has emerged through the MNO since 1993. The MNO has the following communication goals:

- Communicate that the MNO is the government of Métis people in Ontario.
- Communicate that the MNO is Métis specific in its focus.
- Communicate that the MNO is professional and pursues excellence.
- Assist MNO citizens seeking to use MNO services.
- Generate unity among MNO citizens and employees.

Services

The Communication Branch supports the MNO through the following services:

- Identity management for all MNO communications vehicles.
- Graphic design and creative direction for MNO publications and other media as requested.
- Maintains, updates, designs and adds new features to the MNO website.
- Solicits quotes from print and other media companies as requested.
- Coordinates weekly communications liaison meetings with representatives of all branches.
- Prepares and distributes MNO press releases and media advisories as required.
- Liaises with media to set up interviews with MNO leadership as required.
- Published the Métis Voyageur five times a year.
- Publishes eVoyageur e-newsletter approximately 24 times a year.
- Encourage MNO citizens and employees to submit stories for use of MNO website, eVoyageur, and Métis Voyageur newspaper; and edits submitted stories.
- Monitors media and on-line news stories for items relevant to the MNO.
- Maintains and utilizes as needed Campaigner email distribution lists of MNO citizens, MNO community council members, PCMNO, national contacts and speciality lists as required.
- Advises governance and administration on communication issues as requested.

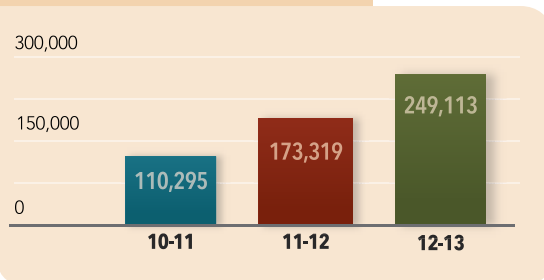
Recent notable achievements:

- In July 2012 the MNO Facebook page was launched. The page has grown steadily and as of June 30, the MNO Facebook page had 508 fans.
- The number of news stories posted on the MNO website which also appears in the *Métis Voyageur* and *eVoyageur* has increased to 162 articles in 2012-13 compared to 156 in 2011-12.
- Website visitors have increased by 73 per cent with 105,351 website visitors in the 2012-13 fiscal year compared to 76,786 in 2011-12.

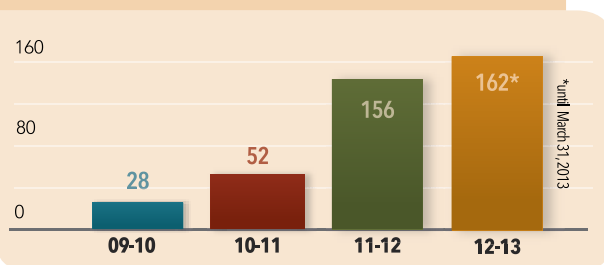
- The total number of website visits has increased by 70 per cent with 249,113 visits in 2012-13 compared to 173,319 in 2011-12.
- Five editions of the *Métis Voyageur* were published.
- Twenty-six editions of the *eVoyageur* were published.

COMM | MNO WEBSITE VISITORS

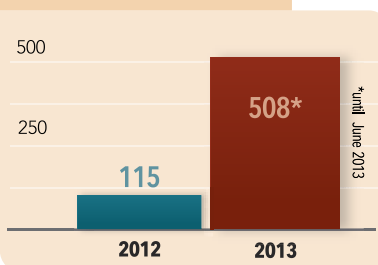
Number of overall page and people visits



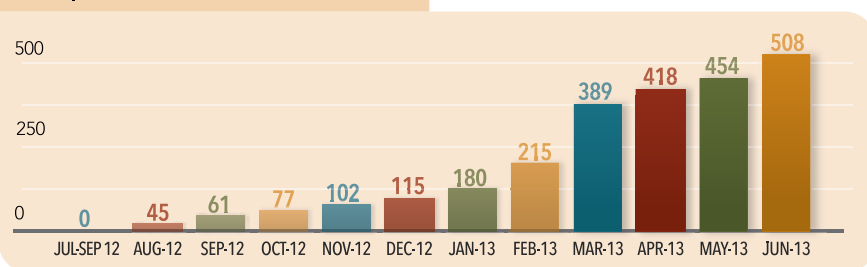
COMM | NEWS STORIES POSTED TO THE WEBSITE



COMM | FACEBOOK FANS



COMM | FACEBOOK FANS BY MONTH



“...establish effective means of communications for the Métis Nation.”

— From the Métis Nation of Ontario
Statement of Prime Purpose

BRANCH DETAILS

Funders: The following branches contribute funding to support Information and Communications Technology services: Education and Training; Healing and Wellness; Lands, Resources and Consultations; and Intergovernmental Relations

Number of Staff: 2

Staff located in: Ottawa

Eligible Clientele: MNO staff and network users

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Information and Communication Technology Branch (ICT) maintains a dedicated and proactive approach to providing readily available, service oriented user support for the vast array of software, hardware and connectivity technologies used by the MNO. In conjunction with user support, ICT purchases, installs and services the MNO's 14 servers, 26 routers and switches, all user laptops, desktops and printers as well as land and cellular based telecom requirements. While dedicated to providing a stable and reliable network data infrastructure, ICT is actively assessing the network environment looking for improvements and technology upgrade opportunities. ICT has also recently adopted the facilities maintenance responsibilities for the head office in Ottawa.

Services

ICT supports the MNO through the following services:

- Maintains the MNO network and data infrastructure through 14 servers, 25 routers and 30 switches.
- Coordinates, maintains and provides help desk assistance for 175 computers and 30 printers (which include photocopying and fax capabilities), including upgrades, hardware and software requirements.
- Maintains specialized databases and program software such as the registry applications and database; Great Plains Financial System; Lands, Resources and Consultations Portal; Healing and Wellness Health Activity Tracking System; and Telemedicine.
- Maintains and manages the MNO's land-based telephone services and 100 cellular phones.
- Purchase, contract negotiations and vendor management for all information technology items.
- Responsibility for facilities at the MNO Ottawa head office.

Recent notable achievements:

- Upgraded of the Finance Branch's Great Plains accounting software including dedicated server and upgrade of all workstations to Windows 7.
- Router upgrades to regional offices offering advanced security protection as well as the addition of wireless connectivity.
- Upgraded MNO back up software and procedures to Symantec's Back Up Exec 2012.
- Acquisition of Dell EqualLogic PS4100 SAN with 12TB of space (12,000 GB) to add data storage capacity and enable virtual server deployments.
- Successfully met compliance of Microsoft software licensing audit including all server, workstation and office product deployments.
- Upgraded the host server of the MNO's registry database application and Health's Health Activity Tracking System to SharePoint 2010.
- Upgraded the MNO's BlackBerry host server software for increased performance and security.
- Upgraded the majority of MNO user computers to MS Windows 7 and MS Office 2010.

- Added in house scanning capabilities for registry and Infinite Reach staff to digitise incoming documentation.
- Upgraded the MNO Head Office security system to expand coverage and create individually accessed zones and user access tracking.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Human Resources (HR) policies and practices commit the MNO to recruiting and retaining the best qualified personnel. The MNO upholds the principles of accountability, transparency and excellence as integral components of the operational arm of the MNO. MNO Policies and Procedures commit the MNO to recruiting and retaining the best qualified personnel with preference being given to Métis applicants, all other considerations being equal. The MNO values training and promoting of Métis citizens whenever possible to enrich the MNO through the development of the highest level of qualitative and transferable skills in staff and management.

HR staff provides service, support and information to MNO management and employees in order to meet daily obligations as well as short and long term planning.

Services

HR staff is committed to:

- Adherence and clarification of Ontario Employment Standards Act guidelines and regulations.
- Establishment of effective tracking systems and internal processes for recruitment and hiring.
- Providing orientation and support through probation and evaluation.
- Maintaining documentation on all employment information.
- Administration of Group Benefits, Registered Pension Plan, Occupational Health and Safety, WSIB and insurance needs.
- Putting in place mechanisms to provide information for staff and managers on workplace obligations.
- Provide consistent explanations and maintenance of MNO Policies and Procedures.
- Provide assistance with human resource related problem resolutions.

As recommended in the 2011 Current State Assessment, HR processes are moving to an on-line Human Resources management and information system. In 2013, the Great Plains HR Module will link with the MNO Finance Branch and centralize all employee information. Every employee will have the ability to access, view and update their confidential personal information in a timely manner, this includes: payroll, benefits, reviews and evaluations, attendance and vacations, training and education. This will also provide HR with retrieval of accurate and timely data and statistics for reporting and tracking purposes regarding: probation period start/end dates, payroll, time and attendance, benefits administration, Registered Pension Plan administration, training and development, performance records (dates of reviews), timely and accurate reporting on vacations, absenteeism, salaries and use of the data to support informed business decisions

“...provide care and support necessary to meet the fundamental needs of the citizens of the Métis Nation.”

– From the Métis Nation of Ontario
Statement of Prime Purpose

BRANCH DETAILS

Funder: The following branches contribute funding to support Human Resources activities: Education and Training; Healing and Wellness; Lands, Resources and Consultations; and Intergovernmental Relations.

Number of Staff: 3

Staff located in: Ottawa

Recent notable achievements:

- The 2012 fiscal year proved to be an active year for recruiting. Some of this is due to the very exciting initiatives in programing. Other activity was due to turnover.
 - Since January 1, 2013 there have been 19 postings, and 19 new hires.
 - Since January 1, 2013, three determinate employees have become indeterminate employees.
 - Since January 1, 2013, ten Records of Employment were issued.
 - 20 per cent of employees have been with MNO less than 1 year.
 - 43 per cent of employees have been with MNO 1 to 4 years.
 - 17 per cent of employees have been with MNO 5 to 9 years.
 - 20 per cent of employees have been with MNO 10 or more years.
- Through management meetings and daily workplace interactions, HR has worked toward building stronger partnerships with internal stakeholders. There has been increased recognition of the importance of ongoing documentation, and consultation with HR at the initial stages of employment matters. This has led to resolution of performance issues at the early stages, consistent applications of the Policies and Procedures, and meeting a high standard of accountability and transparency. Reaching a higher standard of stakeholder engagement has been the greatest benefit to achieving more productive and healthier work environments.
- The MNO's Policy and Procedures Manual has been revised to ensure that the changes in Employment and Human Resources legislation are reflected in the MNO's Policy and Procedures Manual.
- A new Performance Review and the "Standards of Professional Conduct" became effective for the December 2012 Reviews. The annual Performance Review is based on, and links directly to, the "Standards of Professional Conduct," which are: reliable and dependable, competent, productive, quality-focused, interpersonally effective and communicative.
- A comprehensive orientation training package has been initiated for all new employees, and includes the *Statement of Prime Purpose*.

The Current State Assessment, Human Resources Function (March 31, 2011) made recommendations, one of which was the establishment of a Senior Human Resources Advisor position, which became effective January 28, 2013. Margaret Froh fills that function as part of her new duties as the director of Strategic Policy, Law and Compliance.

The Senior HR Advisor's role includes:

- Leading the development of the MNO's new HR governance framework including the ongoing review and updating of the Policy and Procedures Manual.
- Developing a training and development program and overseeing its delivery.
- Developing and overseeing the content of all orientation training.
- Developing and delivering training and mentoring to management in their performance of delegated HR authorities.
- Providing advisory and support services to the COO, Directors, and management on major and complex HR issues including HR planning, labour relations and harassment cases and other issues that have escalated in sensitivity and profile and need resolution by senior management.

- Developing and implementing innovative staffing, developmental and retention activities.
- Promoting values and ethics and a productive workplace.
- Overseeing HR aspects of the HR module in the Great Plains Financial System and ensuring that it is populated with data from the existing hard copy HR files and with relevant forms from the current “Scooter” system.
- Providing support to the Director and COO concerning the development and delivery of reports on HR, contributing the HR input to annual reports of the MNO.
- Supporting the Directors and COO on various initiatives and actions including making presentations at the COO’s management meetings and to the MNO’s governing bodies.
- Act as the Privacy Officer for the Métis Nation of Ontario.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO CULTURAL COMMISSION

“...promote the history, values, culture, languages and traditions of the Métis Nation to create an awareness of our proud heritage.”

– From the Métis Nation of Ontario
Statement of Prime Purpose

MNOCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors:

Gary Lipinski
France Picotte
Sharon McBride
Richard Sarrazin
Tim Pile

Senator-Directors:

Bob McKay
Roland St. Germain

The Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission (MNOCC) is a not-for-profit corporation created to preserve and promote Métis history, values, traditions and pride in Métis arts, culture and heritage. A registered charity, the commission can issue tax receipts for contributions that support its objectives. The nine member Board of Directors is appointed by the PCMNO, following a call for directors to all MNO citizens. MNO's chief operating officer sits as an ex-officio member.

The MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement signed in November 2008 identifies a number of objectives including the recognition and preservation of the distinct history, identity and culture of the Métis people and their contributions to Ontario. In line with that objective, in 2009-2010 the MNOCC embarked on phase one of the Métis Memorial project. The Memorial project is intended to recognize the historic and on-going contributions of the Métis in Ontario by exploring the possibility of establishing a Métis memorial in a location of cultural or spiritual significance with commemorative value to Métis communities in Ontario.

Phase one of the Métis Memorial Project consisted of conducting a scan of research literature and soliciting input from Métis citizens to facilitate the identification of possible memorial sites in Ontario. The research and input from Métis citizens revealed several significant sites throughout Ontario.

Phase two of the project, was carried out in the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Further work was done identifying potential sites for Métis memorials in Ontario and discussions began with the Provincial Ministry of Tourism and Culture identifying areas for future cooperation.

As a registered charity, individuals and organizations can donate to the MNOCC and receive tax deductible receipts. In 2012-13, \$14,530.75 was received in generous donations compared to \$6,194.91 in 2011-12.

This year, donations from MNO citizens totalled \$4,030.00 and corporate donations totalled \$10,500.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Métis Nation of Ontario Development Corporation (MNODC) is incorporated in the province of Ontario as a “for profit” corporation. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is the corporation’s only shareholder. The MNODC pursues economic opportunities that will benefit all MNO citizens and is uniquely positioned to develop opportunities that reflect the MNO’s philosophy of environmentally sound projects.

“...develop prosperity
and economic self-
sufficiency within the
Métis Nation.”

– From the Métis Nation of Ontario
Statement of Prime Purpose

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**Ten year anniversary of historic
R. v. Powley Supreme Court decision
2003 - 2013**

Métis Nation
of Ontario

20th Anniversary

1993-2013



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