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### **Statement of Prime Purpose**

#### 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. 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 selfsufficiency 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.
- To 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 and maintain our historic alliances 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.
- To gain the recognition and respect of the Métis as a Nation and a people;
- To protect and preserve the lands and waters within our homelands for future generations.





#### A MESSAGE FROM THE

### **Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario**

e are very pleased to present this report to the Citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and to our many partners across Ontario. This report provides highlights of the advances made over the course of the last fiscal year which covers the period of April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 and includes a few key updates from early in the new fiscal year.

As we entered our 27th year since the founding of the MNO in 1993, we look back and reflect on the many accomplishments achieved by the citizens, communities and the elected leadership at every level who came together to advance the rights and recognition of Métis in Ontario. We continue to collectively focus on the principles and priorities set out in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and

this continues to generate results.

We also acknowledge that this year has been a challenge for many of us as the world has been in the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic. The MNO have strived to make sure our citizens receive care and compassion and assistance in any way possible. In just a few short weeks MNO set up a task force team that built a brand new funding platform from the ground up, and undertook a campaign to contact our most vulnerable citizens to ensure they got the help they needed. Funding was provided in the form of income and rent relief and family support programs for those whose financial situation was effected by the lockdowns and other public health measures.

The COVID-19 pandemic also prompted the cancellation of in-person voting by the Chief Electoral Officer in the 2020 MNO elections. This required that candidates engage the electorate in innovative ways, which they did. Despite these challenges there was still solid voter participation. The MNO had already been working to introduce new technologies including the use of telephone and online voting options for the 2020 MNO election. The Chief Electoral Officer worked with OneFeather, an Indigenous election services company that specializes in webbased and telephone voting, to ensure that MNO electors would have every opportunity to exercise their right to vote.

Every MNO Election results in change, while critical to the exercise of democracy, this can also be bittersweet. This last MNO Election did result in many longstanding PCMNO and Advisory Council members moving on from their leadership roles. The MNO wants



President
Margaret Froh



Chair Hank Rowlinson



Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau



Secretary-Treasurer
Jo Anne Young



Executive Senator Joseph Poitras



Region One
Theresa Stenlund



Region Two
Tim Sinclair



Youth Rep Jordyn Playne



Post-Secondary Rep Hannah Bazinet

to acknowledge and extend sincere gratitude to all.

Specifically, we want to acknowledge the contributions of these departing PCMNO members following the 2020 Election: France Picotte; Tim Pile; Marcel Lafrance; Lee Rivet; Anita Tucker; and Katelyn LaCroix.

In March of 2020 the MNO hosted the Otimpemisiwak conference, the first-ever national conference on Métis Self-Government. The conference built on the historic signings of the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreements (MGRSA's) in June 2019.

During the next four years and well into the future we will all be working together to advance our ancestors dream of self-government and self-determination. We will need to stay focused and use all tools available in order to invite the diversity of Métis voices throughout Ontario.

The infrastructure that the MNO has built over the last 26 years in all of our communities across Ontario continues to make a difference in the lives of Métis people. While we celebrate the many achievements that are detailed in this report we know that this has only been accomplished by all of us working together.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the staff, to the elected leadership and to all MNO citizens for their many contributions. ∞

#### **ABOUT THE PCMNO**

The Métis Nation of Ontario 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. Nine regional councilors, 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.

The structure of the PCMNO ensures that community and regional interests are represented, as well as other demographic segments like youth, women and senators.

Province-wide ballot box elections are held every four years pursuant to the MNO Electoral Code Part A. The only exception are the senators who are elected at MNO AGAs every four years from among the community council and honorary senators. The current PCMNO Senators were elected at the 2016 MNO AGA and their terms run until the 2020 AGA.



Region Three
Jacques Picotte



Region Four Mitch Case



Region Five Roger Rose



Region Six Andy Dufrane



Region Seven
David Dusome



Region Eight Karen Derocher



Region Nine Peter Rivers



Senator Rene Gravelle



Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle



Senator Ray Bergie

# **WEASPIRE**

### Métis Nation of Ontario by the numbers

More than

250

**MNO Staff Members** 

carry out the work outlined in the Statement of Prime Purpose for Métis people in Ontario 33

**Community Offices** 

are the base for a province-wide infrastructure that delivers programs and services for Métis people across Ontario

Otipemisiwak

1st

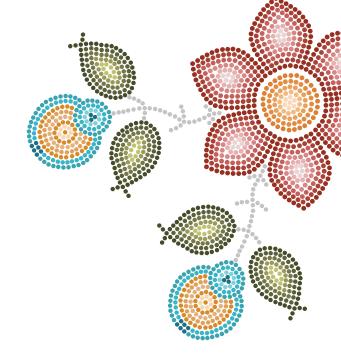
# National Conference on Métis Self-Government

Métis Nation of Ontario, Métis Nation of Alberta and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan held the Otipemisiwak conference as a means of moving forward on self-government Over

\$60m

### **Total Budget**

provides active funding for over 150 programs, 250 employees and 250 student clients, and 83,000 financial transactions per year.



#### More than

**1500** 

# MNO Citizens received emergency COVID-19 aid

Over \$1.7M in emergency Covid-19 support has been distributed directly to MNO citizens and families. This includes more than 980 Métis children.

31

# Métis Nation of Ontario Community Councils

fostering community empowerment and development for Métis citizens living within their geographic territory

#### **Innumerable**

# Volunteers

### from MNO Communities across Ontario

showed tireless dedication when reaching out to families and citizens to provide support where it was needed in this challenging year



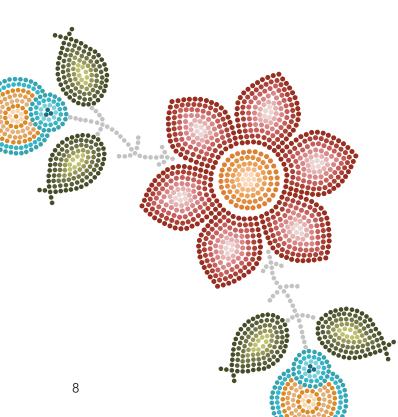
### Citizens

The MNO maintains in Ottawa, the only provincial Métis registry recognized by the governments of Ontario and Canada. An independent registrar assesses applications and authorizes citizenship when applicants meet the citizenship criteria as set out in MNO Policy and the MNO Bylaws (adopted by the MNO in 2008).

Through the administration of its own registry, the MNO exercises its communities' fundamental right of self-determination recognized in international law and Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

In 2009, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) developed an Interim Registry Policy to provide the Registry with clarity to the principles of how the adopted definition of Métis should be applied. The policy was extensively reviewed at a series of community consultations and in August 2014, the policy was formally adopted by special resolution at the 21st MNO Annual General Assembly.

The rigorous application process serves to affirm the credibility and integrity of the MNO's Registry and the MNO as a government that represents the collective interests of Section 35 Métis rights holders.



#### **GOVERNANCE**

#### **Self-Government**

Métis were included as one of the three recognized Indigenous people in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. On September 19, 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada in the *R v. Powley* decision affirmed and recognized the Section 35 rights of Métis. Specifically, the Court set out the test for establishing Métis harvesting rights protected by Section 35.

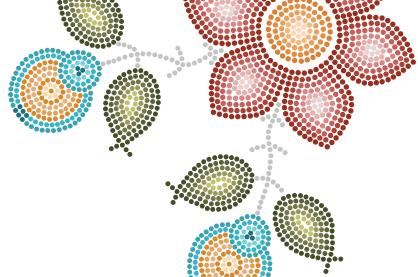
In the 2016 Daniels decision the Supreme Court declared that Métis fell within federal jurisdiction under Section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867; and affirmed that the Federal Crown owes a fiduciary duty to the Métis; and that Métis have the right to be consulted and negotiated with, in good faith, by the federal government on a collective basis through representatives of their choice.

The *Daniels* decision was closely followed by the release of the report of the Minister's Special Representative on Reconciliation with Métis: Section 35 Métis Rights or *Isaac Report* in July 2016, which provided further impetus for the federal government to begin to take action on long-standing Métis rights and self-government issues.

Daniels and the Isaac Report provided the foundation for discussions with the federal government which led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Advancing Reconciliation between the MNO and Canada in February 2017. This set the stage for further discussions that led to the signing of the MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation in December 2017.

This Framework Agreement established a process for on-going negotiations to develop the government-to-government relationship between the Crown and the MNO. In preparation for these negotiations, in August 2016, the MNO launched the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government and released its final report in May 2018; and in October 2017 launched the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Project (Registry Review).

In June of 2019, the MNO and the Government of Canada signed the MNO-Canada Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement. This landmark agreement sets the MNO on a path toward fully recognized self-government.



#### **GOVERNANCE**

### Leadership

In 1993, the MNO was established through the will of Métis people and historic Métis communities coming together to create a Métis-specific governance structure.

MNO citizens exercise their collective right to self-government through a structure that continues to evolve as the MNO moves forward in the implementation of Métis self-government. A series of documents guide the work of the MNO, these include: the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose; MNO Bylaws; the MNO Secretariat Act, 2015; MNO Community Council Charter Agreements; MNO Interim Harvesting Policy; MNO Electoral Code and the Métis Nation Rules of Order.

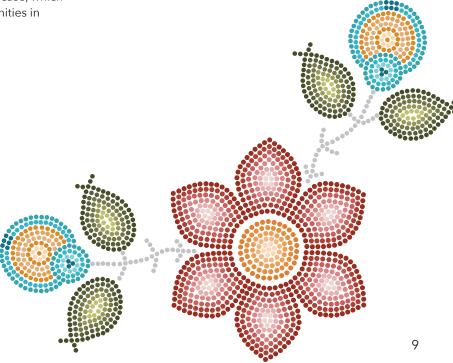
Every four years, MNO citizens have the opportunity to choose their leadership, at the provincial level, by voting in province-wide ballot box elections.

Local community 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 collective rights and interests of Métis citizens throughout the province.

As the only recognized provincial Métis governance structure in Ontario, the MNO advanced the Métis rights agenda through the precedent-setting *Powley* case, which has benefitted all Métis rights bearing communities in Canada.

The MNO has established bilateral and tripartite processes with the federal and provincial governments. In November 2008, the MNO signed an Ontario-Métis Nation Framework Agreement with the Government of Ontario, which was renewed in 2014. In 2017, the MNO, Canada and Ontario signed the MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation, and the MNO-Canada Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community.

The MNO-Canada Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement was signed in June 2019 which sets the MNO on a path forward toward constitution building and will involve extensive consultation and engagement with citizens and communities.



















#### GOVERNANCE

### Métis Nation of Ontario Chartered Community Councils

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens volunteer many thousands of hours every year to support the work of chartered MNO community councils. The members of MNO community councils are the heart of our community and they play a crucial role in the fight for Métis rights and in promoting Métis culture, history and traditions.

MNO charter 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 elections.

































### **Métis Harvesting**

The annual harvest is integral to the Métis way of life. Since it began issuing Harvester's certificates in 1995, the Métis Nation of Ontario Harvesting Policy has helped 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 comanagement of the harvest.

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 MNO and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), which recognized the MNO's existing harvest card system was reached in 2004.

Since the signing of the interim harvest agreement the MNO has been almost continuously in negotiation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) about obtaining a permanent harvest agreement. As part of that process in 2017-18, the MNO

completed an independent review of its Harvester Card system that confirmed the MNO has a reliable system to identify Métis rights holders. The completion of the independent review led to the signing of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting in May 2018 that replaced the 2004 agreement. Unlike the 2004 agreement, the new Framework Agreement does not include a limit on the number of Harvester certificates the MNO can issue. While other issues remain to be resolved, the removal of the limit was a positive step.

**GOVERNANCE** 

### **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 MNO's 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 MNRF. They help manage the annual harvest in concert with the province of Ontario, support the implementation of the MNO 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 COTH 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 Captains of the Hunt (2019-20)

Chief Captain of the Hunt Reg
Margaret Froh Der

Deputy Chief COTH Reg
Brian Tucker Lee

Sandy Triskle
Region Two

Region One

Phillip McGuire

Region Three Andy Lefebvre

Region Four Steve Gios

Region Five Denis Lefebvre

Region Six Lee Rivet

Region Seven Greg Garratt

Region Eight Jim Tolles

Region Nine

Region Nine Peter Rivers

#### GOVERNANCE

### **Regional Consultation Committees**

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. 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.

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 Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario regional councillor for that area and a representative from each community council within the region.

Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul/ Rainy River/Rainy Lake

Theresa Stenlund (Chair) Marlene Davidson Liz Boucha Ronald Robinson Brady Hupet Sandy Triskle

#### Mattawa/Lake Nipissing

Roger Rose (Chair) Nelson Montreuil Ray Mantha Denis Lefebvre Maurice Sarrazin

#### **Region Six**

Lee Rivet (Chair) Marlon Lloyd Eric Gjos Christa Lemelin Lakehead/Nipigon/ Michipicoten

Cam Burgess (Chair) William Gordon Trent Desaulniers Robert Graham Phil McGuire

#### **Georgian Bay**

David Dusome (Chair) Greg Garratt Peter Coture Larry Duval

#### **Region Eight**

Anita Tucker (Chair) Karen Derocher Carolyn Holland Shirley Debassige James Bay/Abitibi-Temiskamingue

Marcel Lafrance (Chair)
David Hamilton
Jacques Picotte
Liliane Ethier
Urgel Courville
Andy Lefebvre

Historic Sault Ste. Marie

Ernie Gatien (Chair) Kim Powley Yvonne Jensen

#### **Region Nine**

Peter Rivers (Chair) Jerry Clarke Jennifer Parkinson Derrick Pont Donna Grayer Kathleen Anderson

Please note MNO elections on June 1, 2020 affected the makeup of these Committees. This list reflects the RCCs makeup over the bulk of the past fiscal year.

# SENATORS

#### MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

### **Senators**

Highly respected for their knowledge, values and experience, Senators play an important role at Métis 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. Every four years, four Senators from across the province are elected by all the other Senators at an MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) 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. The last election for the PCMNO Senator positions was held at

the 2016 MNO AGA. The term of the current PCMNO Senators expires at the 2020 AGA.

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

below:

MNO Senators gathered at the 2019 Annual General Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie.



# MNOWC

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

### Women's Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council (MNOWC) is comprised of Métis women from Ontario who are committed to promoting women's issues and advocating on their behalf within the MNO community.

The MNO Women's Council also advises the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) on matters pertaining to women and works with community councils, Indigenous boards, government bodies and women's groups to assist Métis people with issues of concern specific to women. This work includes policy development and

review, coordination, consultation and education. The main goal of the MNO Women's Council is to encourage the full participation of all women within the MNO in helping to build a strong and healthy nation.

The MNO Women's Council also works with the Women of the Métis Nation - Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak.

The MNO Women's Council consists of the Spokesperson and nine regional representatives.

Region 1 Colette Surovy

Region 2 Kelly Camacho

Region 3 Liliane Ethier

Region 4 June Smart

Region 5 Berni Picco

Region 6 Cora Bunn

Region 7 Patricia Taylor

Region 8 Pearl Gabona

Region 9 Suzanne Jackson

MNOWC Spokesperson

**Sharon Cadeau** 

below:

Members of the MNOWC receiving the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Community Leadership in February 2020.



# MNOVC

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# **Veterans' Council** (MNOVC)

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council is a chartered council of the MNO. Established in 2001 at the direction of the MNO at their Annual General Meeting, the MNO Veterans' Council represents the interests of Métis veterans within the MNO's governance structure.

The MNO Veteran Council'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 MNO Veterans' Council are held every four years in conjunction with general MNO elections. The terms of office of the current executive expires in 2020.

President Brian Black

Chair Shelly Claus

Secretary/Treasurer Paul Pirie

Sgt-at-Arms Douglas Woods

Senator for Veterans

Guy Mandeville C.D.

Women's Representative Lisa Tessier Please note the MNOVC elections took place on June 1, 2020. This list reflects the Council's makeup over the bulk of the past fiscal year.

For a current roster check www.metisnation.org

below

MNOVC carries the colours at the opening ceremonies of the 2019 Annual General Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie.



# MNOYC

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

### Youth Council (MNOYC)

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Youth Council has the mandate to identify issues impacting Métis youth and to work within the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) to ensure these issues are addressed.

The MNO Youth Council consists of nine regional representatives who are elected in the MNO provincial ballot box elections held every four years. The terms of the current MNO Youth Council members run until 2020.

MNO youth are also represented by the PCMNO Youth Representative, who holds a voting seat on the PCMNO. The MNO Youth Council and PCMNO youth representative bring 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 MNO Youth Council and represents the voice of MNO youth in their area.

President & PCMNO Youth Rep Mitch Case

Region 1
Kelly Duquette

Chair & Region 2
Paul Robitaille

Region 3
Brianne Gosselin

Region 4
Taylor McNally

Region 5 vacant

Region 6
Alexandra Dusome

Region 7

Jordyn Playne

Region 8
Simone Blais

Region 9 vacant

Please note the MNOYC elections took place on June 1, 2020. This list reflects the Council's makeup over the bulk of the past fiscal year.

For a current roster check www.metisnation.org



















The #MYHarvest campaign was an initiative of the MNO Youth Council's Infinite Potential Strategy, which encouraged youth to share land-based knowledge.

# Administrative Reports

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. Directed through seven branches, the MNO employs more than 250 people located in over 30 offices.

#### ATIKOKAN

Healing & Wellness

#### BANCROFT

Education & Training Healing & Wellness

#### BARRIE

Education & Training Healing & Wellness

#### **BLIND RIVER**

Healing & Wellness

#### BRAMPTON

Healing & Wellness

#### BRANTFORD

Education & Training Healing & Wellness

#### CHAPLEAU

Healing & Wellness

#### COCHRANE

Healing & Wellness

#### **DRYDEN**

Healing & Wellness

#### FORT FRANCES

Education & Training Healing & Wellness Lands, Resources & Consultations

#### GERALDTON

Healing & Wellness

#### **GRAVENHURST**

Healing & Wellness Education & Training

#### HAILEYBURY

Healing & Wellness

#### KENORA

Healing & Wellness Education & Training

#### KINGSTON

Education & Training Healing & Wellness

#### **KITCHENER**

Healing & Wellness

#### MATTAWA

Healing & Wellness

#### MIDLAND

Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
Lands, Resources & Consultations

#### **NORTH BAY**

Education & Training Healing & Wellness

#### NORTHBROOK

Healing & Wellness

#### OTTAWA (HEAD OFFICE)

Communications
Education & Training
Finance
Healing & Wellness
Human Resources
Information & Communications
Technology
Registry

#### **OSHAWA**

Education & Training Healing & Wellness

Kenora

#### OWEN SOUND

Education & Training Healing & Wellness Lands, Resources & Consultations

#### PETERBOROUGH

Healing & Wellness

#### RENFREW

Healing & Wellness

#### SAULT STE. MARIE

Education & Training Healing & Wellness

#### **SUDBURY**

Education & Training Healing & Wellness Lands, Resources & Consultations

#### **THOROLD**

Healing & Wellness Education & Training

#### THUNDER BAY

O Dryden

**Fort Frances** 

Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
Infinity Property Services
Lands, Resources & Consultations

**Atikokan** 

Thunder

#### **TIMMINS**

Healing & Wellness Education & Training Lands, Resources & Consultations

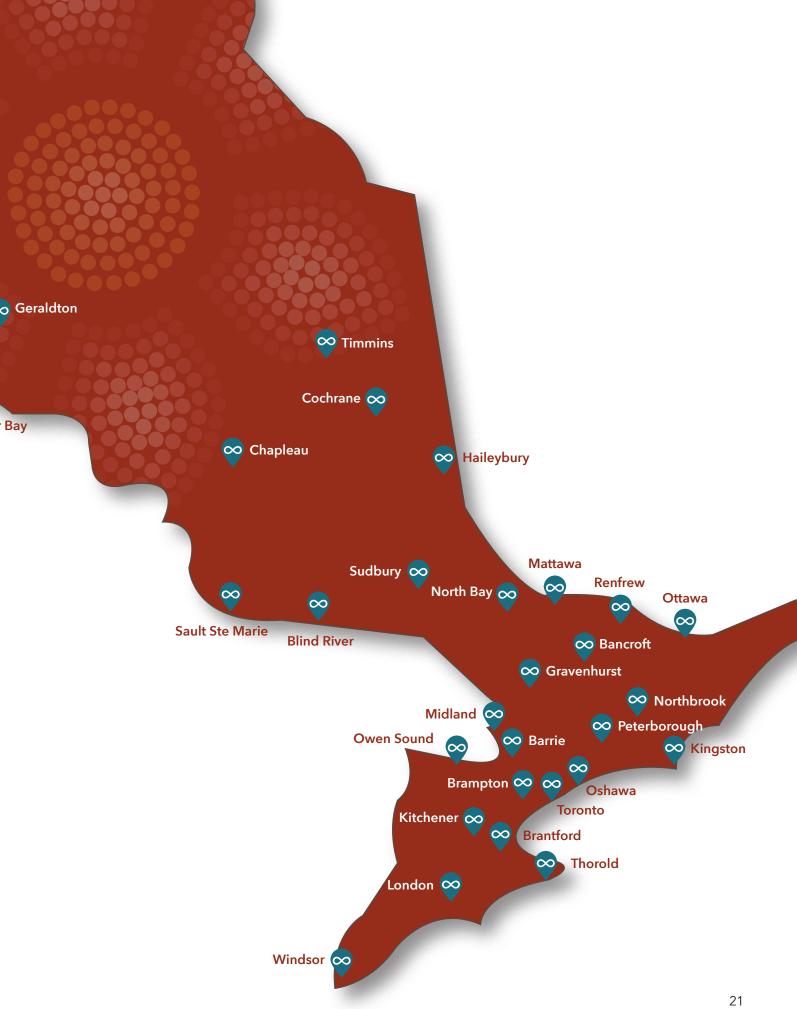
#### **TORONTO**

Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
Intergovernmental Relations
Lands, Resources & Consultations

#### WINDSOR

Healing & Wellness Education & Training







MNO BURSARY PROGRAM -- This program is currently available at 42 Ontario post-secondary institutions across Ontario and additional MNO-partner bursaries continue to be established across the province. Métis students from any MNO Region can apply for Métis Nation of Ontario bursaries at the Financial Aid/Awards Office, Aboriginal Student Liaison Centre or through Student Support Services at their participating institution.

#### MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# **Education & Training**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Education and Training branch is driven by the priorities of the MNO's *Statement of Prime Purpose*. Committed to the goal of healthy, thriving Métis individuals, families and communities, MNO Education and Training offers educational initiatives to Métis people across Ontario. In 2019-20, the MNO increased industry partnerships, educational outreach capacity, community engagement opportunities and have implemented a number of new programs and services to support Métis education and employment. Programs and services are accessible through a community-based and province-wide, one-stop delivery network.



#### POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

-- MNO is pleased to offer the MNO Post-Secondary Education Support Program to help Métis students access high quality education and achieve their dreams. With this Program, the MNO is offering post-secondary education funding to help Métis students reach their highest potential.



**INFINITE REACH --** A total of 13 MNO Infinite Reach facilitators were accepted into the program for 2018-19. Infinite Reach facilitators receive training to engage incoming Métis students at colleges or universities as well as provide support by connecting new Métis students to available student services, Métis cultural events, and MNO community councils. The Facilitators hosted 26 events and workshops with 615 participants attending.



#### The EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE (ELCC)

**PROGRAM** improves access to culturally grounded early learning opportunities for Métis individuals, families, and the community as a whole. We do this by promoting and fostering community development and providing the care and support necessary to meet the fundamental needs of MNO citizens. MNO held its first-ever Métis Early Learning Camp this January in Mattawa.



This year MNO launched the **EDUCATION SUPPORT ADVOCACY PROGRAM** which helps families with K-12 youth improve learning outcomes. Education Support Advocates provide support to Métis families who are experiencing challenges with regard to: attendance; suspensions; social isolation; education planning; behavioural planning; mental health or learning disabilities and communications with schools.



**SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM (SYP) --** The SYP delivers Métis cultural presentations and workshops on beading, finger weaving and jigging. In 2018, the MNO employed 25 Métis youth in Dryden, Kenora, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins, Ottawa, Midland and Toronto. They attended 102 events and reached 5,575 youth under 18 years of age.



**MÉTIS YOUTH CULTURAL CAMP** initiative is intended to provide community-based cultural programming opportunities to help Métis youth build a connection to their culture and to provide leadership skills training to help build resiliency. Participants must be 19 years of age and under, in grades 10, 11 and 12 and can come from any community in the province. Two youth camps were hosted the in 2019-2020, the Otawn (Fall) Camp in Timmins and the Ivèr (Winter) Camp in Thunder Bay. A total 36 Métis Youth attend the camps.



**24-HR CRISIS LINE** | The MNO is proud to offer a 24-hour Mental Health and Addictions Crisis Line for Métis culturally-specific mental health and addiction supports for adults, youth, and families in both English and French: **1-877-767-7572**.

#### MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# **Healing & Wellness**

In accordance with the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and through its Healing and Wellness branch, the MNO provides culture-based, supportive, self-directed healing and wellness services that address the emotional, spiritual, mental and physical needs of individuals, families and communities. Programming promotes respect, compassion, dignity and empowerment to foster belonging and pride. The MNO Healing and Wellness branch deliver programs and services to Métis communities across Ontario through 32 sites. The healing and wellness programs and services are culturally grounded, holistic in nature, client-centred and family-focused.



**COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES** -- MNO delivered over 30,000 units of service to 1647 clients in 2019-20. Coordination of medical transportations such as assisting clients to attend dialysis appointments, doctor's visits or surgeries is a major component of the program. Friendly visits helps to reduce isolation and increase social connection.



In 2019-20 the **HEALTHY CHOICES - TOBACCO** program created several educational tools and provided training throughout the year to all MNO Healing & Wellness employees. In addition, work began on a 3-year cancer outcomes awareness campaign.



MNO'S **MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS (MHA) PROGRAM** has established a selection committee of staff and MNO Citizens to vet MHA providers who applied to deliver services to the MNO via an RFP process, believing that decisions about services for Métis people should be made by Métis people. The MHA program expanded its roster of service providers this year, and now includes Métis clinicians. This allows citizens choice and mitigates historically lengthy wait times or limited access to specialists. All this is made possible through the use of the MNO's partnership with Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) and videoconference technologies.

MNO Healing and Wellness staff during Mental Health and Addictions training.



# the MNO Justice Coordinator began attending local bail court hearings for Métis, resulting in new referrals and community partnerships in the justice system. Some of these community partners have invited the Justice Coordinator to attend their community meetings. The program has provided 7 virtual "lunch and learn" events for MNO staff to build capacity and knowledge on accessing the justice system.



**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SERVICES (COMMUNITY DIVERSION PROGRAM)** -- The first diversion took place at Newmarket courthouse early in 2019. There have been two successful Community Diversion cases that have resulted in stay of proceedings. The duty counsel office celebrated the first diversion at Newmarket courthouse and are looking forward to engaging the Law Society in professional development strategies regarding effectively advocating for and working with Métis clients.

## **Lands, Resources & Consultations**

The Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) branch provides the technical expertise and support required for the full engagement of MNO citizens in a wide range of activities and issues related to the MNO's traditional territories. With specialized skills in areas including Métis rights, the Métis Way of Life Framework (WOLF), environmental assessments, mining, forestry, energy and public policy, the LRC branch supports the regionally based rights-bearing Métis communities across Ontario to ensure that the Crown's legal Duty to Consult and Accommodate Indigenous peoples is both meaningful and effective. The primary objectives of the LRC branch are to:

- act as a "one-window" contact for consultations with MNO;
- in collaboration with the Regional Consultation Committees, triage and prioritize incoming requests for consultation and identify acceptable levels of required MNO involvement;
- manage project consultation activities on major assessments and other government initiatives and programs;
- develop a thorough understanding of proposed projects that may impact Métis rights, interests and way of life;
- initiate, guide, and carry-out the development of MNO
   Traditional Knowledge and Land Use (TKLU) Studies in
   collaboration with the Associate Director of Education and
   Way of Life, and qualified external consultants;
- initiate, guide and carry out the development of technical reviews of regulatory documents, and other technical analysis/research in collaboration with external consultants;
- convene regional workshops and/or provincial conferences to engage MNO citizens on new projects, the Duty to Consult, regulatory processes, assessing effects and accommodation-related issues; and
- provide support to MNO chartered community councils with elections and council governance and provide training to chartered councils.



MNO SIGNS ENGAGEMENT PLAN WITH CANADIAN NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION -- On December 17, 2019 the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and the MNO signed an Engagement Plan as part of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Terms of Reference. The Engagement Plan provides a forum through which the Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Committee can collaborate and address areas of interest and concern raised by the Committee regarding CNSC regulated facilities and activities within the Georgian Bay Traditional Territory.



**THUNDER BAY NORTH HARBOUR** -- The Thunder Bay North Harbour site was formerly used as a discharge area for waste from pulp and paper mill operations and contains sediment heavily contaminated with mercury. A Community Information session was held in Thunder Bay in February 2020 where information was presented on three sediment management options, however the community did not come to a firm conclusion regarding its preferred option. LRC is planning to present the scientific reports and sediment management options when public health advisories permit travel and in-person meetings.



**HIGHWAY 17 TWINNING** -- The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is proposing the expansion of Highway 17 into a four-lane highway from the Manitoba border to Kenora. The MNO recently completed a technical review of the Transportation Environmental Study Report for the first section of the highway twinning and a Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study. Both reports will be submitted to MTO in 2020.



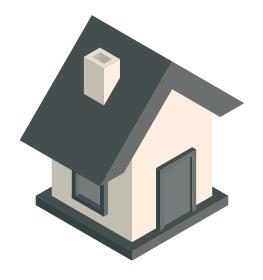
### CONSULTATION AROUND THE PLANNING FOR THE SAFE, LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF USED NUCLEAR FUEL -- The

Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is in a multiyear process to build a safe, long-term used nuclear fuel repository in Canada. To assist with the MNO's engagement in this process, the MNO signed a General Relationship Agreement with the NWMO in August 2018 which will allow MNO Regions potentially impacted by the proposed activity to engage in workshops and to receive support for staff, professional and legal fees. NWMO is also consulting directly with Regions that may be directly affected by the proposed project.



#### **HYDRO ONE NETWORKS INC. - WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION**

**LINE** -- The Hydro One Northwest Bulk Transmission Line Project is a proposed double-circuit 230 kilovolt line between Lakehead Transmission Station (TS) within the Municipality of Shunia and Mackenzie TS within the Township of Atikokan and a new single-circuit line from Mackenzie to Dryden. The Region 1 and Region 2 Consultation Committees will engage in consultation on the project. Community Information Sessions were planned for April 2020 but have been delayed due to COVID-19.



INFINITY PROPERTY SERVICES (IPS), as the revenue-generating department of the MNO Housing branch, promotes property and economic self-sufficiency within the MNO. Surplus revenues are reinvested into housing and support for Métis Citizens. IPS generates revenue through its property management and inspection service agreements with various levels of government, Indigenous organizations and local housing boards. IPS provides a full range of property management services including tenant management, capital planning and building inspections.

#### MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# Housing

The Housing branch provides housing and homelessness support programs to Métis Citizens, and oversees the MNO's revenue-generating agency, Infinity Property Services (IPS). MNO recognizes that housing is much more than bricks and mortar. Proper housing supports Métis individuals, families, and communities in achieving their highest potential. The mandate of the Housing branch is to increase housing and related support options for the Métis people. This newly transformed branch aligns within the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose by providing "...care and support necessary to meet the fundamental needs of the citizens of the Métis Nation" and "develop(ing) prosperity and economic self-sufficiency within the Métis Nation." The branch sees housing as not only a solution but also an opportunity to build the wealth of Métis citizens, communities and the Nation.



**RURAL NATIVE AND HOUSING PROGRAM (RNH)** provides rent geared to income housing for low-income families located in rural communities across the province. IPS has a property management agreement to manage 416 rental units located in the districts of Thunder Bay; Parry Sound; Muskoka; Nipissing; as well as the Simcoe and Grey-Bruce Counties.



**INSPECTION SERVICES** -- IPS provides inspection services for several residential repair programs on behalf of municipal District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSAB) and Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS).

# **Intergovernmental Relations**

The work of MNO Intergovernmental Relations branch meets the requirements of the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose by contributing to the MNO "... gain[ing] the recognition and respect of the Métis as a Nation and a people." The branch does not primarily manage programs but rather negotiates contribution and other agreements that provide funding utilized by the MNO Secretariat for governance functions. Intergovernmental Relations are the responsibility of the elected leadership of the MNO and are managed on a day-to-day basis by the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario with the assistance of MNO senior staff as required. The Director of Intergovernmental Relations facilitates meetings and consultations and serves as a staff liaison between the MNO and other governments and agencies. The branch plays a major role in the negotiation and implementation of key agreements including the MNO-Canada Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement and numerous agreements with proponents.



#### PROVINCIAL LOUIS RIEL DAY CEREMONY AT QUEEN'S PARK --

In compliance with a resolution at the 2017 MNO AGA; for the third time the provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony was not held at the Northwest Rebellion monument but rather at the flag pole near the Legislative Building. Over 100 people attended and special guests included Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett. The ceremony was broadcast via Facebook Live.

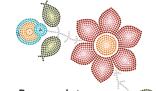


**2019 MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY** -- Over 400 MNO citizens and guests attended the 26th MNO Annual General Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie, ON in August 2019. Delegates provided guidance to the MNO leadership by passing several resolutions and enjoyed a full-range of cultural and social activities.

#### PROPONENT AND GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREE-

MENTS, MEETINGS AND EVENTS -- The MNO engaged in Bi-lateral Mechanism meetings with key federal cabinet ministers as well as one-on-one meetings with the Ministers of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Employment, Workforce Development and Labour and federal cabinet members. MNO's relationship with Ontario remains strong. The MNO hosted successful Collaborative Forums with Industry and with Ontario and Canada public servants. The MNO was also represented at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Conference.

# Registry



One of the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) aims and objectives, laid out in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose, is to maintain a registry of Métis citizens in Ontario. In May 2019, the MNO restructured Registry operations so that all Registry functions—including processing citizenship and harvesting applications and renewals, and issuing cards—are now provided by an independent third-party organization, Know History Inc.



The MNO Registry registers Métis citizens by approving citizenship for applicants who meet the criteria set out in the MNO Registry Policy, and in accordance with the National Definition for Métis, as voted on and accepted by MNO citizens. The Registry researches Ontario's Historic Métis Communities and Root Ancestors, and conducts Métis genealogical research and analysis. It works to support MNO citizens' cultural, social, political, and economic wellbeing by providing data to other MNO departments.



**APPLICATION PROCESSING EFFICIENCIES** -- As part of the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (RSRP), Registry processed a backlog of approximately 3,500 citizenship applications and has continued to efficiently process applications since RSRP ended. Since the restructuring of the Registry in June 2019, a total of 3,636 new citizens have been welcomed to the MNO, and 12,550 MNO Citizenship cards have been sent to new and RSRP-verified citizens.



MOBILE REGISTRIES -- In 2019-2020, MNO Registry offered Mobile Registries in Mattawa, North Bay, Sudbury, Muskoka, Thunder Bay, and Penetanguishene. These were a great success: Registry staff met with over 300 individuals to help with applications, citizen files (updates and reassessments), harvesting questions, and more. Unfortunately, Mobile Registries planned for Region 2 and Region 3 in spring 2020 were cancelled due to COVID-19. Instead, Registry worked to assist clients virtually. Virtual Mobile Registries are underway for the second half of 2020.

**HARVESTER APPLICATIONS** -- Since June 2019, 817 harvester applications have been processed or renewed, and 681 citizens have been issued Harvesters Certificates. In January 2020, harvesters with cards set to expire began to receive reminder letters, helping to ensure renewals continue to be processed on time. All Harvester Certificate cards are once again printed in-house, resulting in quicker turnaround times.

**CLIENT SERVICE TIMELINES** -- MNO Registry remains committed to providing efficient and helpful service. It provides training and support to team members to ensure high-quality service. Targeted processing times were introduced in spring 2019; wait times were further reduced in 2020.

# **Government Services**

Government services consolidate specialized knowledge, best practices and technology to provide services required by all 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. The costs described under government services are covered by direct allocations from other branches' programs for support service expenses and by management fees.



The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Finance branch strives to implement sound financial policies and procedures throughout the organization while ensuring timely payments to vendors and collection of funding revenues for all programs. At the same time, the Finance branch provides reporting and analysis to the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), senior management, budget managers and funders. The branch maintains the current database of all of the MNO's funding agreements.

The Finance branch provides all financial support to the MNO. These services include:

- Payroll;
- Vendor and expense claim purchase orders and payments;
- Collection and tracking of funder payments;
- Ensuring adequate cash flow to meet obligations;
- Monthly detailed program expense reporting with budget to actual variance analysis;
- Quarterly reporting to the PCMNO;
- Preparation and audit coordination of annual financial statements; and
- Preparation and submission of all statutory filings (T4 and tax returns, HST returns and Public Service Salary Disclosure).

**Implementation of DAYFORCE** -- an enhanced Human Resources/ Payroll system offering increased ease of use, accuracy and timeliness

**Implementation of DATA BASICS** -- a new Employee and Volunteer Expense Claim system using completely online claim submissions, approvals and notifications

# **Information & Communications Technology**

MNO Information and Communications and Technology supports all the MNO branches in their efforts to fulfill the delivery of all aspects of the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose.

ICT maintains a dedicated and proactive approach to providing readily available systems and infrastructure as well service-oriented user support for the vast array of software, hardware and connectivity technologies used by the MNO. While continuing to monitor for opportunities to improve network and data service delivery via new software and technology, ICT strives to also offer cost savings while maintaining focus on security and industry best practices.

**Upgrades for MNO Councils** -- MNO ICT completed negotiations with Dell and Xerox to upgrade the MNO's 30 Councils to new Dell Latitude 3490BTX laptops and Xerox WK 6515 printers.

**New Office Openings** -- ICT has contributed to the coordination of moves and addition of new network and telco equipment for multiple new office openings and relocations such as Toronto, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Hamilton, London, etc.

**Regional Office Router Upgrades** -- ICT has completed a review of all MNO regional office security and connectivity routers reaching end of life.

**Covid-19** -- By previously preparing extra VPN licensing, reimaging off-warrantee laptops, activating retired cellphones, adopting Zoom teleconferencing, etc. ICT was able to provide remote work capability to MNO staff indefinitely. ICT leveraged MNO's Healing & Wellness OHATS 2.0 client management software's to expedite the development of the Covid-19 online relief application as well as a dedicated tracking database. This software was pivotal in collecting and deploying data to "boots on the ground" relief efforts.

#### **Human Resources**

The Human Resources branch has a mandate to balance the interests of the MNO as an employer with the needs and interests of the employees. We are building processes, policies and systems that support a high-involvement and collaborative workforce built on the principles of respect, transparency, fairness and accountability.

#### Implementation of the MNO Compensation Framework

- Aligned staff salaries with P-25 market value
- Successfully re-negotiated benefits enhancement and pension improvements
- Audit into MNO benefits systems revealed unnecessary costs exceeding \$10,000 year

#### **Rebuilt MNO Policies and Procedures**

- Built based on feedback from relevant stakeholders from each branch
- Reflects legislative changes and streamlined processes
- Aligned and standardized with best business practices

#### **Re-Launch of MNO Employee Assistance Plan**

 Re-launched MNO EAP with digital portal, mental health counselling and other services

#### **Ontario-based Occupational Health and Safety system**

- Health and safety committees and representatives cover all offices and offer a streamlined process to identify and rectify OHS issues
- Enhanced awareness of Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and OHS requirements at management and supervisory level

#### **Launch of MNO Leadership Boot Camp**

 9 modules developed in-house, and 4 courses delivered by the University of Waterloo

#### **Communications**

In keeping with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Statement of Prime Purpose, the MNO maintains effective 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 branch works to coordinate communications efforts, provides advice and develops products to increase understanding and awareness of the MNO among MNO citizens, employees and the general public.

The Communications branch is responsible for all communications products for internal and external audiences. Services include:

- identity management and branding;
- graphic design and creative direction for MNO publications and media;
- operation of the MNO's social media pages;
- maintaining and updating of the MNO website;
- media monitoring and media relations;
- production of Métis Voyageur;
- · video production; and
- responding to public inquiries about the MNO.

**Social media** -- Increased emphasis on using social media including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to promote MNO programs and services and the use of Facebook Live to cover MNO events. Successes have included special graphics for Louis Riel Day and Powley Day. Video content created to announce major MNO events.

**Major projects** -- Among the branch's largest projects were the 40-page Annual Report, 380-page AGA Binder and the 2018-19 highlight video. Two editions or the *Métis Voyageur*, and several promotional videos.

