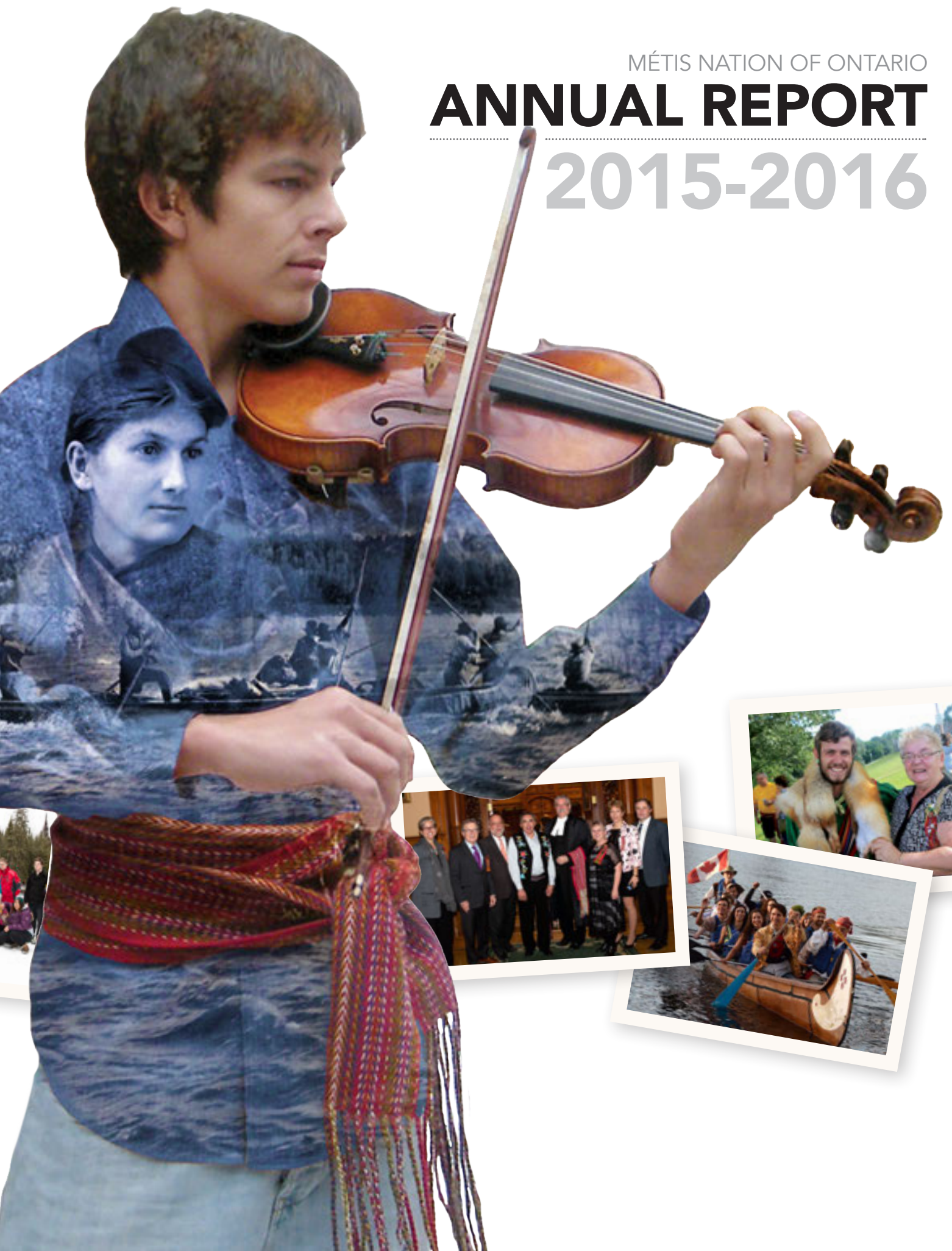


MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2015-2016





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# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE

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## ***Where we got our name***

**T**he paternal ancestors of the Métis were the former employees of the Hudson Bay and 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***

**W**e, 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***

**W**e, 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;
- 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 land and waters within our homelands for future generations.



Participants in the December 2015 annual meeting between the Premier and the MNO: (Left to right) Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Minister David Zimmer, MNO Intergovernmental Relations Director Joanne Meyer, MNO Chair France Picotte, Premier Kathleen Wynne, past MNO President Gary Lipinski and current MNO President Margaret Froh.





## REPORT FROM THE **PRESIDENT**



It is my privilege to welcome you to the 23rd Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and to provide my report in the *MNO 2015-16 Annual Report*.

Over the next few days 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 for making time in your busy schedules to be here. Thank you as well to the MNO Community Councils in Region Five: the North Bay, Sudbury and Mattawa Métis Councils for hosting the 2016 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.

When I accepted the responsibility of President of the MNO in May 2016, I did so with a deep sense of humility and with high resolve. It is in that spirit that I provide this report of the highlights of the last fiscal year. In preparing this report, I returned to our founding document, *The Statement of Prime Purpose*, which has served the MNO well for over two decades and is a testament to the vision of our founders. In the Statement, we declare that “**we aspire to attain our highest potential.**” Building towards that ideal, we work together for Métis rights, improved social and economic conditions for our people and the promotion of 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.

### **The legacies of Gary Lipinski and Doug Wilson**

This annual report is for the period from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 and therefore covers the period of time before I was elected President in May 2016. It is therefore very appropriate that I acknowledge the leadership and contributions of my predecessor, former MNO President Gary Lipinski, who announced his retirement from Métis politics in March 2016. Gary served as MNO President from 2008 to May 2016. Prior to that he had been MNO Chair and he started his career with the MNO as a Regional Councillor. A list of his contributions to the MNO could fill several annual

reports but what I most appreciate about Gary is that he became President of the MNO at a very difficult time for our Nation but still moved the Métis agenda forward on every front.

Gary's terms as MNO President corresponded with the time that another exceptional leader, Doug Wilson, served as the MNO's Chief Operating Officer (COO). Doug came to the MNO as Director of Health in 2005 and served as COO from 2008 until his retirement in March 2016. During this period of time, Doug demonstrated a seemingly endless capacity for hard work. Doug's time with the MNO was

marked by innovation, progress, expansion and a dramatic improvement in operational efficiency.

Gary and Doug have received much well-deserved praise but perhaps the most poignant tributes came at the 2015 AGA when MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program students presented them with dot art paintings they had created for each of them. *Aspire* was dedicated to Gary and *Honour* was dedicated to Doug. These gifts from Métis youth could



Former MNO President Gary Lipinski (left) and former Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson (right).





The MNO leadership and senior staff with representatives from all three political parties after the passage of the *MNO Secretariat Act* on December 9, 2015. (Left to right) MNO President Margaret Froh, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer (Liberal), MPP Gilles Bisson (NDP), former MNO President Gary Lipinski, Speaker Dave Levac (Liberal), MNO Chair France Picotte, and MPP France Gélinas (NDP), MPP John Vanthof (NDP).

not have been more appropriate because the work of Gary and Doug have laid a strong foundation for all succeeding generations of Métis in Ontario and across the Homeland.

### **Passage of *The MNO Secretariat Act*, 2015**

On December 9, 2015, the Ontario legislature made history and fulfilled the aspirations of Ontario Métis by passing *The Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act, 2015* (*MNO Secretariat Act*). For our citizens and communities, this legislation represents a significant step forward in our ongoing journey toward reconciliation between the Crown and the Métis Nation.

The passage of the *MNO Secretariat Act* was an impressive achievement when one considers that less than two

decades ago we struggled to have the provincial government recognize that Métis even existed in Ontario. Now, in partnership with Ontario, the *MNO Secretariat Act* was passed in the same legislature that once put a bounty on the head of Louis Riel. It is especially worthy to note that this legislation was supported by all three political parties.

The *MNO Secretariat Act* is a special purpose piece of legislation that recognizes the MNO's unique and distinct governance structures and exempts the MNO from sections of the *Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act* (ONCA) that otherwise would have required the MNO to give up elements of its governance structure such as ballot box elections.

I had the opportunity in early 2016 to participate in community engagement sessions where the MNO leadership





was able to explain the benefits of the *MNO Secretariat Act* and the progress it brings on the journey to reconciliation. While we continue to work toward the full recognition of Métis self-government, the *MNO Secretariat Act* advances the Métis agenda. It shows that reconciliation is not an impossible task. We just need to continue to work together to make it happen.

#### **Unprecedented activity on federal issues**

By and large, in the past Métis have been excluded from federal policies but it has become apparent that federal exclusion can no longer be sustained based on Supreme Court of Canada decisions of the last decade.

From the Powley case to the Manitoba Metis Federation case to the Daniels case, the message from the courts to government has been clear: reconciliation in Canada cannot continue to exclude the Métis people. Negotiation processes to address Métis rights, interests and claims are the only way forward. Fortunately, this year saw some progress in that direction.

In April 2015, Doug Eyford, who had been appointed by the federal government to provide an overview and recommendations on Canada's existing policy for negotiations on Indigenous rights and land claims, released his report. Mr. Eyford recommended that Canada develop a reconciliation process to support the exercise of Métis section 35 (1) *Constitution Act, 1982* rights and establish a framework for negotiations with the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF)



Métis citizens and leaders from across the homeland including Audrey Poirtras (second from left), Métis Nation of Alberta President and Bruce Dumont (third from left), Métis Nation British Columbia President march in a procession to the Supreme Court of Canada on April 14, 2016 to await the Daniels decision.



Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett met with the MNO shortly after being appointed to cabinet. Left to right: MNO President Margaret Froh, Minister Bennett, former MNO President Gary Lipinski.

regarding *MMF v Canada* Supreme Court decision.

This was followed in June 2015 by the appointment of Tom Isaac as an independent Minister's Special Representative to engage the MNO and other Métis Nation governments on issues related to Métis section 35 rights. This appointment was a breakthrough for the Métis Nation and was the result of the positive work the MNO has done at the local, regional, provincial and national levels in advancing our rights-based agenda. Mr. Isaac's report was released on July 21, 2016.

On August 4, 2015, the MNO and the Government of Canada signed a historic Crown-Métis Consultation Agreement. This agreement is the first of its kind to be finalized between Canada and a Métis government. This agreement represents an important step in Canada's recognition of rights-bearing Métis communities outside of the Sault Ste. Marie region, where the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed Métis rights in the 2003 landmark *Powley* case.

It was within the context of increased attention to Métis at the federal level that the MNO made a concerted effort to make the Métis voice heard during the October 19, 2015 federal election. The MNO encouraged all Métis to make their vote count and provided MNO citizens with information about the positions of each political party on Métis issues. A clear demonstration of the effectiveness of the MNO's actions was that Liberal Party of Canada Leader Justin Trudeau took the time to speak with former MNO President Gary Lipinski during the election and the Liberal Party of Canada released its first Métis-specific policy platform.

Since his election, Prime Minister Trudeau and his government have demonstrated a real openness to the Métis and our concerns. We were very pleased with the appointment of Dr. Carolyn Bennett as Minister of Indigenous and Northern

Affairs. Dr. Bennett is a long-time friend of the MNO and has attended many of our MNO Annual General Assemblies. Along with former President Lipinski, I had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Bennett shortly after her appointment to cabinet and our discussions left me very optimistic about the future direction of MNO-Canada relations.

Furthermore, in April 2016 recent developments with the Métis victory at the Supreme Court of Canada in *Daniels v. Canada* suggests that we are entering into an even more dynamic period of Canada-Métis Nation relations that will lead to more exciting events next year.

### **Moving towards reconciliation**

On December 15, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released its final report into the history and legacy of Canada's Indian Residential School System. The Commission issued 94 Calls to Action at its closing ceremonies in June 2015, urging all levels of government and society to work together to repair the harm caused by residential schools and move forward with the process of reconciliation in Canada. The final report is the culmination of six years of extraordinary work by the TRC and includes an entire volume dedicated to telling the Métis experience within Canadian residential schools.

One of the key Calls to Action in the TRC report was for Canada to launch a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women, which the government moved very quickly to implement. The MNO had been advocating for this inquiry for quite some time so it was very gratifying to see the federal government move so quickly after its election to establish this inquiry.

On May 30, 2016, shortly after my election, I had the





On May 30, 2016 in the provincial Legislature, MNO President Margaret Froh along with other Indigenous leaders responded to the announcement from Premier Wynne concerning the Ontario government's commitment to reconciliation. (L-R) Natan Obed, President of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami; Verna Porter-Brunelle, PCMNO Senator; Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; the Right Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario; Andrew Wesley, Residential School survivor; the Right Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; Dr. Dawn Lavell-Harvard, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada; Margaret Froh, MNO President; and Isadore Day, Regional Chief with the Chiefs of Ontario.

honour of addressing the Ontario legislature in response to the provincial government's commitment to reconciliation and to apologies from the Premier, the Opposition Leader and the third party leader to residential school survivors. I commended the Government of Ontario for taking important steps to address all 94 Calls to Action and doing so through a collaborative process with Métis, First Nations and Inuit people. The MNO is committed to working with Ontario, other Indigenous peoples and all Ontarians to chart a new course forward based on respect, understanding and trust.

### **Working towards mutual goals through partnerships**

The work of each MNO branch is detailed elsewhere in this annual report starting on page 31 but a theme I would like to highlight in the work of all our branches is the important partnerships the MNO has built with other governments, including Indigenous governments, as well as with industry, educational institutions and other agencies. The MNO is a valued partner because we bring so much to the table. Our staff and citizens are experts and MNO representatives clearly articulate positions that both advance MNO goals while also supporting the objectives of our partners.

In March 2016, the MNO leadership and staff played pivotal roles in the Provincial Urban Aboriginal Forum, hosted and organized by the MNO with the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA), the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) formerly the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. The Forum was a springboard to develop Ontario's Urban Aboriginal Action Plan—a strategy to improve socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal

peoples living in urban communities in Ontario.

Another area where the MNO has worked closely with ONWA and OFIFC as well as the MIRR and other government ministries, is on the issue of violence against Indigenous women. For the last six years, the MNO with ONWA and OFIFC have been part of the Joint Working Group to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women. On February 23, much of that work came to fruition with the release of the report entitled, *Walking Together: Ontario's Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women (Walking Together)*.

This report recommended a number of the TRC's Calls to Action and reflects the government's commitment to work with Indigenous partners. *Walking Together* builds on the existing projects being implemented by Indigenous partners, community organizations and governments to raise awareness of and to prevent violence. The strategy promotes community safety and healing and addresses root causes of violence across six areas, namely: supporting children, youth and families; community safety and healing; policing and justice; prevention and awareness; leadership, collaboration, alignment and accountability; and improved data and research.

In addition to the MIRR, the MNO maintains important relationships with other government ministries as well. In 2008, the MNO signed the first *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*, which was quickly followed up in 2009 with the first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MNO and the Ministry of Education. The first MOU was an outstanding success that supported key elements of the MNO's K-12 education activities including providing funding for education staff, the development of the MNO's popular Métis Education Kits and the annual Infinite Reach March Break Camp. We have seen a much higher profile for Métis



On February 26, 2016, the MNO received the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Trust Award for Community Leadership from Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell at Queen's Park in Toronto. (L-R) Chair of the Ontario Heritage Trust Professor Thomas Symons, MNO President Margaret Froh, former MNO President Gary Lipinski, MNO Chair France Picotte, Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell and PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case.

culture and heritage in the K-12 school system since the signing of the original MOU in 2009.

On December 15, 2015 the MNO and the Ministry of Education followed up on the 2014 renewal of *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement (Framework Agreement)* by signing a new MOU. Like the overall Framework Agreement, the MOU places increased emphasis on programming for youth in order to ensure that Métis youth have the opportunity to be all they can be. The MOU also identifies opportunities and partnerships to address the unique educational needs of Métis people in Ontario, reduces the gaps in Métis student achievement and student success, and will increase the confidence of Métis parents in the education system.

The new MOU with the Ministry of Education was one of several MOUs and similar agreements signed by the MNO this past fiscal year. On February 19, 2016 the MNO along with Detour Gold, Collège Boréal and Northern College signed an MOU to create a bursary program to assist Métis students pursuing their education at these post-secondary institutions. The MNO also signed an MOU with Cambrian College in May.

Among the other MOUs that the MNO signed in this fiscal year were agreements with Glencore, Barrick Gold and KGHM International. Each of these agreements identifies common interests between the MNO and local rights-bearing Métis communities as represented by their regional consultation committees and each company. Such agreements are very important to the Métis people because they acknowledge the exercise of Métis rights and the Métis way of life in the context of each company's specific operations.

The MNO also reached its first ever cooperation agreement with a First Nation this year. On October 12, 2015 the MNO Secretariat with the Region 1 Consultation Committee signed an agreement with the Mitaanigamiing First Nation, located



Signatories to the Cooperation Agreement between the MNO and Mitaanigamiing First Nation on October 13. (L-R): MNO Kenora Métis Council President Joel Henley, former MNO President Gary Lipinski, former MNO Sunset Country Métis Council President Clint Calder, Mitaanigamiing First Nation Chief Janice Henderson, Mitaanigamiing First Nation Land Entitlement Negotiating Team member Stewart Henderson, PCMNO Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund, Mitaanigamiing First Nation Elder and member of Negotiating Team Edna Morrison, MNO Northwest Métis Council President Ronald Robinson, MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council President Marlene Davidson and Region 1 Captain of the Hunt Sandy Triskle.

on Rainy Lake about 70 kilometres north of Fort Frances.

The Mitaanigamiing First Nation is currently involved in a Treaty Land Entitlement Claim and will be selecting Settlement Lands that include parts of the traditional harvesting territory of the regional rights-bearing Métis community represented by the MNO Region 1 Consultation Committee. The MNO and the Region 1 Consultation Committee support the settlement of outstanding First Nation claims including Mitaanigamiing's Treaty Land Entitlement Claim. In the cooperation agreement, the Mitaanigamiing First Nation outlines its intention to continue to allow Region 1 MNO citizens access to the settlement lands for harvesting and other traditional land use purposes and outlines the conditions for cooperation. This cooperation agreement is an excellent example of an effective and respectful Métis-First Nation reconciliatory process and is one to be celebrated.

In addition to these MOUs, the MNO also signed a Shared Interest Agreement with the Canadian Malartic Corporation in June. The Agreement includes provisions on how the local Métis community will benefit from the development of the Hammond Reef Gold Project and throughout the life of the mine, including employment and business opportunities, training and education initiatives, community and cultural supports and financial participation in the project. The Agreement also incorporates processes that reflect the shared commitment of Canadian Malartic and the MNO in protecting the environment and wildlife, and building a long term, mutually beneficial relationship.

One of the largest partnerships the MNO has ever been involved in was with the organizing committee for the 2015 Pan AM and Parapan AM Games held during the summer of



The Barrick-MNO MOU signing. Back row, from left: Jeremy Dart, Patricia Obie, Debi Bouchie, Region 2 Captain of the Hunt Ken Simard, Phil McGuire. Front row, from left: Trent Desaulniers, Andrew Baumen, PCMNO Region 1 Councillor Cameron Burgess.

2015. MNO leaders and citizens participated in all elements of the games including the official torch arrival ceremony and the torch relay. In recognition of Métis traditional territories in Ontario, the MNO President was also a member of the official party of dignitaries in the Opening Ceremony. There he sat along with Governor-General David Johnston, several First Nations chiefs and the representatives of 41 countries. MNO youth were also part of an international cast of 625 performers during the incredible Opening Ceremony show produced by Cirque du Soleil. Our Métis youth were dressed in traditional clothing and used historic Métis artifacts including a canoe in a sequence that portrayed the important role of the Métis in the fur trade era. Métis artists and artisans were also part of the Aboriginal Pavilion and the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Students managed an MNO booth throughout the entire games.

### **Building self-government through economic self-sufficiency**

In 2013, the MNO passed its first law—the *MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law*, which has been an essential element of the MNO drive for self-government. The law came into effect at the same time that the MNO had successfully bid with its partner Brightroof Solar on 63 contracts for rooftop and small ground-based solar projects. This past fiscal year, 50 of these projects had been built and commissioned.

Today, these MNO-owned solar projects generate 17,700,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) a year. The kilowatt-hour is a unit of equivalent to one kilowatt (kW) of power sustained for one hour. Put in more user-friendly terms, the average household in Ontario uses 10,000 kWh a year and MNO projects generate sufficient electricity to power 1770 households a year.



Former MNO President Gary Lipinski (left) with CarbonFree Technology Chief Executive Officer (CEO) David Oxtoby at Upper Canada College where one of the MNO's solar projects is located.

This solar energy partnership creates business opportunities that produce revenue generating streams for future generations and are a wonderful fit for the MNO. We can do good things for the environment, good things to reduce climate change and create revenue streams that Métis people can benefit from for years to come. By having revenue streams that are independent of grants and support from other governments, the MNO is becoming economically self-sufficient and that moves us towards self-government. Our ultimate goal is to be recognized as a leader in Green Energy in Ontario, and to generate enough green energy to power every Métis household in Ontario as part of our efforts to be self-governing and self-sufficient.

### **Preparing to retire the MNO debt**

As annual reports have indicated, for the last eight years the MNO has been paying down debts acquired in the previous 15 years. In 2008, the MNO debt sat at \$4.6 million but at the end of the 2015-16 fiscal year that debt was down to only \$494,000. This impressive reduction was due to the strong leadership of PCMNO over the last eight years, the sacrifices of our citizens and the instituting of sound financial policies. I am pleased to report that at my first PCMNO meeting as President in June 2016, the PCMNO voted to retire the MNO debt in November 2017.

Thanks to our collective sacrifices and efforts over the last eight years, we have achieved previously unimaginable results and if we continue to manage MNO finances diligently we will leave our children and grand-children a debt-free MNO. Being debt-free also opens up opportunities for us today as we will no longer have to use every available dollar to pay down the debt. We can now begin to plan on spending those dollars to advance the MNO.





MNO President Margaret Froh and members of past MNO Canoe Expeditions with Prime Minister Trudeau at the National Aboriginal Day canoe event in Ottawa: (Left to right) Josh Szajewski; President Froh; Prime Minister Trudeau; Amilia DiChiara; Geneviève Routhier; Heather Bunn; Emily Ingram; Gerald Lavallee; Kyle Grenier; and Kyle Burton.

### Meeting the challenges ahead

The list of highlights I have provided, as well as those listed throughout the annual report, 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. Our women, men, young people and seniors, are called on more often than those of any other Indigenous government to support the work of advancing Métis rights and interests. This is a testament to the firm commitment we hold as MNO citizens, that we all are committed to advancing the Métis agenda and helping our fellow Métis.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the PCMNO, MNO community councils, Women's Secretariat, Veterans' Council, Senators, Youth Council, Captains of the Hunt and all others who hold leadership positions in our government. Nothing that took place in the last year could have been achieved without their selfless dedication and vision. I would also be remiss if I did not give a standing ovation to our dedicated, hard-working Métis public service that so ably support the leadership in all areas of activity. Future generations owe a tremendous debt to all these amazing women and men.

Considering the incredible contributions of all our volunteer leaders and citizens, it is very appropriate that on February 26, 2016 the many achievements of our MNO volunteers was acknowledged with the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Trust Award for Community Leadership. This award

celebrates individuals, groups and communities for exceptional contributions to conserving Ontario's cultural and natural heritage. This award was given in recognition of the tremendous work MNO citizens have done over more than 20 years to preserve and promote Métis history and culture.

I was honoured and humbled to be one of the MNO citizens who accepted this award on behalf of the volunteers who founded the MNO and all our past and present leaders. Our volunteers are the heart and soul of the MNO. These hard-working individuals spend thousands of hours annually building and strengthening our Métis communities and it is through their continuous efforts that we are able to perform our important work.

Following in the footsteps of our founders and early leaders, we all continue to move forward together 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. "Guided by our spiritual values, we aspire to attain our highest potential," is a worthy goal that I challenge all MNO citizens to embrace.

Merci, Miigwetch, Thank You, Marsee

M. Margaret Froh  
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

*We, the Métis are a people of the lands, which gave rise to our history and traditions and culture. We call those lands the Métis homelands. The Homelands stretch from the lakes and rivers of Ontario; cross the prairies, traverse the mountains of British Columbia and into the northern reaches of the North-West Territories. They include the hills and valleys of the north-central American States.*

-- the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose



## Who Are The Métis?

The Métis Nation is comprised of descendants of people born of relations between First Nations women and European men. The initial offspring of these unions were of mixed ancestry. The genesis of a new Indigenous 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.

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% of all Métis in Canada.

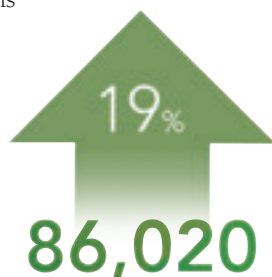
Across Canada, 28% of the Métis population was 14 years of age or younger in 2011. That compares to 16% of the population in that age bracket amongst non-Indigenous people. Métis are younger than the non-Aboriginal population in Canada, with a median age of 31 years

compared with 40 for the non-Indigenous population. Métis are also younger than the non-Indigenous population in Ontario, with a median age of 35 years compared with 40 for Ontario's non-Indigenous population

The 2010 Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) report, *Indigenous Communities in Profile: Ontario*, confirms that the Aboriginal population in Ontario is growing at a rate much faster than the overall population. Between 2001 and 2006, the community grew by 28.8% compared to Ontario's overall population, which increased by 6.6%. The Métis population represented the most growth (59.5%) in the five year period and remains the second largest Aboriginal group in the province (30.4%).

The report also confirms that the Indigenous 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.

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); Ottawa (6,860); Sudbury (6,460); Midland (3,420); Sault Ste. Marie (2,995); Thunder Bay (2,445); Timmins (1,860); North Bay (1,860); and Kenora (1,185).



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% of all Métis in Canada.



*... research, publish and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and to establish and maintain a registry of the Métis Citizens of Ontario.*

— the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

## Citizenship and Identification

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 2009, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario developed an Interim Registry policy to provide the Registry with clarity to the principles of how the national 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 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 MNO 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.

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

— the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose



## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# Self-Governance

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.

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. 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 rights as distinct Indigenous 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 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*, which

are supported by the policies and procedures adopted and implemented by the MNO, guide the work of the MNO. Every four years MNO 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.

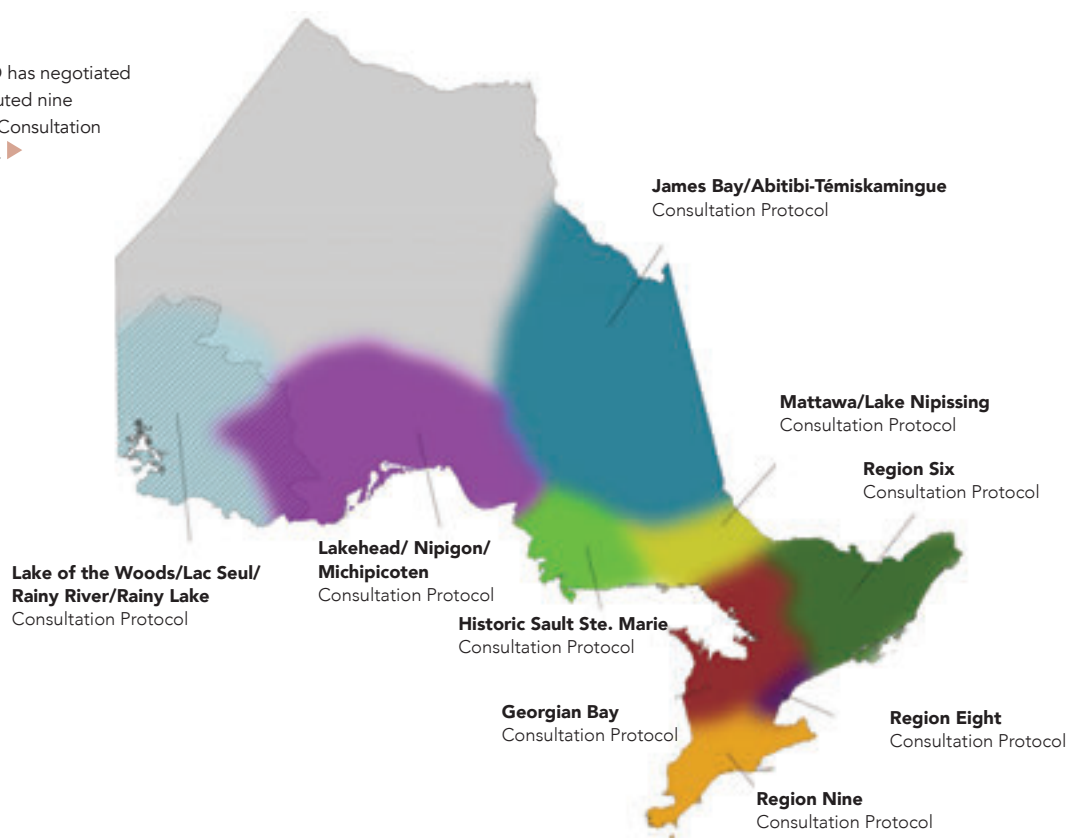
As the only recognized provincial Métis governance structure in Ontario, the MNO advanced the Métis rights agenda nationally through the precedent setting Powley case. The MNO has established bilateral and tripartite processes with the federal and provincial governments and in November, 2008 signed an *Ontario-Métis Nation Framework Agreement* with the Government of Ontario, which was renewed in 2014. The MNO has also negotiated an interim accommodation agreement with the provincial government on Métis harvesting rights.



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

— the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose

The MNO has negotiated and executed nine Regional Consultation protocols. ▶



## DUTY OF THE CROWN TO

# Consult and Accommodate

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.

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 inter-connected 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 com-

munities 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 (PCMNO) regional councillor for that area and a representative from each community council in that 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.

... 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

-- the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose

## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# Harvesting Policy & Captains of the Hunt

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 2015-16, 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 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, 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 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 Captains of the Hunt (2015-16)

Gary Lipinski Chief Captain of the Hunt	
Louise Goulding Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt	Richard Sarrazin Region Five
Sandy Triskle Region One	Tom Thompson Region Six
Ken Simard Region Two	Greg Garratt Region Seven
Andy Lefebvre Region Three	Gerry Bedford Region Eight
Art Bennett Region Four	Peter Rivers Region Nine



... establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government

— the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose

# Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario

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 Part A*. The most recent MNO general election was held in May 2016. The terms of all the PCMNO members who served in 2015-16 expired in May 2016 when a new PCMNO was elected. The only exception is the senators who are elected at MNO AGAs. New PCMNO Senators will be elected at the 2016 MNO AGA.

**Members of the 2012-16 PCMNO at their last meeting in March 2016.** Front row (l-r) Region 1 Councillor Cam Burgess, Region 2 Councillor Theresa Stenlund, Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, MNO Chair France Picotte, former President Gary Lipinski, Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau, Region 8 Councillor Anita Tucker, Executive Senator Reta Gordon and Region 5 Councillor Juliette Denis. Back row (l-r) Region 3 Councillor Marcel Lafrance, Region 4 Councillor Ernie Gatien, Senator Verna Brunelle-Porter, Postsecondary Representative Jennifer Nicholson, Region 6 Councillor Tom Thompson, Region 7 Councillor Pauline Richardson, Youth Representative Mitch Case, Region 9 Councillor Peter Rivers, Senator Joe Poitras and Senator Rene Gravelle. ▼





▲ **Métis youth who participated in the MNO Youth Council meeting at the 2015 AGA.** BACK (l-r): Amilia DiChiara, Cassidy Eames, Paul Robitaille, Gabe Picard, Kate Helleman, PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case, Dustin Hoogsteen, Region 7 Youth Representative Kyle Grenier, Brittney Matthews, Courtney Wall. CENTRE (l-r): Natasha Lafreniere, Region 1 Youth Representative Kelly Duquette, Sarah Bibeau, Simone Blais, Region 3 Youth Representative Brianne Gosselin, Alexandra Dusome, Devin Taylor. FRONT (l-r): Aaron Oakes, Gerald Lavallee.

## MNO COMMITTEE

# Youth Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Youth Council is a committee of the MNO with the mandate to identify issues impacting Métis youth and to work within the MNO 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.

In addition to the MNO Youth Council, 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 and represents the voice of MNO 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.

Elections for the MNO Youth Council are held every four years with the general MNO election. This election was held in May 2016 with the terms of the 2012-16 MNO Youth Council members expiring at that time. These individuals were: PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case; Kelly Duquette (Region 1); Janine Landry (Region 2); Brianne Gosselin (Region 3); Sylvie Forest (Region 5); Phoebe Mandry (Region 6); Kylie Grenier (Region 7); Nicholas Delbaere-Sawchuk (Region 8) and Alex Young (Region 9).



▲ **Participants in the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario meeting at the 2015 AGA.** BACK (l-r): Amanda Pont-Shanks, Bernadette Picco, Giselle Legeihn, Jeanette Brunelle, Wendy Elliott, Tobias Clarke. MIDDLE (l-r): Juliette Denis, Jo-Anne Secord, Sandy Triskle, Lorraine Mountney, Theresa Stenlund, Pat Taylor. FRONT (l-r): WSMNO Representative Rosalyn Calder, WSMNO Spokesperson Sharon Cadeau, WSMNO Representative Pearl Gabona.

## MNO COMMITTEE

# Women's Secretariat

The Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation in Ontario (WSMNO) is a committee of the MNO and includes Métis women from across Ontario who are committed to promoting women's issues and advocating on their behalf. The WSMNO advises the 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.

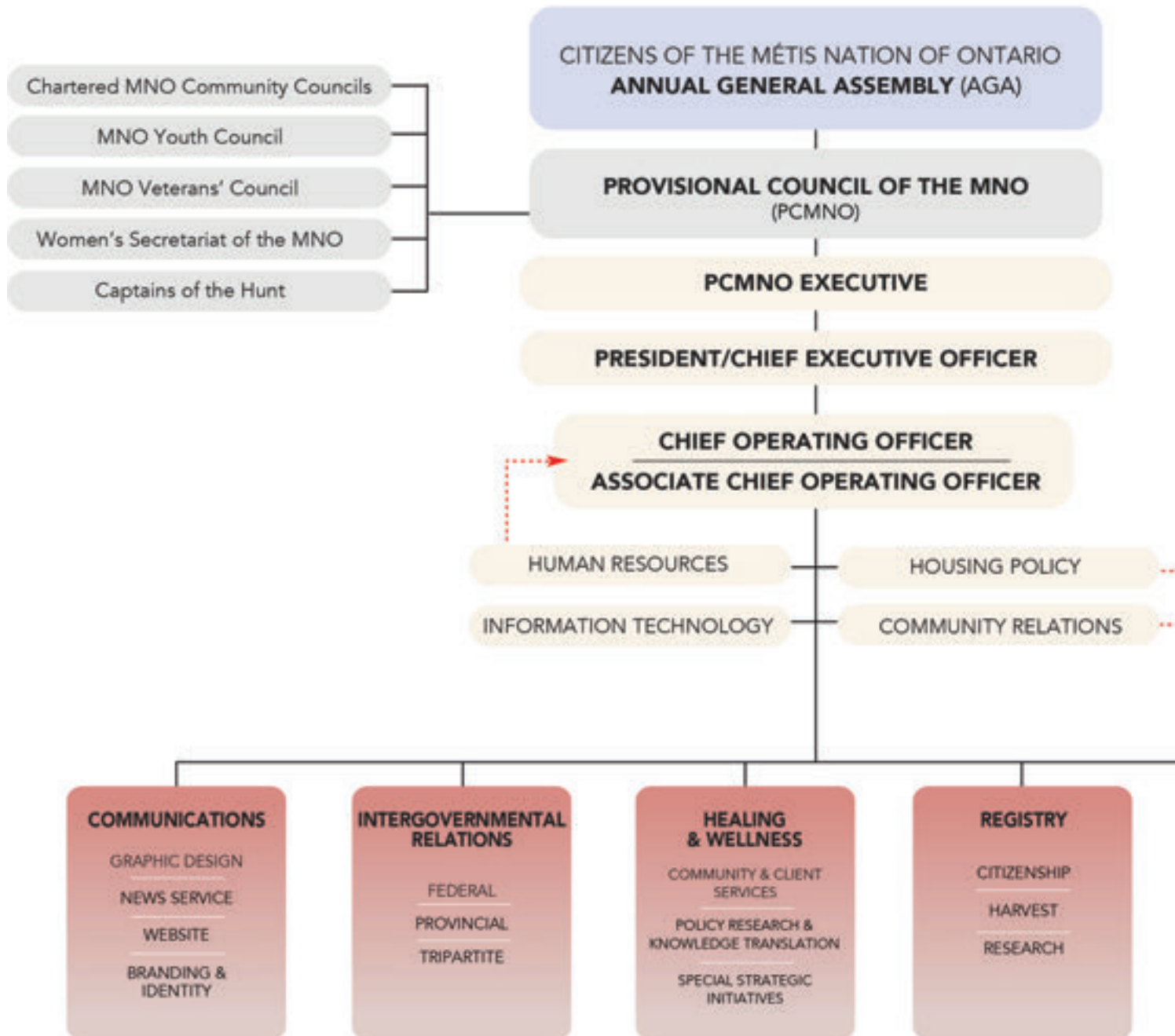
This work includes policy development and review, coordination, consultation and education. The main goal of the WSMNO is to encourage the full participation of all women within the MNO in helping to build a strong and healthy nation.

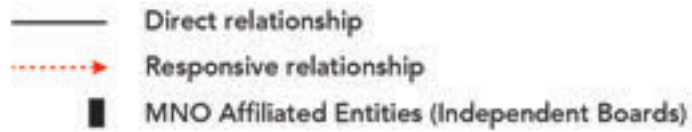
The Spokesperson for the WSMNO is MNO Vice-chair Sharon Cadeau and four women serve as WSMNO Representatives. During 2015-16 these individuals were: Pearl Gabona, Rosalyn Calder, Suzanne Jackson and Sandra Gauthier-Poelman. Elections for WSMNO positions will take place at the 2016 MNO Annual General Assembly.



# Organizational Structure

As of March 31, 2016





## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# Chartered Community Councils

**M**étis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens volunteer thousands of hours every year to support the work of chartered MNO community councils. 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.

### Structure of chartered MNO community councils

The MNO fulfills the inherent right to self-government institutions of the Métis in Ontario by representing and advocating for the distinct interests of Métis in the province. 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 MNO citizens living within geographic boundaries specified for each council by its MNO charter.

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 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.

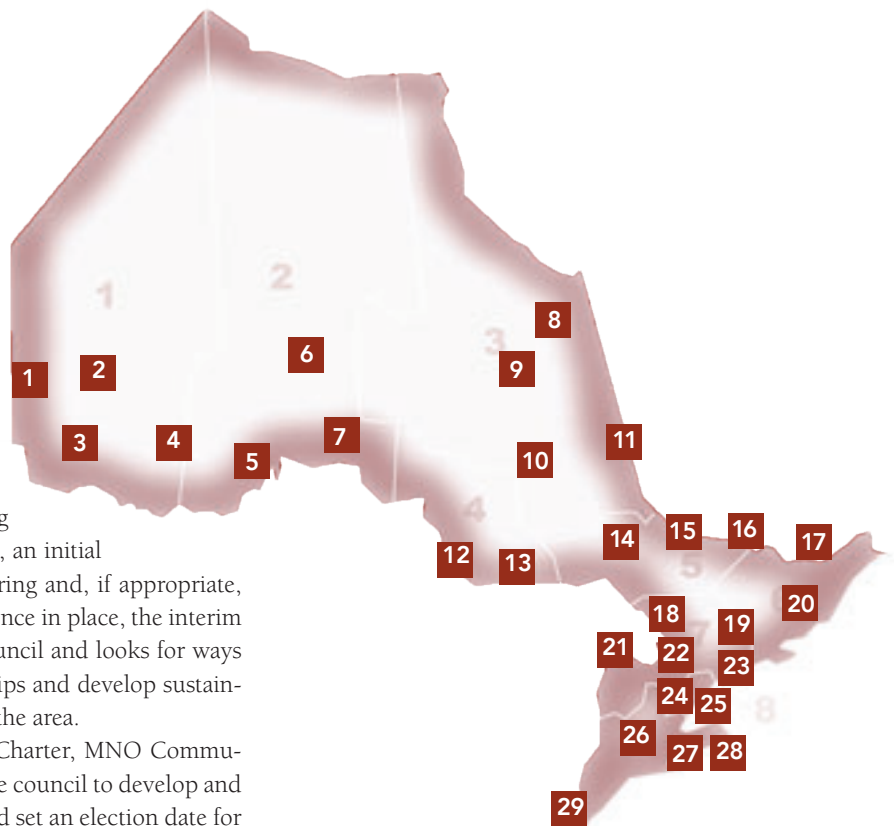
### Growing stronger within the MNO

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. MNO Community

▼ **Participants in the annual President's meeting prior to the 2015 AGA.** BACK (l-r): Marc Laurin (North Bay), Tera Beaulieu (Toronto), Joel Henley (Kenora), Peter Couture (Great Lakes), Ronald Robinson (Northwest), Kim Powley (Sault St. Marie), Tony Muscat (Moon River), Nelson Montreuil (Mattawa), Richard Sarrazin (Sudbury). MIDDLE (l-r): Brady Hupet (Sunset Country), Derrick Pont (Niagara), Marlene Davidson (Atikokan), Andy Dufrane (Peterborough), Yvonne Jensen (North Channel), Scott Lloyd (High Land Waters), David Hamilton (Chapleau), Liliane Ethier (Temiskaming), Urgel Courville (Northern Lights), Parmallia Burgie (Ottawa), Kristin Randall (Oshawa). FRONT (l-r): Bryanna Scott (Thunder Bay) Jerry Clarke (Clear Waters), Jennifer Parkinson (Grand River), former MNO President Gary Lipinski, David Dusome (Georgian Bay), William Gordon (Greenstone), Trent Desaulniers (Superior North Shore).







Relations staff will work with these citizens to plan community meetings to gauge local interest in forming a council. If sufficient interest exists, an initial meeting is held 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 an 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

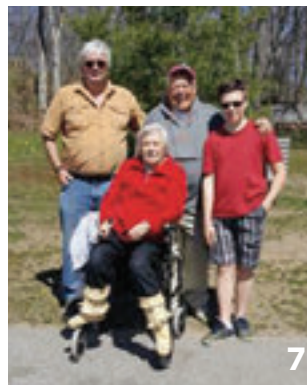
MNO citizens who support the MNO community councils with thousands of hours of volunteer work are at the heart of the Métis Nation. To assist citizens to develop this expertise in local governance, the MNO provides workshops for MNO community council members with funding from the Ontario government's New Relationship Fund (NRF).

MNO local governance training is offered through MNO Community Relations staff and provides instruction and resources needed for building and maintaining 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 Governance and Finance course. This is a two-day seminar that explains where MNO community councils fit into the MNO governance structure and their role as local government. The course includes 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 several MNO community councils have taken the training since then. These courses are being reviewed and will be enhanced moving forward.

### MNO CHARTERED COMMUNITY COUNCILS

1. MNO Kenora Métis Council
2. MNO Northwest Métis Council
3. MNO Sunset Country Métis Council
4. MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council
5. MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council
6. MNO Greenstone Métis Council
7. MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council
8. MNO Timmins Métis Council
9. MNO Northern Lights Métis Council
10. MNO Chapleau Métis Council
11. MNO Temiskaming Métis Council
12. MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council
13. MNO North Channel Métis Council
14. MNO Sudbury Métis Council
15. MNO North Bay Métis Council
16. MNO Mattawa Métis Council
17. MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council
18. MNO Moon River Métis Council
19. MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council
20. MNO High Land Waters Métis Council
21. MNO Great Lakes Métis Council
22. MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council
23. MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council
24. MNO Credit River Métis Council
25. MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council
26. MNO Grand River Métis Council
27. MNO Clear Waters Métis Council
28. MNO Niagara Region Métis Council
29. MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council







1) (l-r) Will Skura, Virginia Barter, and Lindsay DuPré attend the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council Youth Committee workshop on Métis medicine and cooking; 2) Excited citizens of the MNO North Channel Métis Council prior to the arrival of the Pan AM Torch Relay: (Left to right) Yvonne Jensen, President; Alex McCoy; Taylor McNally, Youth Representative; 3) MNO North Channel Métis Council Youth Representative Taylor McNally (right) helps students with a healing blanket.; 4) MNO citizen Kirk MacKenzie (left) and MNO TYRMC Chair Todd Ross (middle) kick off Manulife Paddle the Don with the assistance of Premier Wynne (right). 5) Volunteers with the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council planting rare trees at the Georgian Bay Islands National Park. 6) Members of the MNO Credit River Métis Council show off the fruits of their community garden; 7) Members of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council at the Beausoleil Island Cemetery of the Oaks; 8) Mothers take part in a Generations Mother's Day Tea in Bancroft; 9) Grade 7 and 8 students in Kitchener learn about Louis Riel from MNO Grant River Métis Council President Jennifer Parkinson; 10) A Voyageur canoe expedition during Powley Day celebrations; 11) Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath and citizens of the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council. Back row (L-R) Pauline Richardson, Luke Thompson, Andy Dufrane, Brad Hodgson. Front row (L-R) Christa Lemelin, Andrea Horwath, Taryn Blackstock, Terry Bloom. 12) A young participant shows off her handiwork after participating in a dot art workshop facilitated by the MNO Healing & Wellness branch for National Aboriginal Day; 13) Gracie George (left) and Cloe Dolony (right) represented the Métis community with MNO Sunset Country Métis Council Youth Representative Sarah Marusyk during the opening ceremony of the Harmony of Nations festival in Fort Frances.





14



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14) Participants in a trapping course in Credit River; 15) Representatives of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council and recipients of the Helen Bradley Memorial Bursary. From left: Councillor Jo-Anne Secord, PCMNO Region 7 Representative Pauline Richardson, Jordyn Playne, Dominic Searles, Caitlin Diver, Secretary Danielle Callander and Councillor Bernice Paradis; 16) Participants in the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council Annual General Meeting; 17) MNO Community Relations Coordinator Glen Lipinski, Niagara Regional Councillor Paul Grenier, Member of Parliament and MNO citizen Vance Badawey and MNO Niagara Region Métis Council (NRM) Derrick Pont at the annual MNO NRM Harvest Dinner; 18) Yvonne Jensen (left) presents Métis veteran June Fogen, C.D., with the Louis Riel medal and certificate; 19) Wayne Copeland (right) and fellow MNO citizens attended a culinary workshop held by Liaison College; 20) (L-R) Suzanne Jackson (Chair of the MNO Clear Waters Métis Council), self-identified Métis students Carolyn and Danielle Lacka and Nick Bertrand (Instructional Program Leader: First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education for the Halton District School Board); 21) Members of the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council held their third annual Wildlife Dinner and Comedy Night on June 6. Back Row (L-R): Terry Bloom (Senator), Hank Rowlinson, Tom Thompson (Region 6 Councillor), Andy Dufrane (President), Brad Hodgson (Councillor) Front Row (L-R): Debra Malandrino (Councillor), Christa Lemelin (Chair), Taryn Blackstock (Women's Representative), Luke Thompson (Councillor); 22) Participants in an MNO Credit River Métis Council Four Medicines and Smudge Kit Workshop in Brampton; 23) PCMNO Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund (far left) stands with members of the MNO Kenora Métis Council: (L-R) Councillor Jordan Benoit; Treasurer and Region 1 Captain of the Hunt Sandy Triskle; Councillor Martin Camire; Chair Liz Boucha; Secretary Nina Henley; Senator Karen Cederwall; and, President Joel Henley; 24) The MNO Credit River Métis Council during the Garden Awakening and Preparation workshop; 25) Participants attend the launch of a new workshop, 'en cercle, ensemble'; 26) Some MNO Sunset Country Métis at the Relay for Life kick-off event.





## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO Veterans' Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council is a chartered council of the MNO established in 2001 to represent the interest of MNO veterans. 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 most recent election was held in May 2016. The terms of office of the 2012-16 executive expired at that time.

▼ **Members of the 2012-16 MNO Veterans' Council Executive at the 2015 AGA.** BACK (l-r): Secretary Greg Garratt, Treasurer Chris Plummer C.D., Sergeant-at-Arms Robert Baskey, Women's Representative Lisa Tessier C.D.. FRONT (l-r): Chair Guy Mandeville C.D., President Joseph Paquette, Veterans' Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy O. ONT., C.D., O.M.C.





*We are a people who honour and respect the family, our elders who hold the key to the past, and our children, who are our future.*

-- the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose

## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# Senators

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. 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 to sit as the Executive Senator. The next election for the PCMNO Senator positions is being held at the 2016 MNO AGA.

As the MNO grows, the requests for Senators to attend events to lead opening or closing prayers or to share 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.

▼ **Participants in the Senators meeting prior to the 2015 AGA.** BACK (l-r): Blair Sterling, Terry Bloom, Carol Levis, John George, Romeo Sarrazin, Brian Gouliquer, Gary Laframboise, Patricia Dryden, Robert Lloyd. MIDDLE (l-r): Bill Morrison, Roland St. Germain, Larry Duval, Cecile Coutu, Constance Simmonds, Marlene Greenwood, Al Roussin. FRONT (l-r): Cecile Wagar, Brenda Powley, Lois McCallum, Rene Gravelle, Reta Gordon, Joseph Poitras, Verna Porter-Brunelle, Dora McInnis, Audrey Vallee.



### MNO SENATORS - CURRENT TO JUNE 28, 2016

**PCMNO EXECUTIVE SENATOR:**  
**Senator Reta Gordon**

**PCMNO SENATORS:**  
**Senator Rene Gravelle**  
**Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle**  
**Senator Joseph Poitras**

**MNO CHARTERED COMMUNITY COUNCIL SENATORS:**  
MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council: **Senator Brian Gouliquer**  
MNO Chapleau Métis Council: **Vacant**  
MNO Clear Waters Métis Council: **Vacant**  
MNO Credit River Métis Council: **Senator Bill Morrison**  
MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council: **Senator Ray Bergie**  
MNO Greenstone Métis Council: **Senator Patricia Dryden**  
MNO Grand River Métis Council: **Senator Carol Levis**  
MNO Great Lakes Métis Council: **Interim Senator John Van Wyck**

MNO High Land Waters Métis Council: **Senator Robert Lloyd Sr.**  
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: **Senator Blair Sterling**  
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 Cecile Coutu**  
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 Pierre Lefebvre**  
MNO Toronto-York Region Métis Council: **Senator Constance Simmonds**  
MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council: **Senator Will Rochon**

**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**

*...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.*

— the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose

# Métis National Council

Throughout history, the Métis people have acted collectively to protect and fight for their rights, land, and ongoing 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 in the MNC's general assembly and in 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.



(L-R) MNO President Margaret Froh, Métis Nation BC President Bruce Dumont and Métis National Council President Clément Chartier at the 2016 MNC General Meeting.

*...to establish good relations and maintain our historic alliances with all Aboriginal peoples for the pursuit of our common interests and goals.*

— the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose

# Nation to Nation

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, terri-

tory, 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) main-

tains nation to nation relationships. 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.



MNO President Margaret Froh and Ontario Regional Chief, Isadore Day, Chiefs of Ontario, keynote speakers at the Indigenous Health Conference (IHC) 2016: Towards Health and Reconciliation.

# 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 in healing and wellness, education and training, housing, lands, resources and con-

sultations, community relations, intergovernmental relations, finance, communications, human resources and information technology. These branches operated 142 active projects in 2015-16 and held over 150 contributions and transfer agreements between the MNO and its partners.



**18,000+**  
MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO  
**CITIZENS**

**21**  
MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO  
**OFFICES**  
supporting 29 communities

**163**  
MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO  
**EMPLOYEES**

**150+**  
**CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS**  
between MNO and other governments and their agencies

## BANCROFT

Education & Training  
Healing & Wellness

## BRAMPTON

Healing & Wellness

## DRYDEN

Education & Training  
Healing & Wellness

## FORT FRANCES

Education & Training  
Healing & Wellness  
Lands, Resources & Consultations

## HAMILTON

Education & Training  
Healing & Wellness

## INNISFIL

Infinity Property Services

## KENORA

Healing & Wellness

## KINGSTON

Education & Training  
Healing & Wellness

## MIDLAND

Education & Training  
Healing & Wellness  
Lands, Resources & Consultations

## NORTH BAY

Education & Training  
Healing & Wellness

## OSHAWA

Education & Training  
Healing & Wellness

## OTTAWA (HEAD OFFICE)

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

## OWEN SOUND

Education & Training  
Healing & Wellness  
Lands, Resources & Consultations

## RENFREW

Healing & Wellness

## SAULT STE. MARIE

Education & Training  
Healing & Wellness

## SUDBURY

Education & Training  
Healing & Wellness  
Lands, Resources & Consultations

## TIMMINS

Healing & Wellness  
Education & Training  
Lands, Resources & Consultations

## THUNDER BAY

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

## TORONTO

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

## WELLAND

Healing & Wellness  
Lands, Resources & Consultations

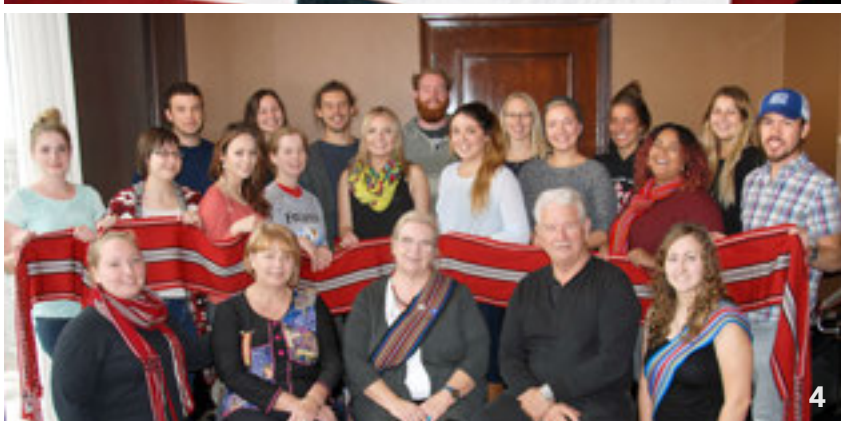
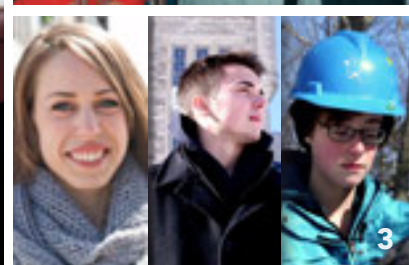
## WINDSOR

Healing & Wellness



2016

**ADMIN**



1) Signatories to the new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MNO and the Ministry of Education in December, 2015. From left: the Honourable Liz Sandals, Minister of Education; former MNO President Gary Lipinski; MNO Chair France Picotte; current MNO President Margaret Froh; 2) Signatories and witnesses to the MNO/Cambrian College Memorandum of Understanding. MNO Chair France Picotte, Cambrian student Roxanne Taillefer, MNO Sudbury Métis Council Senator Cecile Coutu and Cambrian College President Brian Best; 3) Alison Rheaume, Josh Szajewski and Emily Ingram are MNO Education and Training program success stories that will be featured in an upcoming series of short TV commercials; 4) Métis jiggers lead the dance during a cultural presentation at the Provincial Urban Aboriginal Forum in Toronto; 5) MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators, staff and community members at the 2015-2016 Infinite Reach mid-term meeting in Toronto; 6) MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program Interpreters during training at Old Fort William; 7) Northern College President Fred Gibbons, MNO Chair France Picotte, College Boréal President Jean-Pierre Nadon and Vice President of Human Resources and Aboriginal Affairs for Detour Gold Rachel Pineault sign a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize the creation of a bursary program for Métis students.



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

*– from the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*

## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# Education & Training

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### INTRODUCTION

The Métis Nation of Ontario Education and Training Branch is driven by the priorities of the MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose and is committed to the goal of healthy, thriving individuals, families and communities. MNO Education and Training 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 through on-going agreements with Employment and Social Development Canada ESDC (formerly known as 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 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. 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 Education and Training's employment and training services are funded by ESDC through its Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) and focuses 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 program policies, reporting systems and assessment procedures. While

the MNO was one of the only ASETS funded agencies across Canada to witness an increase in its yearly funding amount—starting with the signing of the five-year agreement in 2010—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.

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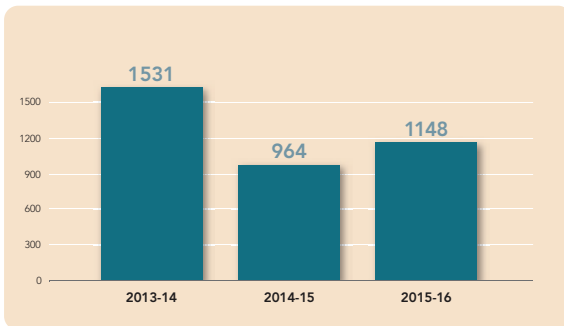
### ABORIGINAL SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING STRATEGY (ASETS) AGREEMENT

MNO Education and Training Branch 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 people acquire the skills needed to be successful in careers of their choosing 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.

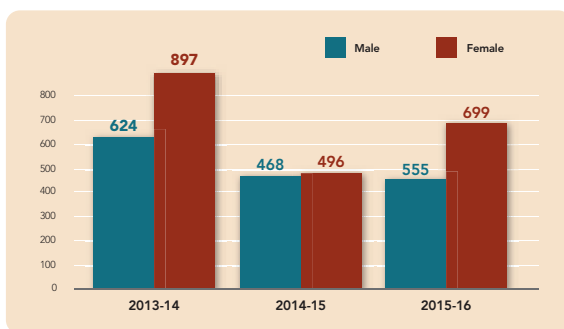
### Recent notable achievements

- The MNO received additional funding through Canada Summer Jobs to hire Métis students in Thunder Bay, Midland, Welland, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, and Timmins, and leveraged ASETS youth program dollars to enhance the staff compliment. This funding allowed the MNO to deliver a Métis Summer Youth Cultural program in several locations across Ontario and to actively participate in displaying cultural activities during the Annual General Assembly (AGA) as well as during the 2015 PAN AM Games.

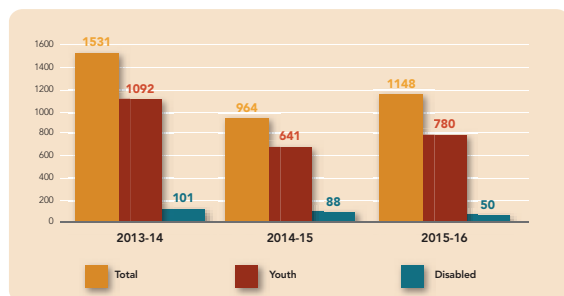
### Total clients served



### Gender breakdown



### Total youth and disabled clients



- An inter-branch collaboration training session was held in Collingwood, Ontario to facilitate connectivity between MNO branches and improve service delivery to Métis people.
- MNO representatives attended the Indigenous Protocol Signing at St. Clair College on September 22, 2015.
- ASETS has been extended to March 31, 2017 and the federal government has committed to develop a new strategy with enhanced funding.
- MNO has conducted a series of reports to inform the development of a new strategy and to consider service improvements through a program evaluation process, environmental scans, labour market assessment and in-depth statistical and demographic profiles.

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AGREEMENT

The MNO and Ministry of Education Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been renewed and a signing ceremony was held on December 15, 2015. The MOU provides for on-going 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 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp, Métis language projects, Métis Education Kits, teacher resource development and facilitated resource sessions, and regional meetings between district school boards and MNO community councils.

### Recent notable achievements

- MNO increased outreach to Métis students, parents, teachers, and district school boards including French school boards.
- Further improvements were made to the Métis Education Kits, with new resources and additional supports added.
- Métis representatives from school boards, and college and university Aboriginal Education Councils were gathered in Toronto in December 2015.
- In March 2016, the fourth MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp was held at the Canadian Ecology Center in Mattawa. The camp attracted 19 high school students from across the province along with Métis Knowledge Holders, MNO staff and MNO community council guests, Infinite Reach facilitators and staff. The high school students came together to enhance their post-secondary experience by discussing post-secondary options and to learn about the MNO and its Infinite Reach Métis Solidarity Network. Scheduled workshops helped students prepare and plan for their post-secondary education: a college and university survival guide discussion, college and university choices and the importance of post-secondary education. The retreat also gave students an opportunity to immerse themselves in Métis heritage and culture with some lessons taught by Traditional Knowledge holders.
- MNO and the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities are embarking on an enhanced coordinated multi-year agreement.
- MNO received additional funding to engage in activity that would support and promote culturally sensitive, safe and accepting schools.



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## MINISTRY OF TRAINING, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AGREEMENT

The MNO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities in 2010, which established the basis for cooperation between the MNO and the Ministry. The MOU and work plan, which are currently being re-negotiated, provides for on-going meetings between MNO and Ministry officials that will identify areas for future cooperation. The Ministry provides funding for the MNO to enhance its educational capacity, advance several innovative initiatives including: the MNO Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network and establish MOUs and similar agreements with Ontario post-secondary institutions that are aimed at developing resources, and engaging students and educational partners.

### Recent notable achievements

- The MNO Infinite Reach student program continues to grow. Specific projects have included Infinite Reach resource materials such as posters, manuals, and a section on the MNO's website.
- A total of 28 MNO Infinite Reach facilitators have now been trained to engage incoming Métis students at 14 colleges or universities and provide support by connecting new Métis students to available student services, Métis cultural events, and MNO community councils.
- An MNO Infinite Reach facilitator orientation session was held prior to and during the MNO AGA in Midland, August 2015. Additional meetings were held in Toronto, November 2015 and Mattawa, March 2016.
- On February 19 in Timmins, a formal signing ceremony was held for the MNO-Northern College and the MNO-College Boreal Bursary Agreements.

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## YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN, MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

The project was designed to increase the self-esteem of Métis youth by strengthening their awareness and building pride in their culture. The project had two components. Cultural sessions were provided in conjunction with the Infinite Reach March Break Camp, and Metis resources were purchased to be provided to Métis youth that attended the camp as well as Infinite Reach Facilitators, MNO Youth Council representatives, and MNO community council youth representatives.

The camp had multiple cultural sessions that included activities such as beading, finger weaving, trapping, skinning and stretching hides and outdoor ecology. An impor-

tant aspect of the camp is connecting the Métis youth to the land. The land has always been an important link to Métis culture, wellness and sense of identity. Feasts and gatherings to share experiences and knowledge of the region and what it was like to grow up as a Métis person was provided by the members of the surrounding Métis Council. The March Break Camp provided the peer-to-peer support, knowledge holder and elder support and a cultural atmosphere that provided a comfortable environment for the students to discover and build self-esteem and confidence through their culture.

With the information and experience that the students received either at the March break Camp and/or from the Metis cultural resources, the students will be empowered to speak about their culture and share it with those they feel comfortable doing so with in their home communities.

### Recent notable achievements

- Infinite Reach March Break Camp was held at the Canadian Ecology Centre in Mattawa.
- Nineteen students in grades 10 to 12 attended the camp.

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## URBAN ABORIGINAL POLICY TABLE, MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS (MAA)

MNO participates on the Urban Aboriginal Policy Table along with the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) and Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA). Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) provided funding to support on-going participation, policy development and research on issues impacting urban Aboriginal peoples.

### Recent notable achievements

- MNO was co-host of the inaugural provincial Urban Aboriginal Forum on held in Toronto March 2016. The forum was extremely well attended and successful in highlighting wise practices in community development and partnership building. The forum provided a platform to showcase a number of MNO service delivery projects and partnerships.
- MNO hosted a series of community sessions to help inform the Ministry's development of an Urban Aboriginal Action Plan.



Métis youth and facilitators of the 2016 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp.

## URBAN PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

MNO secured funding through OFIFC (through their delivery of federal Urban Aboriginal Strategy funding) to engage in several youth engagement conversations related to barriers to education and employment.

### Recent notable achievements

- Sessions were held in North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay and Toronto. Two additional sessions were held in Waterloo and Ottawa.
- A draft report has been developed that identifies barriers such as discrimination, lack of financial resources for schooling, the need for Métis specific cultural connections, issues related to mental health and well-being and a need for stronger employment connections. A final report will be produced that will include information from all sessions.

## NAVIGATING EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS YOUTH PROJECT (NEPYP)

Building on the success of the Ready to Work Tourism and Hospitality Program and the Navigating Employment Path-

ways (NEP) program, the MNO launched the Navigating Employment Pathways Youth Program (NEPYP), funded in part by the Government of Ontario. The program is a partnership between the MNO, Sioux-Hudson Literacy Council and the Ontario Tourism Education Corporation (OTEC) and focuses on the development of employer partnerships at a local level.

The program is designed to provide industry specific training to Aboriginal people looking for a career in the tourism and hospitality sector and is offered at two sites: Sault Ste. Marie and North Bay. This fully funded training opportunity was offered three times in 2015-16. Sixty-one participants started the program; 37 are employed as a result and 20 have returned to school. Building upon the success of the NEPYP, The Navigating Employment Pathways Transition Program (NEPTP) will be delivered in the Sault Ste. Marie and North Bay locations, with the main target client group being all self-identified Indigenous people.

## MÉTIS MINING STRATEGY

The mining sector is providing growing opportunities in Ontario to Métis and other Aboriginal peoples who have historically been under-represented 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 offers assistance through direct funding opportunities as long as the skills development leads towards a career in mining and meets program criteria.

### Recent notable achievements

- As of March 31, 2016: 226 clients were served under the MNO MMS, 183 clients contracted, 182 completed their action plan and 182 had secured employment.
- The MNO was invited to extend the MMS end date to September 30, 2015 as one of only 16 projects selected out of 80 nationally.
- The six month extension period of the MMS was very successful at reaching the project objectives.

- The MNO was able to coordinate and manage five projects that involved post-secondary Education and Industry Partners.
- The partners were: New Gold, Detour Gold, Day Group Construction, Industrial Training and Skills, College Boreal, MiHR and Northern College.
- The targets were 34 clients served and 24 clients employed. The Mining project surpassed this with 37 clients were served and 28 were employed.
- The clients had great reviews of the programs and showed signs of finding employment following their training sessions, if not having already received employment before the end of the project.
- All the partnerships stayed intact and were successful. Formal partnerships such as New Gold and Detour Gold met the agreements. Informal partners such as Day Group Construction worked with the students to find employment with other contractors in the mining industry.

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

Program	# of Staff	Funder	Eligible Clientele	Locations
ASETS	25	ESDC	Self-identified Métis	Fort Frances, Dryden, Hamilton, Kingston, Bancroft, Midland, Owen Sound, North Bay, Ottawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Oshawa, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Toronto
Ministry of Education Agreement	6	Ministry of Education	K-12 students, teachers, administrators, school boards, Education Ministry, MNO community councils, citizens & self-identified Métis students & parents	Fort Frances, Midland, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay and Timmins
Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities (MTCU) Agreement	2**	MTCU	Post-secondary students, instructors, administrators, MTCU officials; MNO community councils and citizens; self-identifying Métis students and parents.	Toronto, Sault Ste. Marie
Urban Aboriginal Policy Table	--	Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)	Métis community across Ontario	--
Urban Partnership Funding	--	Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres	Metis youth across Ontario	--
Navigating Employment Pathways Youth Project	2	Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure - Youth Skills Connection Fund	Self-identified Métis and other Aboriginal youth ages 15-29	North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie
Métis Mining Strategy	3	Service Canada: Strategic Partnership Fund	Self-identified Métis and other Aboriginal people	Ottawa, Thunder Bay and Sudbury



1) Ontario's Minister Responsible for Women's Issues Tracy MacCharles (seated centre) with MNO delegates to a provincial summit on Sexual Violence and Harassment; 2) MNO SYCP Facilitator Simone Blais leads a group of conference attendants in a traditional Métis jig; 3) MNO Chair France Picotte and Premier Wynne with representatives of the Joint Working Group to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women; 4) Bruce Power donates funds towards the Snowshoe Lending Library. (l-r) Pauline Richardson, Larry Duval, Mike Briggs, Manager First Nations and Métis Relations at Bruce Power; Peter Couture, Jodi Blue and David Dusome; 5) A singing circle gathered by the Carleton University Art Gallery where the Walking With Our Sisters memorial was held; 6) MNO President Margaret Froh participates in an EVAAW display; 7) Ben and Paul Robitaille participate in an EVAAW display; 8) WSMNO members Rosalyn Calder and Pearl Gabona participate in an EVAAW display.



...promote the improved health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole

Métis community

– from the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose

## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# Healing & Wellness

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### INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Métis Nation of Ontario (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 balance, hope, belonging and pride.

The MNO Healing and Wellness branch deliver programs and services to Métis communities across Ontario through 20 sites. The centrally administered healing and wellness programs and services are culturally grounded, wholistic in nature, client-centred and family-focused. Core activities of the branch are centered on health promotion and interventions informed by research and knowledge.

The primary functions of MNO healing and wellness programs are to provide direct services to clients, build meaningful collaborations and support community-based educational gatherings.

### Recent notable achievements

- Revenue in the MNO Healing and Wellness branch has increased from \$7.5 million in 2012-2013 to approximately \$9.5 million in 2015-2016. This increase is a result of the enhanced Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (AHWS) investment and MNO's success in negotiating new program agreements with a range of funders. It is expected that opportunities for new projects and enhanced programs will continue to arise and the MNO will respond in accordance with its priorities and capacity to deliver.

### Healing & Wellness staff training activities in the 2015-16 fiscal year

The MNO Healing and Wellness branch currently has a staff

of approximately 80 individuals located in 20 communities throughout Ontario. The branch program agreement allow for on-going training and skills development of front-line staff. Typically the branch coordinates and delivers three to four in-person training sessions each year on a range of topics such as vicarious trauma, mental health, how to identify elder abuse, effective Métis community practices, suicide prevention, non-violent crisis intervention and others. In addition, the branch has regular on-going program team meetings via tele-conference and delivers training through video conference for the purpose of information sharing and specialized training. The following is a list of the training sessions conducted throughout this reporting period:

- Elder abuse training - Elder Abuse Ontario, July 10-11, 2015 (Toronto)
- Navigating Second Stage with Clients and Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women (EVAAW) Engagement Day, August 20, 2015 (Midland)
- Facilitating Health Workshops, August 20, 2015 (Midland)
- Train the Trainer Workshop in a Box series: Learning about Diabetes, August 20, 2015 (Midland)
- Train the Trainer Workshop in a Box series: Métis Traditional Healthy Eating, August 21, 2015 - morning (Midland)
- Introduction to the MNO Healing and Wellness staff portal, August 21, 2015 - afternoon (Midland)
- University of Waterloo Gambling Research Lab and the Ontario Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Working Group in-person training, November 4-6, 2015 (Waterloo)
- MNO focus group RE: *Child and Family Services Act* CFSA, November 25-26, 2015 (Ottawa)
- Walk with Me training, November 24-26, 2015 (Ottawa)
- Consent and Self-Governance workshop, January 13-15, 2016 via video conference:
- Leadership Engagement: Métis Plant Use and Teas, January 19, 2016 (Toronto)

- Child and adolescent mental health care training – January 22, 2016 (Toronto)
- Cancer Care and Risk Reduction training, January 21, 2016 (Toronto)
- MNO Inter-branch training, February 1-5, 2016 (Blue Mountain)

## COMMUNITY AND CLIENT SERVICES

### Community Support Services Program

The MNO Community Support Services (CSS) program helps the elderly and chronically ill increase their independence and quality of life through involvement in a network of volunteer and employee delivered services, including: friendly visits; safety checks; coordination of medical transportations; accompaniment to medical appointments; advocacy; and, caregiver support.

MNO CSS clients receive one-to-one supports that are based on their distinct needs through a process of informed consent.

#### Recent notable achievements

- In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the MNO delivered 43,033 units of service to 951 clients across 14 communities and surrounding areas.
- Coordination of medical transportations such as assisting clients to attend dialysis appointments, doctor's visits or surgeries is a major component of the CSS program. In 2015-2016, the MNO provided 17,325 units of transportation service throughout the province.
- Friendly visiting is a CSS service that helps to reduce isolation and increase the sharing of knowledge and social connection. Friendly visits can occur at home, out in the community or at MNO offices and are always based on the interests of our clients. MNO delivered 13,990 units of friendly visiting in 2015-2016.
- Sometimes the people providing most of the direct care for clients need help too; these people represent the parents, spouses, family, friends and others close to the clients who do whatever they can to help. The MNO was able to assist with 1,041 units of Caregiver Support to people involved with our clients' well-being during 2015-2016.
- Through the CSS program, the MNO has delivered 10,677 units of other Community Support in 2015-2016. Help ranges from providing client safety checks or ensuring a client receives access to appropriate

cultural knowledge holders, to assisting with referrals to other services or speaking on behalf of clients and their families at meetings.

### Community Wellness Worker program

MNO Community Wellness Worker (CWW) staff provides family violence services, referrals, supports and case management to clients to address and/or respond to existing and emerging health, healing and wellness issues or violent situations.

MNO CWW program staff delivers client and participant-based services to individuals, families and children with the primary focus being on reducing family violence. This includes assisting clients to develop action plans to address their health, healing and wellness concerns. MNO CWW staff share information with health and social agencies, as well as organize and facilitate community events such as cultural awareness, education, chronic disease prevention and crisis intervention workshops. They are also responsible for organizing programming for school-age, youth and seniors and other identified populations all of which reflect Métis way-of-life and cultural approaches.

Client-based services include activities where service and/or assistance has an individual or client-specific therapeutic or healing objective and process, such as family counseling. Examples of such activities include: peer counseling, assisting client-to-access services related to reducing family violence, advocacy, crisis intervention, and referrals to other services such as addictions, shelters, court workers and legal help.

Participant-based activities focus on group activities targeted at people within the community or the community-at-large. These include: providing activities that increase awareness of specific issues, risks or concerns; providing education to improve health and wellness and reduce and prevent community risk factors; promoting positive change in values, attitudes and behavior; and fostering families and communities enjoying a healthy and balanced life.

#### Recent notable achievements

- provided 7,029 units of service and supported 829 clients;
- provided 7,774 units of service and supported 708 clients; and
- delivered 586 collaborative participant gatherings with a total participant count of 18,558. It also staged 413 community networking meetings.



## Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children program

The MNO Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children (MHBHC) program is a prevention and early intervention strategy for families with children from prenatal to six years of age. The program's overall goal is to assist families in providing the best opportunities for healthy development through family home visits, service coordination and referrals. An equally important objective of the program is to address the needs of at-risk children to ensure that they have access to services and support. MNO MHBHC staff is knowledgeable about resources available in their communities and how to connect families to other services.

Preparation for parenting (preconception), getting ready for the birth of a baby (prenatal care) and taking care of the baby (postnatal care) are the heart of the MNO MHBHC program. MNO MHBHC staff offer: workshops, public presentations, public awareness and education campaigns, community and cultural events, circles and support groups, and fitness and recreational activities.

MNO MHBHC staff carry out ongoing home visits with families and will visit families within 72 hours of their baby being born. They provide information about available resources, help identify family strengths and, when necessary, help develop a family support plan, which they work with the family in implementing. MNO MHBHC staff provide ongoing support through service coordination and referrals as well as advocacy in consultations with nurses, social service workers, midwives and community health representatives.

MNO MHBHC staff also organize activities to reduce and prevent family violence as well as improve health. These include activities that: increase awareness of specific issues, risks or concerns; provide education to improve health and wellness and reduce and prevent community risk factors; promote positive change in values, attitudes and behavior; and, foster families and communities enjoying a healthy and balanced life.

### Recent notable achievements

- In 2015-2016 fiscal year, the MNO MHBHC program delivered 422 participant gatherings for a total of 15,432 participants. It also staged 402 community networking meetings.
- In 2015-2016 fiscal year, the MNO MHBHC program supported 509 clients, 3235 services were provided, and 416 participant gatherings for a total of 17,275 participants. It also staged 248 community networking meetings.

## Community Action Program for Children

The target group for the MNO Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) is at-risk children 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/or injury or disability.

- In the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the MNO CAPC program reached 473 families engaging a total of 4762 participants.
- In 2015-16 fiscal year, the MNO CAPC reached 553 families engaging a total of 2722 participants.

## Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program

The MNO Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) is focused on children prenatal to six months and their families. Beginning during pregnancy and continuing through the child's infancy and early years, MNO CPNP program staff work with families to provide guidance and support to ensure healthy child and family development.

Supports include prenatal, infant and child nutrition and development, and parenting and care-giving skills. The CPNP program strives to: increase the number of babies born with healthy birth weights; decrease the number of overweight babies resulting from gestational diabetes and other conditions; and, improve the health and wellness of expecting mothers.

- In the 2014-15 fiscal year, the MNO CPNP program reached 90 families and engaged 876 participants.
- In the 2015-16 fiscal year, the MNO CPNP program reached 80 families and engaged 1806 participants.

## Mental Health program

The MNO Mental Health program is designed to support community members and clients with diagnosed and undiagnosed mental health and/or addictions issues and to help them find and access services that support their mental wellness and recovery. This program currently provides clients with: access to MNO tele-psychiatry services; assistance understanding and accessing community services; and, access to MNO Knowledge holders and cultural supports.

The MNO Mental Health program utilizes the Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) certified video-conferencing technologies to link clients to confidential, specialized mental health care as a result of a service agreement with Queen's University and Providence Care in Kingston. More specifically, through the aforementioned partnerships, there

are two psychiatrists that host weekly clinics providing rapid and consistent access to psychiatric assessment, treatment and follow up to all 20 of MNO service areas. The program currently services 66 ongoing clients and helps support MNO's staff in building capacity to better support their clients.

The MNO has partnered with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC), Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) and Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) to embark on identifying community mental health and addictions priorities. The MNO wants to ensure that input and advice from Métis communities are incorporated into the MNO's vision for Métis culture-based mental health and addictions services and programs while, at the same time, take an active role in informing Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy in meeting the unique needs of Métis people.

### Problem Gambling Prevention

The MNO Problem Gambling Prevention program 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 and ongoing literature review and development of tools for front-line MNO programs.

### Recent notable achievements

- For the second year, the MNO Problem Gambling Program supported and co-hosted networking events in Bancroft, Welland and Sault Ste. Marie, which brought together service agencies from each area with guest speakers and MNO staff. Discussions focused on developing new partnerships to improve services to clients. This new fiscal year will find similar events being hosted in Timmins, Fort Frances, and Midland.
- The MNO Problem Gambling Provincial Working Group meets quarterly to develop new strategies and resources that are disseminated to all MNO Healing and Wellness branch staff.
- The MNO Problem Gambling Program continues to develop and provide online tools and resources that are easily accessible for citizens from the MNO's website. Online quizzes, youth and seniors videos, brochures and helpful hints are all currently available.
- The MNO Provincial Coordinator also hosts a kiosk at the MNO's AGA trade show and works closely throughout the year with the MNO Healing and Well-

ness staff across the province to host Problem Gambling Prevention workshops.

### Victim Services

The MNO offers culturally-relevant Victim Services workshops within all of the MNO Healing and Wellness branch programs to prevent, address and end violence against Métis women and children. Services are also being developed for men and two-spirited people. These services will address the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual impacts of victimization.

The MNO Victim Services program provides support to MNO Healing and Wellness Coordinators who are providing client-driven services to Métis women, men 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. Métis-specific resources were also developed to orient clients to the court process including preparing victim impact statements, arrangements for court accompaniment, advocacy and follow-up.

The MNO has two Victim Services Coordinators dedicated to assisting victims of crime and supporting MNO Healing and Wellness community workers with expertise, tools and resources when helping victims of crime.

The CWW program has been able to integrate Victim Services in all of its program delivery sites. As a result, the MNO has been able to extend its reach in offering its services. An example of this is in the number of community events and workshops administered, which are designed to address issues of violence against women.

### Recent notable achievements:

- A third training session was offered November 24-26, 2015 for MNO staff on the newly developed Walk With Me: a resource guide for community workers who support clients to live free from violence and abuse (previously called the Possibilities Manual). Walk With Me is a client-focused programming tool that provides protection, prevention and possibilities when working with clients who have experienced violence.
- MNO Victim Services developed and launched a new workshop on Consent and Self-Governance, which meets the new Ontario curriculum on consent, and includes a culture-based beading activity and an interactive game. Training was provided using the MNO video-conference system. Each MNO office received a workshop-in-a-box with enough materials for 25 participants.
- In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the MNO Healing and Wellness staff offered 207 workshops and gatherings



related to Victim Services, including: vigils, family emergency preparedness, safety nights, anti-bullying, empowering women, healthy relationships, self-care and violence awareness; they reached an estimated 6,240 participants.

- MNO Victim Services also supported the second pilot of the Gathering Strength Women's Circles in Sault Ste. Marie. These circles are 10-week gatherings for women in the community and focus on wholistic healing and wellness. A youth focused model was also developed this past year and will be piloted in the next fiscal year.

## Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women

The MNO is a key member of the Joint Working Group to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women (JWG) that meets to identify key priorities for both the Ontario government and Aboriginal leadership. The JWG consists of ten provincial ministries as well as the MNO, the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC), the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA), the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Independent First Nations (IFN).

In our efforts to support our clients to live free from violence and abuse, the MNO Healing and Wellness branch launched an education campaign at the 2014 AGA called Honouring Métis Women is Part of Our Culture. This campaign addresses the devaluing of women and girls within the larger context of Violence Against Aboriginal Women (VAAW). Instead of focusing on violence, the MNO campaign applies a strength-based approach that embraces honouring, resiliency and culture to break the cycles of violence. The campaign is inclusive of all peoples—women and girls, men and boys and two-spirited people—and involves the mobilization of our citizens, community members, political representatives and mainstream Canadians.

Through a series of engagement sessions, MNO staff and leadership receive community engagement toolkits that have been developed to support individuals who wish to effect change in their communities.

## Recent notable achievements

- On December 9, 2015, the MNO participated in the pre-inquiry design process led by three federal ministers: the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Carolyn Bennett; the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Jody Wilson-Raybould; and the Minister of Status of Women, Patty Hajdu. An announcement will be forthcoming as to the scope, framework and timeframe of the national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women.
- Two important announcements were made in February

2016 by the Ontario government that impact the MNO:

- 1) On February 17, 2016, the Premier announced a commitment to implementing mandatory Indigenous cultural competency training across the public service.
  - 2) On February 23, 2016, and in advance of the Roundtable on MMIWG, the Premier publically launched Ontario's Long Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women. MNO Chair, France Picotte, attended the launch of the Long Term Strategy called "Walking Together".
- On February 27, 2016, the MNO participated in the second roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, hosted by the Manitoba government and held in Winnipeg. The Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario spokesperson Sharon Cadeau participated in the roundtable.

## Aboriginal Sexual Violence Community Response Initiative

The MNO Aboriginal Sexual Violence Community Response Initiative is a project aimed to increase community capacity to address sexual violence against women by developing locally driven intervention strategies in Thunder Bay.

This project is funded by the Ontario Women's Directorate and sunset on March 31, 2016.

## RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

### Research and evaluation

Research specific to Métis people is significantly lacking, making the Métis one of the most overlooked study populations in Canada. With some exceptions, reports based on Canadian population surveys have typically grouped census-identified Métis people with First Nations and Inuit, making it challenging to understand the distinct and dynamic health status and service needs of the Métis.

As well, the MNO is increasingly being asked to participate in broader, province-wide evaluation and performance measurement initiatives to assess and report on the impacts of MNO programs and services funded through various provincial government and other partners.

To meet the growing needs for program information, indicator data, and research evidence, the MNO works with a number of external partners in a variety of capacities.

In March 2015, the MNO concluded a five-year program of collaborative research with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES). Called the MNO Chronic Disease Surveillance (CDS) program, this landmark program



of research examined key indicators of the health of Métis citizens and identified significant health challenges faced by Métis individuals, families and communities across the province. Together the MNO CDS research, as well as the research and evaluation that has been conducted since that time to complement that original work, provide the most comprehensive and up-to-date profile of the health status of Métis people in Ontario. The results of these studies are now being widely referenced across Canada in numerous policy and program development initiatives.

Brief descriptions of MNO's recent and current research project and evaluation activities are provided below:

### Chronic Disease Surveillance program

The five-year MNO CDS program was successfully completed in March 2015. This research used health administrative databases cross-referenced with data from the MNO citizenship Registry to examine chronic disease rates and determinants in the Métis population of Ontario. Funded by PHAC and completed in collaboration with ICES, diseases examined included diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, musculoskeletal disease, and kidney disease.

Overall, the CDS research findings have greatly increased our knowledge and understanding of chronic diseases and conditions in the provincial Métis population. Results have been shared widely with MNO government partners at all levels, and used to advocate for joint action to support better health outcomes for Métis citizens.

An independent evaluation of the MNO CDS program was completed in March 2015, entitled Summative Evaluation: Chronic Disease Surveillance Project. Evaluation Report. This report concluded that:

The CDS [Project] demonstrates MNO leadership in de-

veloping, integrating and disseminating knowledge related to the Ontario Métis population and chronic disease. [It ...] is a critical component of the MNO Knowledge Translation and Mobilization Strategy and has filled a significant gap, representing one "source of knowing" essential to identifying and addressing the health needs of Métis in Ontario.

### Métis Mental Health Status Project

In the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the MNO partnered with ICES, researchers Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) and also Queen's University to undertake a study of Métis mental health. Funded by MOHLTC, this study used the linked MNO Registry database and Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) data to assess mental health indicators in Métis people compared with the general Ontario population.

Completed in February 2015, results showed that MNO citizens experience significantly higher rates of bipolar disorder, mood/anxiety disorders, and drug-related disorders than the general provincial population. Métis were also found to have higher rates of new cases of schizophrenia and bipolar disorders.

### Métis Cancer Risk Factors Study

There is a significant lack of information on cancer and other risk factors among the Métis population of Ontario. To address this gap, in 2014 CCO and the MNO partnered on a study to examine cancer risk factors among the Ontario Métis population. Using data from the CCHS, this study provided prevalence estimates of key cancer risk factors for non-traditional tobacco use, alcohol consumption, measures of healthy living and cancer screening.

Results show that Ontario Métis are at increased risk of a number of cancers, with screening rates also lower in



some cases. The final report and associated fact sheets are now available through the MNO website as well as through MNO Healing and Wellness front-line staff.

### **Healthy Weights Connection Project**

The Healthy Weights Connection (HWC) project reflects the MNO's commitment to improving the health and well-being of Métis children and youth. It focuses on the development of culturally appropriate interventions to promote healthy weights among Métis and First Nations children living off-reserve in the London and Midland-Penetanguishene areas of Ontario.

Funded by a PHAC Innovation Strategy Grant (Phase 1), this multiyear project is being led by academic researchers Dr. Martin Cooke and Dr. Piotr Wilk working in collaboration with the MNO, the Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC), local clinicians, public health units, school districts, and other service providers. It involves identifying and mapping out local services and programs available to support Métis and First Nations children's healthy active living, and meeting with local service providers to identify and remove potential barriers to participation.

### **MNO-ICES Data Governance and Partnership Agreement**

Following the success of the MNO CDS research project, in 2014-2015 the MNO and project partners decided to extend their formal relation with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in February 2015. This MOU committed both partners to developing a longer term Data Governance and Partnership Agreement (DGPA) to permit them to work together in the future on targeted research studies designed to address key information and evaluation needs identified by the MNO.

Since that time, the MNO has worked to draft the new DGPA and to put in place the required mechanisms to support its implementation in the coming months and years. The new agreement has now been finalized and will be launched in summer 2016. An MNO-ICES Data Governance and Partnership Committee will oversee the day-to-day implementation of the agreement and any associated research carried out by ICES and other MNO partners, on MNO's behalf.

### **MNO Family Data Base Project**

To support the MNO's work in seeking to better understand and respond to the broader health and wellness needs of

MNO citizens and their families, in 2016 -2017 the MNO Healing and Wellness branch is conducting MNO-wide survey of all citizens to identify immediate family members, including their children. To date, the MNO has relied on the MNO Registry data to identify Métis health concerns and needs through targeted research such as the CDSP. Because the Registry database is comprised mainly of adults, the needs of Métis children and youth are not well understood. This project will begin to address that knowledge gap, and information gained will do a lot to inform our advocacy efforts, and program and service delivery for Métis families in Ontario over the coming months and years.

## **KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION**

Consistent with the goals outlined in the MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose, the ultimate aim of MNO health research and evaluation activities is to: improve the health and wellness of Métis individuals, families and communities; and, to bring greater awareness and knowledge of Métis history, values, and traditions to government policy, program development, and decision making at all levels.

A key part of this work involves widely communicating the results of MNO health research and evaluation, and translating findings into tailored, culture-based resources and tools that can be effectively used by front-line workers health professionals and government policy and decision-makers in improving Métis health and well-being. This process of moving from research to action is called knowledge translation.

A significant portion of the work of the MNO Healing and Wellness branch this past year has focused on knowledge translation (KT) activities that are designed to address a wide range of needs for a diverse audience of knowledge users and decision makers.

### **Written reports, fact sheets and peer-reviewed publications**

Every year the MNO Healing and Wellness branch contributes to the preparation and publication of a wide range of scientific publications, fact sheets, technical and lay reports and other media to share Métis health data, bring attention to Métis health needs, and to promote Métis health and wellness. Over the past two years, these publications have included a large number of reports on topics such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, musculo-skeletal disease, respiratory disease, kidney disease, mental health and addictions.

## **Health promotion, educational videos and workshops in a box series**

Over the past several years, the MNO Healing and Wellness front-line staff have identified an increasing need for hands-on Métis-specific prevention and health promotion resources to support their work with Métis clients. The Workshop in a Box series, is an integrated package of multi-media resources and tools for health promotion, prevention and disease management activities to respond to that need.

In the winter of 2014-2015, the first workshop of the series was completed on Métis Traditional Healthy Eating. It features a video portraying the role and value of food in the traditional Métis way of life. A second Workshop in a Box training with accompanying video on diabetes risk and treatment was developed with funding provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and was made available to all staff in the summer of 2015.

During 2015, a third video on Reducing Cancer Risk in Métis Communities was developed with funding provided by Cancer Care Ontario (CCO). The CCO Aboriginal Cancer Care and Control Unit (ACCC) worked collaboratively with the MNO throughout all phases of the video development. The CCO have now incorporated the MNO cancer video into their own province-wide educational and health promotion training and activities. This video was made available to MNO front-line staff in the fall of 2015.

## **MNO Healing and Wellness Portal**

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, work on the MNO Healing and Wellness SharePoint portal was completed. The portal serves to facilitate employee communications and the work processes of MNO front-line and management staff more generally. It also serves as a central hub where MNO staff located across the province can readily access culture-based tools and resources to support their daily work with clients.

## **POLICY INITIATIVES**

The MNO is involved in a number of policy initiatives and participated in a number of provincial policy tables.

### **Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy – Ministry of Children and Youth Services**

Over the past few years, the MNO, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, and the Ontario Native Women's Association, have worked closely with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to advance the collective interests of Métis and urban Aboriginal children, youth, and

families, through the co-development of an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy (ACYS).

In 2014-2015, and to inform the work of the ACYS, the MNO undertook Métis Youth Engagement sessions in 19 communities throughout the province. Two inter-related policy and legislative submissions were provided to the Minister of Children and Youth Services, namely: a joint submission on the ACYS, and an MNO-specific paper and a joint submission on the *2015 Review of the Child and Family Services Act*.

This significant province-wide policy initiative began in January 2013, with work continuing throughout 2016-2017.

### **Urban Aboriginal Health Table – Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care**

The Urban Aboriginal Health Table (UAHT) was established in 2014 as a collaborative mechanism through which Métis and urban Aboriginal organizations would be engaged to assist with co-developing policies, programs, services and related activities that impact the health of Métis and urban Aboriginal populations. The creation of this table was the result of a call for such a mechanism from partners to facilitate a collaborative process for advancing the health of Métis, urban and off-reserve Aboriginal people in Ontario. The current work of the UAHT is focused on identifying and addressing shared health priorities, including: mental health, sexual health, seniors' health, chronic disease prevention, access to services, and on assessing the potential impacts of provincial government initiatives in the area of health (for example, the recent launch of the Ministry's Patients First Initiative).

This work is continuing throughout 2016-2017, and complements the MNO's work with the MOHLTC more directly (now also underway), to develop a formal MOU to support a bilateral relationship with the Ministry.

### **Joint Working Group to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women**

In 2015-2016, the MNO continued to participate in the Joint Working Group (JWG) to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women (VAAW) with ten provincial ministries and four other Aboriginal partners. The Aboriginal caucus of the JWG has been in discussion to formalize its relations and to develop priorities to shape the direction of the JWG. Achievements this year include the JWG mandate has been fully endorsed by the Government of Ontario, which will help ensure a whole-of-government approach to addressing Violence Against Aboriginal Women and girls. As well, the Ontario Women's Directorate has been providing funding to the MNO to support this work.



## Program Summary

PROGRAM	# OF STAFF	FUNDER	ELIGIBLE CLIENTELE	LOCATIONS
<b>Community Wellness Worker</b>	18.5	Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (AWHS)	Individuals, families and children	Bancroft, Brampton, Fort Frances, Hamilton, Kenora, Midland, North Bay, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Renfrew, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Welland and Windsor
<b>Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children</b>	14.5	AWHS	Children from pre-natal to six years of age	Bancroft, Dryden, Fort Frances, Hamilton, Kenora, Midland, North Bay, Renfrew, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Timmins, Welland and Windsor
<b>Community Support Services</b>	15.5	Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care	Elderly and critically ill individuals	Fort Frances, Kenora, Dryden, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Timmins, North Bay, Ottawa, Bancroft, Midland, Toronto, Welland and Windsor
<b>Community Action Program for Children</b>	3	Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)	At-risk children	Bancroft, Dryden, Thunder Bay
<b>Canada Pre-natal Nutrition Program</b>	1	PHAC	Children zero to six years of age and their families	Thunder Bay
<b>Aging at Home</b>	1	Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle	Elderly and critically ill individuals	Midland
<b>Mental Health</b>	1.5	AHWS	Individuals diagnosed and undiagnosed with mental health issues	Ottawa
<b>Problem Gambling Prevention</b>	1	Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care	Métis people	Sudbury
<b>Victim Services</b>	2	Ministry of the Attorney General	Victims of crimes	Bancroft and Thunder Bay
<b>Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women</b>	1	Ontario Women's Directorate	Métis people	Ottawa
<b>Aboriginal Sexual Violence Community Response</b>	1	Ontario Women's Directorate	Métis people	Thunder Bay
<b>Healthy Weights Connection Project</b>	1	PHAC	Métis and First Nations children living off reserve in the London, Midland & Penetanguishene areas	Midland



1) Members of the Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Region 2 Consultation Committee visit Barrick Gold-Williams Mine; 2) The Barrick-MNO MOU signing (back row from left) Jeremy Dart, Patricia Obie, Debi Bouchie, Ken Simard, Phil McGuire (front row, from left) Trent Desaulniers, Andrew Baumen, PCMNO Region 2 Councillor Cameron Burgess; 3) MNO and KGHM International sign Memorandum of Understanding (seated left to right) Juliette Denis, PCMNO Regional 5 Councillor, France Picotte, Chair of the MNO and Robert Nowak, Deputy Project Manager for the KGHMI Victoria Mine Project. (standing left to right) Nelson Montreuil, President of MNO Mattawa Métis Council, Richard Sarazin, President of MNO Sudbury Métis Council and Marc Laurin, President of the MNO North Bay Métis Council attend Governance and Finance training; 4) Members of the MNO High Land Waters Governance and Finance Training session; 5) Members of the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council attend Governance and Finance training; 6) MNO and Glencore INO sign a Memorandum of Understanding (back row from left) Chad Pearson, Nelson Montreuil, Richard Sarrazin, Mike Sweeney, Denis Tremblay (front row from left) Peter Xavier, France Picotte, Juliette Denis, Doug Conroy.





## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# Lands, Resources & Consultations

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### INTRODUCTION

The Métis Nation of Ontario (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. The purpose of the LRC Branch is to serve as a centre of technical, scientific, policy and research expertise in respect of the constitutionally recognized Duty to Consult. With specialized skills in areas including, for example, Métis rights, Way of Life Framework (WOLF), environmental assessments, mining, forestry, energy and public policy, LRC branch staff members support regionally based rights-bearing Métis communities across Ontario to ensure that the Crown's legal Duty to Consult and Accommodate Aboriginal Peoples (Duty to Consult) is both meaningful and effective.

The LRC Branch is overseen by a Director, who is supported by four managers with distinct areas of responsibility. These managers, supported by staff situated throughout the province, provide capacity and support to the MNO's Regional Consultation Committees (RCCs) on matters related to lands, resources and the Duty to Consult. The LRC Branch builds and maintains relationships with the RCCs, the regionally based Métis communities located throughout the province, federal and provincial regulatory agencies as well as project proponents from various industries.

The primary objectives of the LRC Branch are to:

- Act as a “one-window” contact for consultation with MNO;
- In collaboration with the RCCs, triage and prioritize incoming requests for consultation and to identify acceptable levels of required MNO involvement;
- Manage project consultation activities on major project assessments and other government initiatives and programs;
- Develop a thorough understanding of proposed major projects that may affect 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 retained external qualified consultants;
- Initiate, guide and carry out the development of Technical Reviews of regulatory documents, and other technical analysis/research in collaboration with retained external qualified consultants; and
- Convene regional workshops and/or provincial conferences to engage MNO citizens on new projects, Duty to Consult, regulatory process, assessing effects and accommodation issues.

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### NEW RELATIONSHIP FUND CORE CAPACITY FUNDING

The central focus of the Government of Ontario's New Relationship Fund (NRF) is to assist Métis and First Nations communities build fundamental consultation and engagement capacity so that they can better and more effectively engage with governments and the private sector on lands and resource related issues.

Industry proponents and government agencies send thousands of notifications to the MNO on an annual basis to inform the Métis community of proposed activities and initiatives related to lands, resource use and new developments throughout the province of Ontario. Processing this volume of notifications from government agencies and industry proponents is a fundamental and time consuming task of the LRC Branch. By using capacity from the NRF, the LRC Branch is able to help process thousands of notifications on an annual basis.

### Supplemental funding for consultation activities

In addition to the core funding from Ontario's NRF, the LRC Branch also receives additional funding from industry

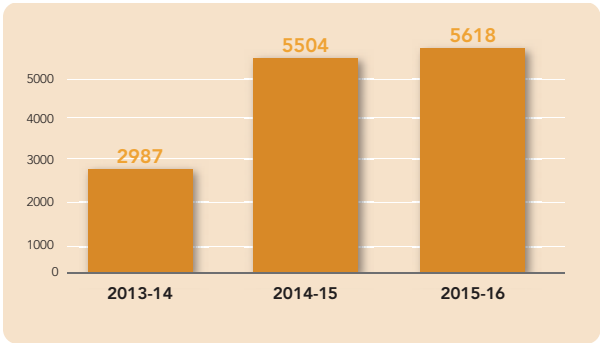
proponents and government agencies. This funding can generally be divided into three categories:

- 1. Federal government funding for participation in environmental assessments (i.e., to review Environmental Impact Statements and participate in regulatory hearings);
- 2. Provincial government funding for participation in consultation on government initiatives that may affect the Métis community; and
- 3. Industry proponent funding to enable MNO engagement in project-specific consultation-related activities to determine the potential adverse effects that a new project may have on Métis rights, interests and Way of Life.

Recent notable achievements

- The LRC Branch will have a total of 21 staff positions in 2016, located at MNO offices throughout Ontario.
- The majority of the funding for the LRC Branch comes from the Ontario Government’s New Relationship Fund (NRF) (approximately \$2.2 million). By working with industry proponents and government agencies, the LRC Branch was also able to leverage approximately \$1.86 million for consultation capacity support during the 2015/2016 fiscal year. This funding helps the LRC Branch to undertake project-related engagement activities with the regionally-based rights-bearing MNO communities as well as associated technical studies.
- In 2015/2016, the LRC Branch processed approximately 5,600 notifications from government agencies and industry proponents, which seek to inform and/or update the MNO of proposed activities related to lands and resource development throughout the province.
- LRC Branch staff members are currently engaging with approximately 90 industry proponents which include mining, oil and gas, power generation (nuclear, wind, solar and natural gas), power transmission, transportation, waste management, forestry, municipal works and aggregates.
- The LRC Branch currently manages 36 formal project-related consultation agreements with industry proponents and governments. These agreements include memoranda of understanding, letters of intent, general relationship agreements and participant funding programs of government.
- To date, the LRC Branch has supported the execution of three Impacts and Benefits Agreements or the equivalent. These agreements provide ongoing capacity for MNO oversight while a particular project is being developed, as well as economic development opportunities for the benefit of the MNO collective. Four similar agreements are under development with other mining proponents.
- The MNO executed its first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the Southern MNO Regions – a 20-year term agreement with a Wind Farm developer located in MNO Region 9.

Number of LRC notices processed



- Outside of any regulatory requirements, the MNO executed its first MOU with a mining company that was not undergoing an Environmental Assessment. The agreement in question places a focus on engagement and community development.

WAY OF LIFE FRAMEWORK

The objectives of WOLF are to gather, protect and share, as appropriate, Métis traditional knowledge and land use information and to conduct outreach and training on the Métis Way of Life. To accomplish these goals, WOLF conducts Traditional Knowledge and Land Use (TKLU) Studies, an annual survey of MNO harvesters and conducts outreach and training sessions.

Recent notable achievements

In 2015-2016, WOLF has continued to conduct TKLU Studies, many of which are consultation-driven. Studies include interviews with knowledge-holders, drafting of reports and archiving study data. Studies initiated and continued during this time-frame include the following:

- Nextbridge East West Tie TKLU Study (approximately 30 knowledge holders);
- TransCanada Energy East – Regions 1, 2, 3, 5 TKLU Studies (approximately 30 knowledge holders per Region).
- Premier Gold Hardrock Project – Region 2 TKLU Study (approximately 25 knowledge holders and Valued Ecosystem Components Workshop (held 25 May 2015)).
- KGHM Victoria Mine – Region 5 TKLU Study (approximately 15 to 20 knowledge holders).
- Additional studies are being planned as upcoming proponent agreements are finalized.

Additional activities:

- Ongoing review, organization, backup and cataloguing of collected traditional knowledge and land use information.



- The 2014 MNO Harvester Survey was completed.
- A survey of moose harvest was completed.
- A Métis Way of Life presentation was provided to Métis youth at the Infinite March Break Camp.
- Four meetings of the MNO/Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Policy Dialogue Table were held, and a Moose Management meeting was held with MNRF on 17 February 2016.
- Participated in MNRF Forest Tenure Oversight Group.
- Participated in Great Lakes Executive Committee and ATK Subcommittee.
- Participated in COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Subcommittee.
- Way of Life presentations provided at Métis Youth Engagement Sessions held on November 7 and 21, 2015.
- A Youth-Knowledge Holder Exchange Workshop was held on 4-5 March, 2016.
- Way of Life youth engagement sessions held on 5, 12 and 14, March 2016.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Community Relations team develops and works to improve relationships and governance within the MNO. This involves both maintaining strong relationships between the various

MNO governing bodies and providing Regional Councillors with resources and training. Ultimately, these activities serve the broader goals of strengthening capacity amongst MNO citizens, generating social capital and moving the MNO towards greater self-government.

## Recent notable achievements

- Conducted numerous Métis Cultural Workshops across Ontario, including Métis Voyageur Games and Community Events (total attendance was 4,229).
- Attended 21 community meetings and events, including community council Annual General Meetings.
- Assisted with the coordination and delivery of community consultations for the *Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act*.
- Assisted in drafting election notices and nomination forms and acted as Returning Officer for seven community council elections.
- Provided Governance and Finance Training to seven MNO community councils.
- Provided Governance and Finance Training to the MNO Veterans' Council.
- Acted as a mediator in a number of conflicts within the MNO.
- Worked with the MNO's Registry Branch to process 65 MNO citizenship verification requests.
- Revised and updated MNO's Governance and Finance Training resource manual and presentation.

## Program Summary

PROGRAM	# OF STAFF	FUNDER	ELIGIBLE CLIENTELE	LOCATIONS
New Relationship Fund (NRF) - Core Capacity Building	11	MIRR	MNO Secretariat, MNO Chartered Community Councils, PCMNO Regional Councillors	Fort Frances, Toronto, Thunder Bay, Midland, Welland
New Relationship Fund (NRF) - Way of Life Framework	3	MIRR	MNO Secretariat	Thunder Bay, Guelph, Toronto
Aboriginal Participation Fund	3	Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM)	MNO Secretariat	Thunder Bay, Timmins, Sudbury
Ontario Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) Capacity Funding Agreement	1	Ontario Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)	MNO Secretariat	Toronto
Deep Geologic Repository for Low and Intermediate Level Waste Project	1	Ontario Power Generation	MNO Secretariat, MNO Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Chartered Community Councils, PCMNO Region 7 Councillor	Toronto
Adaptive Phased Management Project	1	Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)	MNO Secretariat, MNO Chartered Community Councils, PCMNO Regional Councillors	Toronto
Energy East Pipeline Project	1	TransCanada	MNO Secretariat, MNO Chartered Community Councils, PCMNO Regional Councillors in MNO Regions 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6	Toronto



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

*-from the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*

## A MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO AGENCY

# Infinity Property Services

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### PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS

Infinity Property Services (IPS) has five contracts to manage social housing units on behalf of community housing boards and Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services. The service contracts enable IPS to provide affordable housing to a broad range of clients, as well as generate revenue for the MNO. IPS provides a full range of property management services under these contracts including tenant management, asset management, contract administration, capital planning and building inspections.

#### Rural and Native Housing Program

The Rural and Native Housing (RNH) program provides rent geared to income housing for low-income families located in rural communities across the province. The housing units are mainly three bedroom detached homes.

IPS has a property management agreement to manage 438 of rental units and 13 homeowner units located in:

- Thunder Bay District
- Parry Sound District
- Muskoka District
- Kenora District (some communities)
- Nipissing District
- Simcoe Country
- Grey-Bruce County

**Agreement Holder:** Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services

#### Recent notable achievements:

- Housed 63 families and individuals

#### Urban and Native Housing Program (Geraldton)

The Urban and Native Housing (UNH) program provides decent affordable housing to First Nation, Metis and Inuit families across the province. IPS has a contract to provide

property management and administrative service for the UNH program in the community of Geraldton.

**Agreement Holder:** Geraldton Native Housing Corporation (GNHC)

#### Recent notable achievements:

- Completing a three year contract ending in 2016 with a positive response to negotiate another three year term.

#### Ontario Non-Profit Housing Program

The Ontario Non-Profit Housing (ONPH) program provides affordable and supportive housing to low-income families and individuals. IPS manages three types of housing under the program on behalf of three boards in the municipality of Greenstone:

- Kenogamisis Non-Profit Housing Corporation provides supportive rental housing to low-income singles with developmental and physical disabilities.
- Superior Greenstone Association for Community Living provides supportive services.
- Geraldton Municipal Housing Corporation provides low-income family with decent affordable housing in the Greenstone area.
- Chateaulac Housing Incorporated provides affordable housing to low-income seniors and market rent tenants in the Longlac area.
- Agreement Holders: Geraldton Municipal Housing Corporation; Chateaulac Housing Incorporated; and Kenogamisis Non-Profit Housing Corporation

#### Recent notable achievements:

- Completing a three year contract ending in 2016 with a positive response to negotiate another three year term.



## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENTS

IPS has two contracts in place to administer housing repair programs on behalf of provincial and municipal bodies in a number of areas in the province. Generally program administration agreements include promotion, client intake, waitlists, inspections, work descriptions, approvals, funds disbursement, mortgages, budget oversight and reporting.

### Ontario Renovates – Northern Remote Communities

As a component of the Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario program (IAH) (2014 Extension), Ontario Renovates-Northern Remote Communities (OR-NRC) aims to assist low-to-moderate income homeowners to repair/modify their homes to bring them up to acceptable standards. Eligible repairs include: structural, electrical, heating, fire safety, plumbing, septic and well, and improved accessibility for persons with disabilities or seniors. Funding is in the form of a forgivable loan, with a grant available for modifications for persons with disabilities. Eligible projects must be in communities with a population of less than 2,500 in the following districts:

- Rainy River
- Kenora
- Cochrane
- Nipissing
- Temiskaming
- Thunder Bay
- Algoma
- Parry Sound
- Sudbury-Manitou

**Agreement holder:** The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

#### Recent notable achievements:

- Contract extended until March 31, 2019, with new fee structure that will result in a 20% increase in revenue for the MNO.
- Assisted 31 low-income homeowners to repair/modify their homes.

### Ontario Renovates – Kenora

Similar to the OR – NRC, the Ontario Renovates – Kenora program is a component of the IAH for Ontario program (2014 Extension) and aims to assist low-to-moderate income Kenora District homeowners to repair/modify their homes and bring them up to acceptable standards. Eligible

repairs include: structural, electrical, heating, fire safety, plumbing, septic and well, improved accessibility for persons with disabilities, and/or safety related features that support seniors' ability to age-in-place.

**Agreement holder:** Kenora District Services Board

#### Recent notable achievements:

- Negotiated a new administration agreement until December 31, 2019.
- Assisted 11 Kenora District homeowners to repair/modify their homes.

## INSPECTION SERVICES AND ENERGY AUDITS

### The First Nation, Inuit, Métis Urban and Rural Housing program

The First Nation, Inuit, Métis Urban and Rural (FIMUR) Housing program aims to provide a continuum of housing options from supportive and transitional housing to affordable rental housing to home ownership for urban and rural Métis, First Nations, and Inuit people. The main program includes rental housing development, assisted homeownership and home repair. FIMUR is managed by the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) and developed in partnership with the MNO, the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, the Ontario Native Women's Association and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. IPS provides inspection services on behalf of OAHS.

### Ontario Renovates – Inspection Services

Similar to the Ontario Renovates programs described above, the Nipissing and Rainy River Services Boards have contracted IPS to provide services. This contract is for inspection services only where the administrative boards maintain all administrative functions for their local programs.

**Agreement holder:** Nipissing and Rainy River District Administration Services Board

#### Recent notable achievements:

- Renewed the service contract with Nipissing until March 31, 2020 or the date on which the IAH for Ontario Program funding ends.

### Housing Assistance Program

The Housing Assistance Program (HAP) aims to reduce the energy burden for homeowners in need. Eligible

improvements include: lighting and power bars, shower-heads, aerators, pipe and tank wrap, refrigerators and freezers, de-humidifiers, window air-conditioners, draft proofing, and insulation.

HAP is funded by the Ontario Power Authority and administered by local electric utilities. GreenSavers manages the program on behalf of the electrical utility companies.

IPS provides energy assessments for qualifying homes, installs minor energy efficient upgrades, and arranges for

major upgrades on behalf of GreenSavers.

**Agreement holder:** GreenSaver

**Recent notable achievements:**

- Completed 160 of audits on RNH resulting in costs saving for low-income tenants.

## Program Summary

PROGRAM	NO. OF STAFF	FUNDER	ELIGIBLE CLIENTELE	LOCATIONS
Rural & Native Housing	11	Property Management Agreement: Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services	Low-income Métis, First Nation, Inuit and non-Aboriginal people located in rural communities	Owen Sound, Thunder Bay and Innisfil
Urban & Native Housing Program (UNH)	2	Property Management Agreement: Geraldton Municipal and Native Housing Corporation	Low-income Métis, First Nation and Inuit people located in Geraldton	Thunder Bay
Ontario Non-Profit Housing Program: Municipal Non-Profit and Private Non-Profit	2	Property Management Agreements: Geraldton Municipal Housing Corporation, Chateaulac Housing Incorporated (CHI) & Kenogamisis Non-Profit Housing Corporation (KNPHC)	Low-income seniors, families and singles	Thunder Bay
Ontario Renovates - Northern Remote Communities	4	Administration Agreement: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing	Low-income homeowners located in rural northern communities	Innisfil and Thunder Bay
Ontario Renovates - Kenora	2	Administration Agreement: Kenora District Services Board	Low-income Kenora District homeowners	Innisfil and Thunder Bay
First Nation, Métis, Inuit (FIMUR) Inspection Services	3	Inspection Service Agreement: Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services	Low-income Métis, First Nation and Inuit people located across the province	Innisfil and Thunder Bay
Ontario Renovates - Inspection Services	3	Inspection Service Agreements: District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board & Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board	Low-income homeowners located in the District of Nipissing & Rainy River	Innisfil and Thunder Bay
Housing Assistance Program	3	Inspection Service Agreement: Greensavers	Low-income people with homes requiring basic energy efficiency upgrades	Thunder Bay
Housing Policy	1	Funder: Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services	None	Innisfil

Infinity Property Services (IPS) has a total of 12 staff members. Two staff members are located in Innisfil, one staff member in Owen Sound and nine staff members are in Thunder Bay.





1



2



3



4



1) Paddlers greet the crowd on shore with raised paddles and big smiles at the 2015 AGA in Midland; 2) Former MNO President Gary Lipinski holds the lantern containing the flame for the Pan AM Games torch during ceremonies in Toronto.; 3) MNO Citizen Maria Vandenbrand (centre) speaks at the annual PDAC conference in Toronto; 4) Former MNO President Gary Lipinski (R) and Ontario Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell (L) walk past the colour guard on Louis Riel Day, 2015; 5) Métis youth Gerald Lavalee and Senator Brenda Powley at the 2015 MNO AGA in Midland.



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

– from the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose

## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# Intergovernmental Relations

### INTRODUCTION

The MNO Intergovernmental Relations Branch does not operate programs but rather obtains funding that is then utilized by the MNO Secretariat and other MNO branches for various programs and services.

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 (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.

MNO Intergovernmental Relations supports many initiatives including The *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*, research initiatives and the PAN AM Aboriginal Leadership Partners. MNO Intergovernmental Relations is also responsible for soliciting and coordinating sponsorship for the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) and organizes MNO's provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony at Queen's Park.

In 2015-16, MNO Intergovernmental Relations developed the following successful funding proposals and negotiated agreements:

### CORE BILATERAL FUNDING AGREEMENT

The Core Bilateral Funding Agreement is with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) and it provides funding for basic core capacity to the MNO. It also provides the funding to conduct bilateral relations with Ontario, partially funds PCMNO, Executive and Finance Committee meetings, the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) and the MNO audit.

#### Recent notable achievements

- The 2015 MNO AGA held in Midland in August, 2015.
- PCMNO, Executive and Finance meetings were held throughout the 2015-16 fiscal year.

- The 2014-15 MNO annual audit was completed and approved at the 2015 AGA.

### BASIC ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY AGREEMENT

The Basic Organizational Capacity Agreement is with Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and provides funding to support basic core capacity to the MNO including partial funding for the AGA and PCMNO meetings.

#### Recent notable achievements

- The 2015 MNO AGA held in Midland in August, 2015.
- PCMNO, Executive and Finance Committee meetings were held throughout the 2015-16 fiscal year.

### MINERAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATORS

Funded through the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, this agreement provided capacity for the MNO to employ two Mineral Development Coordinators. They support and advise MNO consultation committees and community councils in their discussions with mining proponents and provide advice regarding *The Mining Act* and its regulations.

#### Recent notable achievements

- A Collaborative Forum was held in Toronto on February 26, 2016 with MNO Consultation Committees, mining, energy and forestry proponents and government officials in attendance.
- A multi-year agreement was negotiated with the Ministry for the provision of capacity support until 2018-19.

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## MINERAL CAPACITY COORDINATOR

Funded through the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, this agreement provided capacity for the MNO to employ one technically knowledgeable Mineral Capacity Coordinator to provide advice and support to the Mineral Development Coordinators, the Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch and the regional consultation committees working with proponents in the Mining Sector. It also provides funding for an annual meeting with the Minister, the attendance of Regional Councillors (Regions 1-5) at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) international convention and partial funding for an annual collaborative forum with the mining industry.

### Recent notable achievements

- Regional Councillors from Regions 1-5 attended PDAC in March 2016.
- A collaborative forum was held in Toronto on February 26, 2016 with MNO Consultation Committees, mining, energy and forestry proponents and government officials in attendance.

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## MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION CAPACITY FUNDING

The Ministry of Transportation agreement provided funding for relationship building and engagement with the Ministry of Transportation. This year the agreement focused on an information and engagement session on Northern Ontario's Multimodal Transportation Strategy.

### Recent notable achievements

- On November 28, 2015, an information session was held on Northern Ontario's Multimodal Transportation Strategy in Thunder Bay. Affected Regional Consultation Committees from Regions 1-5 were in attendance.
- MNO representation on the Multi-modal Transportation System Committee for Northern Ontario.

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## MNO REGISTRY FUNDING (Powley A Agreement)

The Powley A Agreement is through Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and provided the necessary resources to maintain MNO Registry operations (see Registry section for more details).

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## NEW RELATIONSHIP FUND (NRF) – Core Capacity

Core consultation capacity funding provided by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs through the New Relationship Fund helps MNO communities consult and engage with governments and the private sector on land and resource matters. Funds from this agreement also partially support the MNO Annual General Assembly and some MNO Finance and Communications staff costs. See the Lands Resources and Consultation, Finance and Communications sections for more details.

### Recent notable achievements

- The 2015 MNO AGA held in Midland in August, 2015.
- PCMNO meetings were held throughout the 2015-16 fiscal year.

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## NRF ENHANCED CAPACITY - Economic Development Coordinator

The Treaty Land Entitlement, Additions to Reserves Enhanced Capacity NRF Project through the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs provided capacity to facilitate and support the engagements between MNO Consultation Committees and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) Negotiations Branch regarding Treaty Land Entitlement - Additions to Reserve Lands process.

### Recent notable achievements

- Consultation Committees completed engagements on the Mitaanjugamiing Land Claim and are currently in discussions on the Matachewan and Wikwemikong Islands Boundary Claim additions to reserve lands.
- The MNO signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Mitaanjugamiing First Nations for the continued use of the lands that have traditionally been used by Métis citizens.
- This Mitaanjugamiing Cooperation Agreement is the first of its kind in Ontario.

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## MÉTIS INFINITY INVESTMENTS

The Infinity Investments Agreement is partially funded by INAC and through the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*. Each provided start up and capacity funding support for the business of Métis Infinity Investments including travel, and partial costs associated with a PCMNO meeting.

### Recent notable achievements

- Infinity Investments successfully negotiated a joint venture to deliver security services to Detour Gold and has several other business ventures in the works.

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## TREATY STRATEGY – MÉTIS RIGHTS AWARENESS

The funding provided through this agreement from MIRR is supporting the MNO's the development and production of an Ontario Métis timeline chart and supporting guide showing the history of Métis in Ontario. A small portion of salaries and professional fees were provided for the development of the time line chart.

### Recent notable achievements

- An Ontario Métis timeline chart and supporting guide is under development.

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## PAN/PARAPAN AMERICAN GAMES CAPACITY SUPPORT

The funding provided through this agreement through MIRR supported the MNO's capacity to participate in engagement, planning and initiatives for the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games.

### Recent Notable Achievements

- MNO participation as an Aboriginal Leadership Partner (ALP) for the games.
- The MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations served as ALP Co-chair.
- MNO participated in the Opening Ceremonies for the Pan AM Games and the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the ParaPan Games.
- MNO participated at the Aboriginal Pavilion showcasing Métis Culture.
- Métis artists and performers were featured throughout the games at the Pan AM Aboriginal Pavilion.

- MNO's Alicia Blore provided entertainment at the Athletes Village for the delegation of nations.

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## STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

The funding provided through the MIRR agreement supported the MNO's capacity to participate in engagement on the Ministry's Statement of Environmental Values.

### Recent Notable Achievements

- On July 26 and September 14, 2015, consultation committee representatives from Regions 1-9 participated in the engagement to provide feedback on the Ministry's Statement of Environmental Values

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## TRIPARTITE

The funding provided through INAC supported a portion of a staff position and MNO's work in the development of a three-year Strategic Plan, a portion of a PCMNO meeting and work related to *The MNO Secretariat Act 2015*.

### Recent notable achievements

- A MNO Three-year Draft Strategic Plan has been developed for review by the PCMNO.

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## ALGONQUIN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE

The funding provided through INAC provided professional fees for the review of the Algonquin Agreement in Principle and development of Agreement in Principle (AIP) communication materials.

### Recent notable achievements

- MNO's Region 5 Consultation Committee will be participating in discussions related to the Algonquin land claim.





MNO veterans lay wreaths at the Northwest Rebellion monument in Toronto. (L-R) Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, O.Ont, C.D., O.M.C.; MNO Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette and MNO veteran Todd Ross.

## REGISTRY ENHANCEMENTS

The funding provided through INAC supported the development of a terms of reference for the independent review of the Harvester card system, the development of root ancestor resource materials and fact sheets, root family research and some registry enhancements.

### Recent notable achievements

- The terms of reference for the independent review of the Harvester card system has been developed.
- Research was undertaken to identify root families to assist in the Registry application process.
- PCMNO meetings were held throughout the 2015-16 fiscal year.

## CONSULTATION ENGAGEMENT

The funding provided through the MIRR provided capacity support for MNO consultation committees to participate in a review of Ontario's Aboriginal consultation policies, practices and protocols to identify opportunities for improvement.

### Recent notable achievements

- On March 17, 2016, consultation committee representatives participated in an engagement on Ontario's Aboriginal consultation policies and provided feedback.

## FEDERAL PROTOCOL AGREEMENT

The funding provided through INAC provided capacity support for the MNO for .50 of a MNO staff position and



Award-winning Métis singer-songwriter and MNO citizen Amanda Rheame and her band play a set at the 2015 AGA in Midland. During her AGA performance, Amanda premiered *We Aspire*, a song based on the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*.

professional fees related to federal consultation.

#### Recent notable achievements

- The Federal Consultation Protocol agreement is the first Métis agreement in Canada and the first federal consultation protocol in Ontario.

#### ELECTION READINESS

The funding provided through INAC provided election-readiness capacity support to hire the Chief Electoral Officer and the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, develop a candidates guide, Election Appeals Guide and the communications strategy for MNO's 2016 election.

#### Recent notable achievements

- Paul DeVillers was engaged as the Chief Electoral Officer and John Graham was engaged as the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer for MNO's 2016 election.
- A candidate guide, Election Appeals Guide and a communications strategy was developed

#### MNO/ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER WORKING GROUP

The funding provided through MAA provides capacity for an evidence based approach to the assessment of Métis communities that are highly likely, or highly unlikely, to satisfy criteria set out in *R. v. Powley*. A portion of MNO staff salaries, professional fees and travel are funded through this agreement.

## Recent notable achievements

- Basic historic community assessments for Killarney/La Cloche and Nipigon were carried out.

## CULTURAL STRATEGY

The funding provided through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport provided engagement capacity for MNO Consultation Committee representatives and Métis artists to participate in providing feedback to the Ministry on Ontario's first ever Culture Strategy for Ontario.

## Recent notable achievements

- On December 5, 2015, consultation committee representatives from Regions 1-9 as well as Métis artists participated in the engagement with the Ministry to provide feedback on Ontario's Culture Strategy.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

The funding provided through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change provided engagement capacity for representatives of the Regions 1-9 consultation committees

## Program Summary

PROGRAM	SUPPORTS	# OF STAFF SUPPORTED	FUNDER	ELIGIBLE CLIENTELE	LOCATIONS
Core Bilateral Funding Agreement	Secretariat	1.5	Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)	MNO Community Councils, PCMNO Regional Councillors	Ottawa
Basic Organizational Capacity Agreement	Secretariat	3.5	Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)	MNO Community Councils, PCMNO Regional Councillors	Ottawa
Mineral Development Coordinators	Lands, Resources & Consultations (LRC)	2	Ministry of Northern Development & Mines	MNO Consultation Committees & MNO Citizens	Timmins, Thunder Bay
Mineral Sector Coordinator	LRC	2	Ministry of Transportation	MNO Consultation Committees & MNO Citizens	Timmins, Thunder Bay
Ministry of Transportation Engagement	Secretariat	–	INAC	Regions 1-5 Consultation Committees	Sudbury
Urban Aboriginal Strategy	Registry	–	INAC	MNO Citizens, MNO Youth	Toronto
MNO Registry Funding	LRC, Finance & Communications	7.75	MIRR	MNO Citizens and Citizen Applicants	Ottawa
New Relationship Fund (NRF) Core Capacity	Secretariat	16	MIRR	MNO Citizens, PCMNO, government & industry proponents	Fort Frances, Midland, Ottawa, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Toronto & Welland
NRF Enhanced Capacity - Economic Development Coordinator	Infinity Investments	.20	INAC	MNO Consultation Committee - Regions 1-5	Toronto
Infinity Investments	Infinity Investments	–	MIRR	MNO & middle businesses	Ottawa
Framework Agreement	Secretariat	1	INAC	MNO & Métis Businesses	Ottawa



to participate in consultation on Ontario's climate change strategy and cap and trade initiative.

#### Recent notable achievements

- On July 25, 2015, consultation committee representatives from Regions 1-9 participated in the consultation and provided feedback on Ontario's Climate Change Strategy and cap and trade initiative.

#### SPORT AND RECREATION

The funding provided through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport provided funding for the purchase of sport and recreation equipment to support sport and recreation needs.

#### Recent notable achievements

- Two canoes and snowshoes were purchased to support the sport and recreation activities of MNO youth.

### Program Summary continued

PROGRAM	SUPPORTS	# OF STAFF SUPPORTED	FUNDER	ELIGIBLE CLIENTELE	LOCATIONS
Treaty Strategy – Métis Rights Awareness	Secretariat	1.5	MIRR	MNO Citizens & the general public	Ottawa
Pan/Parapan American Games Capacity Support	Secretariat	.25	INAC	MNO, MNO Citizens, PCMNO	Toronto
Statement of Environmental Values	Secretariat	–	MIRR	Regions 1-9 Consultation Committees	Toronto
Tripartite	Secretariat	.25	INAC	MNO, MNO Citizens, PCMNO	Toronto
Algonquin AIP	Secretariat	–	INAC	Region 5 Citizens & Consultation Committee	Toronto
Registry Enhancements	Secretariat	–	INAC	MNO Citizens & Citizen Applicants	Ottawa
Consultation Engagement	Secretariat	–	MIRR	Regions 1-9 Consultation Committees	Toronto
Federal Consultation Protocol	Secretariat	.50	INAC	All MNO Citizens	Toronto
Election Readiness	Secretariat	.20	INAC	All MNO Citizens	Ottawa
MNO/Assistant Deputy Minister Working Group	Secretariat	.20	MIRR	All MNO Citizens	Ottawa
Cultural Strategy	Secretariat	–	Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport	All MNO Citizens	Ottawa
Climate Change	Secretariat	–	Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change	All MNO Citizens & Regional Consultation Committees (Regions 1-9)	Toronto
Sport & Recreation	Secretariat	–	Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport	All MNO Citizens	Toronto



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

– from the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose

## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# Government Services

### INTRODUCTION

Government 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, government services does not receive funding directly from proponents, government agencies, partners or other sources. The costs described under government 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 government services costs are covered by direct allocations from other branch programs while the remainder are covered by management fees.

### FINANCE

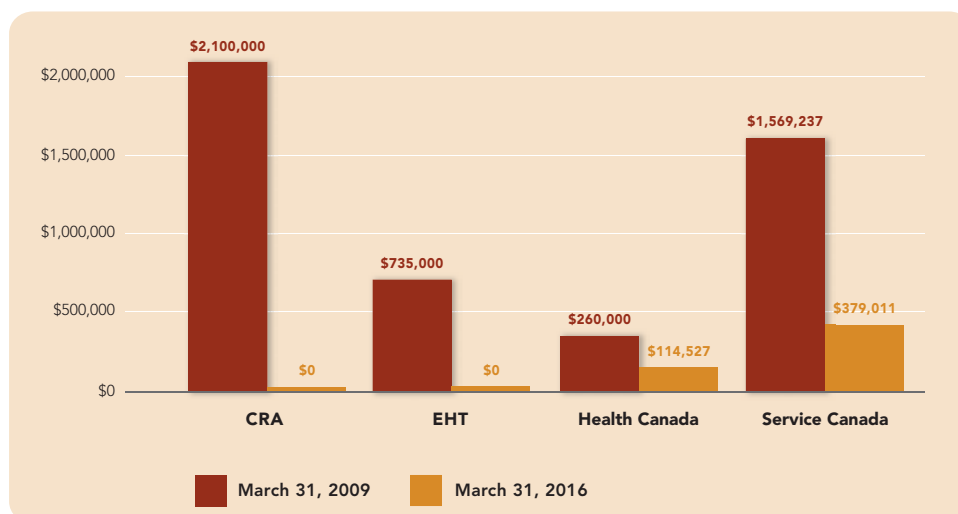
#### Purpose

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 other branches with current reports on the financial status of their programs and maintains a current database of all of the MNO's funding agreements.

#### Services

The Finance Branch provides all financial support to the MNO. Due to the increase in programs, transaction processing has increased approximately 30 per cent in most areas.

### Reduction of debt from 2008-09 to March 31, 2016





With improved processes and systems, they have been able to absorb this workload in their current staffing compliment.

### Recent notable achievements

- As of March 31, 2016, the MNO's repayable debt had decreased to \$493,538 from the \$4.2 million that confronted the MNO in 2008.
- The MNO has been able to completely pay off its Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) debt and Employer Health Tax debt (EHT). The repayment of this debt took only three and four years respectively rather than the original 25 years the MNO had negotiated.
- The MNO has significantly reduced its debts owing to Service Canada and Health Canada.
  - The amount originally owing to Service Canada in 2008 was \$1.6 million with an estimated 24 years for repayment, but as of March 31, 2016 this has been reduced to \$379,011 with only two years left to repay.
  - The amount owing to Health was originally \$261,000 in 2008, but as of March 2014, it has been reduced to \$114,527.
- 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.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Purpose

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:

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

### Current services

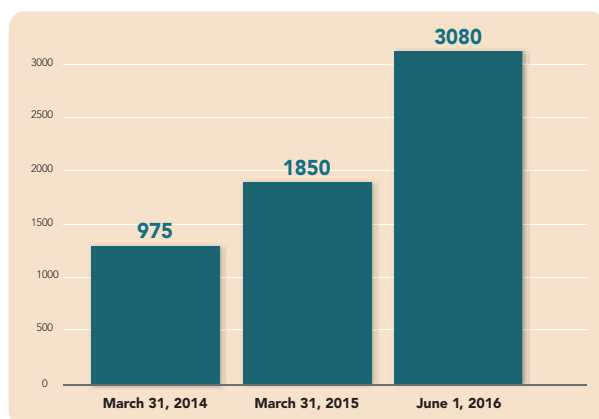
The Communications Branch supports the MNO through the following services:

- Identity management and branding for all MNO communications vehicles.
- Graphic design and creative direction for MNO publications and other media.
- Maintains, updates, designs and adds new features to the MNO website.
- Maintains and operates all MNO social media as required.
- Solicits quotes from print and other media companies as requested.
- Prepares and distributes MNO press releases and media advisories.
- Liaises with media to set up interviews with MNO leadership.
- Publishes *Métis Voyageur* newspaper five times a year.
- Publishes the MNO Annual Report, AGA Binder and other documents.
- Publishes eVoyageur e-newsletter approximately 15 times a year.
- Encourages MNO citizens and employees to submit stories for use in the MNO website, eVoyageur, and *Métis Voyageur* newspaper.
- Monitors media and online 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.
- Advises governance and administration on communication issues as requested.

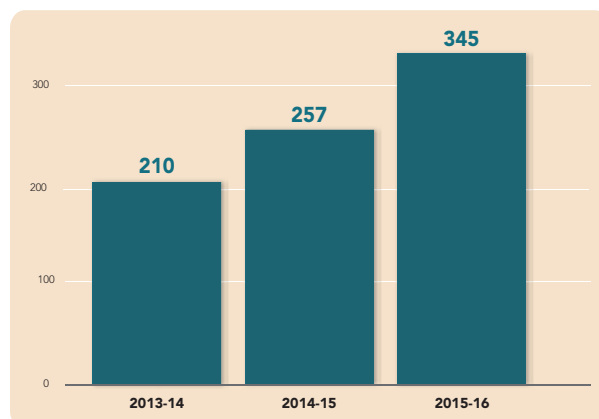
### Recent notable achievements

- In a period of less than 48 hours, the Communications Branch produced 14 videos explaining the *MNO Secretariat Act* and posted them on-line. To date these videos have been viewed 1492 times.
- In order to have a guidebook on the *MNO Secretariat Act* ready for the first community information session on February 6, the Communications Branch produced the guidebook within four work days.
- An information section on the *MNO Secretariat Act* was added to the MNO website included an edited version of the *MNO Secretariat Act* debate.
- The Communications Branch produced all MNO election materials, an election page on the website and coordinated mail-in ballots with Canada Post and several vendors.

### MNO Facebook fans



### Stories posted to MNO website & *Voyageur*



- The nomination package prepared by the Communications Branch for the Lt. Governor's Heritage Award for Community Leadership was successful and the MNO received the Award on February 26.
- A major upgrade to the MNO Employment page was made that permits electronic applications and qualifying questions. This improves the efficiency of the job application process by allowing Human Resources to quickly weed out unqualified candidates.
- Production is nearly complete on three commercials to be aired on APTN. Based on the "We Aspire" theme and featuring the song of the same title by Amanda Rheaume, each commercial features an Education and Training success story.
- Work is nearly complete on MNO merchandising website that will make a large number of "We Aspire" branded promotional items available. The website will support MNO identity management and the general efficiency of ordering such items.
- A short video news story about the 2016 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp was produced for the MNO website and Facebook page.
- A new format for the MNO Annual Report was utilized for the 2014-15 edition with a complimentary video that was screened at the 2014 AGA and posted on the MNO website and Facebook page.
- The November 2015 edition of the *Métis Voyageur* was the first full-colour edition and each edition since then has also been full colour.
- The number of MNO Facebook fans increased from 1850 on April 1, 2015 to 3083 on June 1, 2016. The MNO Facebook page continues to be the fastest growing Facebook page among all Métis governments in Canada and overall the second largest despite being the most

recently established.

- The number of news stories posted on the MNO website which also appears in the *Métis Voyageur* and e*Voyageur* has increased to 345 articles 2015-2016 compared to the 257 articles published in 2014-15.
- Five editions of the *Métis Voyageur* were published in 2015-16.
- Twenty editions of the e*Voyageur* were published in 2015-16

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Purpose

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Information and Communication Technology (ICT) department 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. While continuing to watch for opportunities to streamline network and data service delivery via new software and technology, ICT strives to also offer cost savings and revenue generating options while maintaining focus on security and industry best practices.

ICT supports all MNO branches in their efforts to fulfill front line delivery of all aspects of the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*.

ICT is currently comprised of two members being allocated to Helpdesk services and Management, located in Ottawa. ICT relies on budget allocations from all the MNO branches.

## ICT Service Deliverables

- Maintains the MNO network and data infrastructure including 14 virtual servers on two VMWare hosts, 24 VPN connected routers and 30 local switches.
- Coordinates, maintains and provides helpdesk assistance for all MNO users accessing 175+ desktop and laptop computers and 30 printers (which include photocopying, fax, email and document digitization capabilities), including upgrades, hardware and software requirements.
- Maintains specialized databases and program software such as the Registry Application and database; Great Plains Financial System; Lands, Resources and Consultations Portal; Healing and Wellness Portal; Online Health Activity Tracker, (OHATS); Exchange email; File server; antivirus, security and spam scanners; disaster recovery and back up services; and Telemedicine hardware.
- Maintains and manages all the MNO's land-based telephone services as well as 140+ cellular phones.
- Purchasing, contract negotiations and vendor management for all information technology sourced items and ongoing contracts.
- Responsible for facilities management at the MNO Ottawa Head Office and assists with several of the Regional Offices.

## Recent notable achievements

- Virtualization of the MNO server architecture: Representing a significant landmark in the restructuring of MNO server deployments, ICT has completed the configuration of the MNO's Dell VRTX VMWare virtual server host. Using the physical to virtual, (P2V) process, ICT has converted dedicated physical servers into dynamically managed virtual machines (VM). This represents state-of-the art internal "Cloud" services, drastically reducing the future management and deployments costs over the next five-year life cycle.
- Finance GP server, Joe software / desktops / laptops upgrades: Faced with software support end-of-life and discontinuation of Canadian Payroll module taxable updates, MNO is forced to upgrade from Microsoft Great Plains 2010, skipping V2013 to V2015. Upgrade includes new WinSVR 2012 VM host with GP 2015 installation by way of Corporate Renaissance Group. MNO ICT has been involved in project management, user acceptance testing as well as providing all new desktop / laptop equipment to Finance staff. Upgrade is complete including most recent Canadian Payroll hotfix.
- Government pricing from MS: After qualifications review and negotiations with the MNO's primary

Microsoft software supplier Dell, MNO has attained Government level pricing standers for all future MNO Microsoft purchases. This new recognition represents a savings of up to 35% on all Microsoft software products applicable to the server architecture as well as user systems and MS Office deployments.

- Registry user upgrades: ICT has completed the purchase and upgrade of new desktop and laptop equipment for all the Registry staff.
- Continuing to work with Healing and Wellness to bring all Telemedicine sites back online: With the closure of KNet TLink connections, the MNO's Telemedicine program has faced several location outages. Although the majority of these sites were pre-emptively moved to dedicated DSL connections in conjunction with ICT some time ago, some sites were incomplete due to upgrade or migration hurdles. ICT is once again working with Telemedicine to assist in getting these sites upgraded and back online.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### Purpose

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) upholds the principles of accountability, transparency and excellence as integral components of the operational arm of the Nation. Our policies and procedures reflect our commitment to recruit and retain the best-qualified personnel with preference being given to Métis applicants where all other considerations are equal. We value training and professional development to enrich the Nation through the development of a highly skilled MNO public service.

### Services and support

The MNO Human Resources (HR) team is based in Ottawa and provides service, support and information to MNO management and staff in order to meet daily obligations as well as short and long-term planning. These services and support include:

- Promoting a safe, supportive and productive working environment for all MNO employees;
- Overseeing compliance with applicable employment standards, human rights and workplace health and safety laws;
- Establishing and supporting effective tracking systems and internal processes for recruitment and hiring;
- Assisting with the support provided to all employees through orientation, effective probationary periods and



ongoing performance evaluation;

- Maintaining appropriate employment information documentation and ensuring privacy of personal information;
- Effectively administering group benefits, a registered pension plan, workplace health and safety, WSIB and other insurance needs;
- Promoting education and awareness among staff and managers on our workplace policies, workplace obligations and wise-practices in human resource management;
- Implementing and maintaining workplace policies and procedures; and
- Providing assistance with resolution of workplace conflict.

### Recent notable achievements

- The MNO's *Statement of Prime Purpose and Standards of Professional Conduct* continue to be emphasized at employee orientations and throughout the employment relationship. The MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose* and our standards link to all daily activities and are reflected in each employee's annual performance review and job description.
- The 2015-2016 fiscal year proved to be another active year for recruiting. This was due to exciting initiatives in programming and the creation of new positions, including an increase in summer student positions.
- In consultation with the Director of Communications an online application process has been created and is now active. Through this process, all applications are screened with questions specific to each job, with the opportunity for applicants to identify if they are Métis.
- In order to facilitate MNO staff training on various policies, HR developed an MNO online training portal. This new tool was built to include a library of training courses with videos, participant guides and policies that will be accessible for all MNO staff. All employees have a role to play in maintaining a safe and healthy workplace and this training tool offers important train-

ing to all staff, regardless of geographic location. All of the MNO staff have completed the following two courses: *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Customer Service and AODA-Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR)* & the *Human Rights Code*. All new employees are required to complete these courses. Further courses are now available and many employees have completed those as well.

- Though there has been continued growth and average turnover in 2015-2016, there continues to be a strong core of long-term employees at the MNO, with almost 54% of our employees having been with us for five years or more.
- Other activity in the 2015-2016 fiscal year included:
  - 2,095 applications received in response to 79 postings
  - Fifty-nine new hires (includes 26 summer students) and four internal moves
    - within the new hires, 31 were determinate (defined date) and eight were indeterminate
- 63 Records of Employment were issued (28 issued for the end of employee's employment contract terms, with the remainder for resignations, leaves, or dismissal)
- HR continues to support strong internal partnerships through management meetings, daily workplace interactions and the development and implementation of relevant training programs for staff.
- Increased consultation with HR when employment concerns first arise has led to earlier resolution of issues and a more consistent application of the MNO Policies and Procedures. Our ongoing development in the area of HR management promotes a continually increasing standard of accountability and transparency, and contributes to a more productive and healthier work environment within the MNO.

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

# of Staff

Staff located in:

Funders:

16

Ottawa

Funding for MNO Government Services is derived from contribution agreements managed by the Healing and Wellness, Education and Training, Lands, Resources and Consultations and Intergovernmental Relations branches.





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

*– from the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*

## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# Registry

### INTRODUCTION

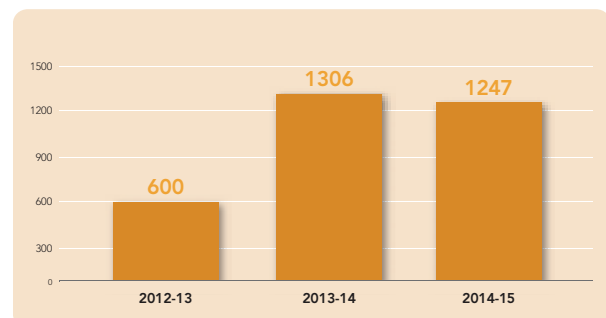
The MNO Registry Branch works with, and within, the national definition of Métis, to research, publish, and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis. The Registry Branch is responsible to provide:

- 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; and the
  - Storage of Registry files at Iron Mountain to ensure the physical safety and integrity of the files.
- Improved processes and procedures have allowed the Registry to issue 1,247 citizenship cards in the past year.
  - A new Harvester's Certificate card was designed and distributed.
  - The Registry has reduced the wait time for primary assessment to approximately two months.
  - While pushing forward with new citizenship approvals, the Registry Branch has simultaneously made significant progress in processing the backlog of applications that resulted from understaffing during 2010-2011.

### Recent notable achievements

- In 2014, the Mattawa research was completed and posted on the MNO website. In addition, two meetings were held in the Mattawa region to discuss the findings with the MNO families in the region.
- Ongoing research continues in other areas of the province in order to increase the understanding of the various Métis community interactions and provide more documentation to assist MNO citizens with their ancestry information.

### Citizenship approvals



### PROGRAM SUMMARY

NO. OF STAFF	FUNDER	ELIGIBLE CLIENTELE	LOCATIONS
5	Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada	MNO Citizens and Citizenship Applicants	Ottawa



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

*– from the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*

## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# Cultural Commission

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.

### MNO Cultural Commission Board of Directors

#### **Directors:**

Gary Lipinski  
France Picotte  
Sharon Cadeau  
Natalie Durocher  
Richard Sarrazin  
Tim Pile

#### **Senator-Directors:**

Bob McKay  
Roland St. Germain

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. This was reaffirmed in the subsequent MNO-Ontario Framework renewal in 2014.

As a registered charity, individuals and organizations can donate to the MNOCC and receive tax deductible receipts.

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

*– from the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*

## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# Development Corporation

The Métis Nation of Ontario Development Corporation (MNODC) was incorporated in the province of Ontario as a “for profit” corporation. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was the corporation's only shareholder. The MNODC

pursued economic opportunities that would benefit all MNO citizens and was uniquely positioned to develop opportunities that reflect the MNO's philosophy of environmentally sound projects.

At the 2015 MNO AGA, the MNODC was formerly dissolved.





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