

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Annual Report

2016-17

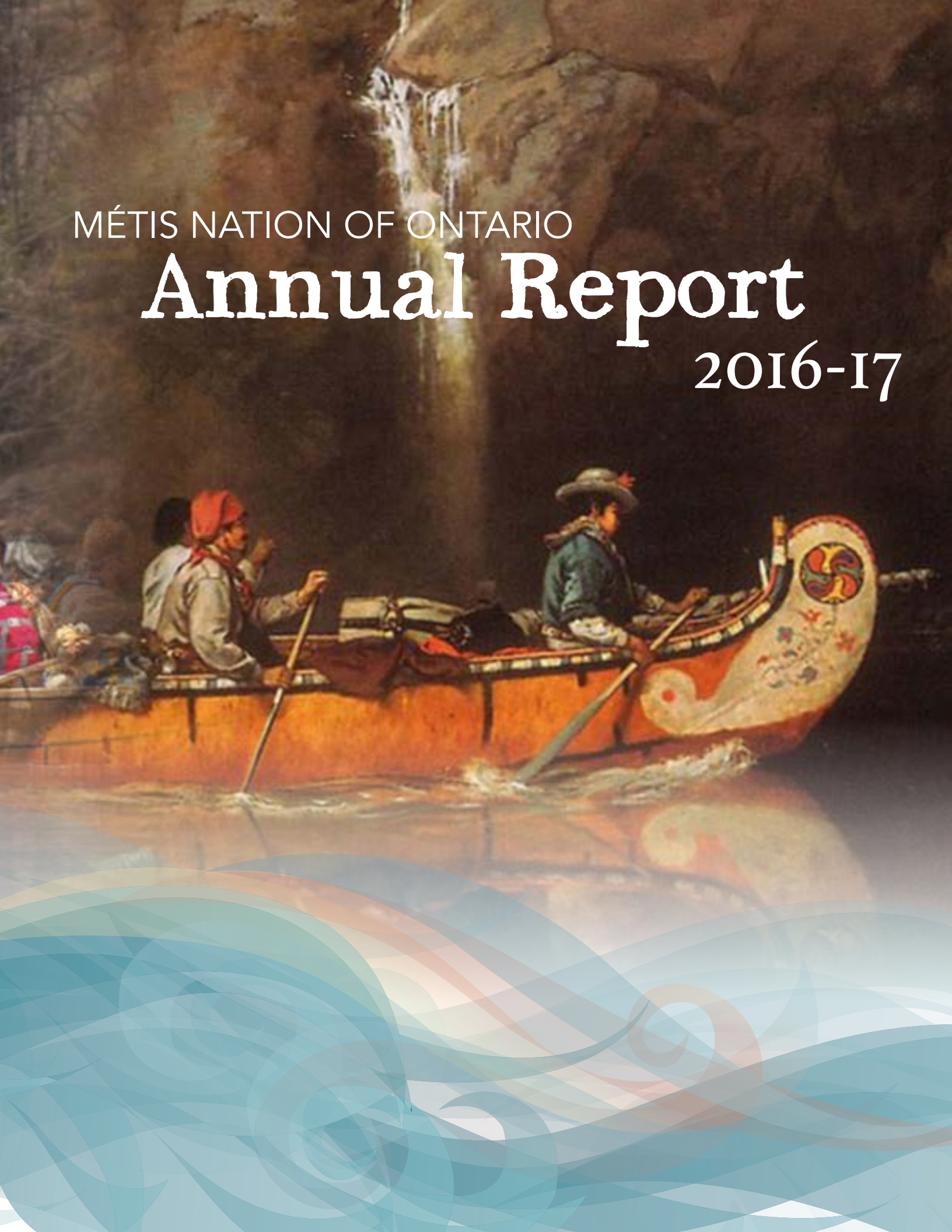


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MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Statement of Prime Purpose

Where we got our name

The 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Now therefore we declare as follows

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

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

We, the Métis who live within the Métis Homelands of Ontario, desiring to bind our people together to collectively promote our common cultural, social, political, and economic well-being, have founded the Métis Nation of Ontario, to be our representative body with the following aims and objectives:

- to research, publish and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and to establish and maintain a registry of the Métis Citizens of Ontario;
- to establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government;
- to encourage the full participation of all Métis in the Métis Nation;
- to promote and foster community development;
- to re-establish land and resource bases;
- to develop prosperity and economic 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.

MNO President Margaret Froh with a group of Métis Youth on the shores of lake Nipissing at the 2016 AGA in North Bay.

(Left to right) Katelyn LaCrouix, Dustin Hoogsteen, President Froh, Mitch Case, Paul Robitaille.



President Froh presents Federal Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Dr. Carolyn Bennett with an *Honouring Métis Women is part of our Culture* sash during the 2016 MNO AGA in North Bay.



REPORT FROM THE President

It is my privilege to welcome you to the 24th Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and to provide my report in the MNO 2016-17 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 of you for making time in your busy schedules to be here. Thank you as well to the MNO Community Councils in Region One: the Atikokan and Area, Kenora, Northwest and Sunset Country Métis Councils; for hosting the 2017 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.

Citizens of the great Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) should look back on 2016-17 with a great deal of satisfaction. We made substantial progress in many areas crucial

to our nation and enjoyed many successes. Throughout the year, whenever I had the pleasure of speaking with citizens, I sensed growing excitement that the stars are beginning to align for the Métis Nation and time and time again we saw that indeed this is the case.

MNO general elections

A great example of the increasing enthusiasm of our citizens was our spirited general election in May 2016, which had the highest turnout in MNO history. I was honoured to be elected President and I am so grateful to all the candidates who let their names stand for the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO); as well as the MNO Veterans’ and Youth Councils. Since the election, our new leadership has worked as an effective team advancing the MNO’s goals and objectives.

Unprecedented movement on Métis rights

One of the reasons citizens are so optimistic about the future is because of the Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Daniels v. Canada* in April 2016. This ruling means that Métis can no longer be treated like a political hot potato and the federal government must deal with us in the same manner they deal with First Nations and Inuit. This fact was further brought home by Special Representative Tom Isaac in his report on Métis Section 35 rights; where he made a strong case for the federal government negotiating with the Métis Nation and where he cited the MNO and its relationships with Ontario as a useful model for Canada-Métis Nation relations.

Daniels and Isaac both point the way to reconciliation between Canada and Ontario with the Métis Nation and there were many examples this year that both levels of



1) The signing of the historic MNO-Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Reconciliation: (left to right) Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs; President Froh; David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; and Region 1 PCMNO Councilor Theresa Stenlund. **2)** President 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 Di Chiara; Genevieve Routhier; Heather Bunn; Emily Ingram; Gerald Lavallee; Kyle Grenier; and Kyle Burton.

government are ready to seriously take up the business of reconciliation. In both March and December, the MNO was represented at meetings of First Ministers to take action on climate change. In May 2016, I was also one of the Indigenous leaders who spoke in the Ontario Legislature in response to Ontario's commitment to the 94 Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report.

The significance of Daniels and Isaac required our citizens to gain a thorough understanding of their full implications. To bring the full MNO leadership up to speed in November 2016 the MNO hosted the Daniels/Isaac Symposium that brought together the PCMNO, community council leadership, the MNO Veterans' Council, the MNO Youth Council and the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) to hear from Tom Isaac, Jason Madden and Jean Tiellet. The information and perspectives shared at

this event will help us move forward together in advancing Métis rights and reconciliation.

Reconciliation requires inclusion but it can also mean recognition, which took many forms in 2016-17. On National Aboriginal Day in June 2016, I had the opportunity along with past members of our MNO Canoe Expeditions, to paddle with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the Ottawa River. On Louis Riel Day, I spoke on the occasion of the first historic Métis flag raising ceremony on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

All these positive developments cumulated into the signing of the historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Advance Reconciliation between the MNO and Canada on February 3, 2017. The MOU established an exploratory discussion table between the MNO and Canada with the goal of arriving at a framework agreement by September 2017. The anticipated framework agreement would establish a formal



3) President Froh speaking at the first Louis Riel Day Métis flag raising ceremony on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. **4)** Special Representative Tom Isaac speaking during the MNO Daniels/ Isaac Symposium in Toronto in November 2016. **5)** President Froh presents provincial Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation David Zimmer with Métis art during the 2016 MNO AGA in North Bay. **6)** Prime Minister Trudeau with President Froh and other Métis and Canadian leaders signing the Canada-Métis Nation Accord. **7)** PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case.

negotiations process based on mutually agreed upon subject matters including Métis self-government, lands, rights and outstanding claims against the Crown.

The MNO Commission on Metis Rights and Self-Government

The incredible progress in the area of Métis rights and self-government set the stage for a very exciting future and to be prepared for that future the MNO launched the Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government. Creating the Commission was one of my major commitments during the 2016 MNO election and I was very proud to announce the establishment of the Commission at the 2016 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) in North Bay in August 2016.

At the time, I also announced the names of the seven

MNO citizens from across Ontario who served on the Commission. Our Commissioners were four women and three men who came from across the province and represented a good cross section of our citizens including our youth, elders, harvesters, as well as French and Michif language speakers. Their job was to help lead a forward-looking dialogue with our citizens on some key issues related to Métis rights and self-government and listen to citizens' voices and report back.

The Commission started its engagement sessions in February 2017 and the Commissioners consulted and engaged with MNO citizens in all 29 MNO communities across Ontario as well as with MNO Veterans' and Youth Councils and the WSMNO. The Commission will be presenting its final report at this AGA.



1) The MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government (left-right) Paul Robitaille, Karen Drake, Kim Powley, Senator Marlene Greenwood, President Margaret Froh, Pearl Gabona, Nelson Montreuil and Victor Brunelle.

Métis Family Wellbeing Program

Another development that generated a lot of enthusiasm this year was the new MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Program. As the MNO has done since its inception, in 2016-17 we were a leading voice against violence against Indigenous women and girls. In February 2016, we were one of the partners involved in the launch of Walking Together: Ontario Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women. Part of our involvement included the launch of the new MNO Métis Family Wellbeing program. This program impacts intergenerational trauma, reduces violence and addresses the over-representation of Indigenous children and youth in the child welfare and youth justice systems.

The Métis Family Wellbeing program allowed the MNO to reach its long time goal of establishing offices in every MNO community. Métis Family Wellbeing staff members are now working in all 29 of our communities increasing our number of offices from 21 to 32.

Working towards mutual goals with partners

Partnerships like those that are part of Walking Together are

a crucial element to making sure the Métis voice is heard and the needs of our people are met. The MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement is foundational to many other partnerships with government ministries and agencies and the many agreements we sign with proponents under the Crown's Duty-to-Consult and Accommodate. It is these types of agreements with both federal and provincial governments that allow the MNO to advance important projects and activities including Métis Way-of-Life studies; the Infinite Reach March Break Camp; the Summer Youth Cultural Program; MNO bursaries and job training programs; many health programs; and, numerous community meetings and consultations. The MNO is also part of hundreds of partnerships at the local level as community councils and MNO staff members establish positive working relationships with groups and institutions within their areas of operation.

The MNO is highly sought out by agencies and organizations across Canada as a partner because of our professionalism and expertise. An example of the high regard other agencies hold us in was evident in May 2016, when along with First Nations and Inuit leaders, I was given the opportunity to address 750 healthcare providers, researchers, policy makers, and senior government officials at the Towards Health and Reconciliation Conference hosted



2) President Froh addresses the Ontario Legislature in response to the provincial government's commitment to the 94 Calls to Action in the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. **3)** MNO Chair France Picotte with Chief Isadore Day during an appearance on the Agenda with Steve Paikin. **4)** MNO Chair Picotte speaking at the Great Lakes Forum. **5)** President Froh with ICES President and CEO Michael Shull signing a new data governance and partnership agreement. **6)** (Left to right) President Froh, Minister Bennett and Mitch Case at 2016 MNO AGA in North Bay. **7)** MNO veterans colour party leads the way during the Welcome to the AGA procession at the 2016 MNO AGA.

by the University of Toronto. The main conference theme of reconciliation was complemented by a focus on identifying solutions for improving health for Indigenous peoples through addressing the environmental, social and other determinants of health. Besides me, other speakers at the conference included Dr. David Suzuki and Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day.

Another example of the strong partnerships we have built in the health field was evidenced by the new data governance and partnership agreement the MNO signed in July 2016 with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES). I was delighted to sign this Agreement, which represents yet another important milestone in our very successful partnership with the ICES. Métis-specific data is still significantly lacking, not only in health, but in the areas of justice, child welfare, education, employment – the broader social determinants of health and well-being. Such data is crucial for evidence-based policy development and decision making and for targeting resources and interventions to where they will be most effective, which is why this is such an important agreement.

Environmental and cultural protection are two other areas where the MNO has been called upon by our partners to share our expertise. In October 2016, MNO Chair France

Picotte and MNO Associate Director of Education and Way of Life Brian Tucker took part in the Great Lakes Public Forum 2016: Celebrating Our Great Lakes in Toronto. Both Chair Picotte and Associate Director Tucker spoke during the Forum and Chair Picotte also appeared on The Agenda with Steve Paikin to discuss Indigenous Peoples and the Great Lakes.

As Chair Picotte and Associate Director Tucker indicated at the Great Lakes Forum the MNO always makes cultural and environmental protection a key element in all its dealings with proponents. I also emphasized this when in November 2016, I spoke at the 24th Annual Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association (CAMA) conference in Ottawa. The focus of this year's conference was: Embracing the Past; Mining the Present; A Rewarding Future, which was aimed towards helping youth ensure mining serves their futures.

It was in that spirit that in March 2017, the MNO signed a Relationship Agreement with Vale Canada Limited pertaining to Vale's current Sudbury operations. This agreement is important because it clearly demonstrates and underscores Vale's commitment to working in collaboration with the MNO in protecting the Mattawa/Lake Nipissing traditional Métis rights-bearing territory. This agreement truly exemplifies the commitment of all our MNO elected



1) MNO and Vale representatives at the Relationship Agreement signing on March 6, 2017 in Toronto. (front, left-right) Vale Corporate Affairs Erin Satterhwaite, MNO President Margaret Froh, Vale Vice President for Ontario Operations Stuart Harshaw and Vale Corporate Aboriginal Affairs for Ontario Angie Robson. (back, left-right) Vale Exploration Jason Letto, MNO Manager of Natural Resources and Consultation James Wagar, PCMNO Region 5 Councilor Dan Boulard, MNO Mineral Sector Advisor Steven Sarrazin, MNO North Bay Métis Council President Marc Laurin, MNO Sudbury Métis Council (SMC) President Richard Sarrazin, MNO Mattawa Métis Council President Nelson Montreuil and Regional Consultation Committee Alternate with the SMC Denis Lefebvre.

leaders to the protection and promotion of our heritage, culture, way-of-life and collective rights.

Protection and promotion of Métis culture and heritage was also the motivation for the MNO and the University of Ottawa to establish a formal working group in 2016-17 to facilitate greater collaboration and encourage ongoing communication between the MNO and the Chair of Métis Research at the University. Representatives from the MNO and University of Ottawa have met twice to discuss existing and emerging Ontario Métis research, the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding and to establish a work plan with jointly agreed upon priorities.

We Aspire campaign

The partnerships and networks the MNO has built are another reason why our citizens are so optimistic about the future of the Métis Nation. This optimism is beautifully expressed in Amanda Rheame's song "We Aspire." Based on the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose, the song was used in a series of three television commercials broadcast APTN in October and November 2016. Each commercial highlighted a Métis youth success story and encouraged all Métis to be all they can be. "We Aspire" captures the spirit and energy

of our Métis youth and was an anthem sung zestfully, if not imperfectly, by MNO citizens prior to the opening of every Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government engagement session. Along with the commercials, the MNO also launched a merchandising website that includes a whole line of We Aspire products. These items are a great way for citizens to promote the MNO and show our Métis pride.

Continuing debt reduction and realizing a surplus

One achievement that MNO citizens can be particularly proud of in 2016-17 is the continuing improvement in the MNO's financial situation. As of March 31, 2017, the MNO's repayable debt had decreased to \$256,538 from the \$4.2 million that confronted the MNO in 2008. The MNO is well on its way to retire its debt, which is scheduled for November 2017. In addition, the MNO ended the 2016-17 fiscal year in a surplus position of \$1.7 million. The MNO continues to be good steward of the funds entrusted to it by its citizens and its strong financial situation will help build a better future for all Métis.

Métis Infinity Investments

Along with continued stable management of the MNO's own



2) PCMNO Executive Senator Joe Poitras stands with the Infinity Investments LP Board of Directors. (left-right) Lindsay Boyd, Director of Aboriginal and Municipal Affairs, Union Gas Limited; Senator Poitras, PCMNO Executive Senator; Brenda LaRose, Managing Partner, Higgins Executive Search; Scott Patles-Richardson, CEO, Infinity Investments LP; Dr. Fred Lazare, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, and Schulich School of Business. **3)** An MNO staff member poses with merchandise from the “We Aspire” line of MNO promotional items. **4)** Métis Nation leaders and citizens gathered at the Supreme Court of Canada after the Daniels decision.

fiscal house, the MNO’s other financial success story is Métis Infinity Investments (MII). MII is an agency that is arms-length from the MNO Secretariat. It was established in 2015 through the auspices of the MNO’s landmark first law; the MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law. MII is a vehicle for developing partnerships with for-profit businesses that generates funds that can eventually be transferred to the MNO for providing greater services to citizens and furthering the MNO’s overall agenda. MII has developed numerous successful partnerships that are both generating revenue and employing Métis people and although it will take more time before the MNO sees funds directly from these ventures, the MII is building a strong foundation that will eventually provide the MNO with a revenue stream independent of funding from all other governments.

Fostering strength and inclusivity in our governance functions

The MNO’s strong fiscal position is ideally complimented by the growing strength within our governance functions. For me, there was no better evidence of the MNO’s wonderful momentum in this area than the record-breaking attendance at the AGA in North Bay in August 2016. The MNO un-

derstands that all citizens cannot be at the AGA in person, which is why for the first time the AGA proceedings were broadcast via live internet streaming and the MNO used social media to keep citizens who could not attend the AGA abreast of events as they occurred.

The MNO also conducted by-elections for positions on the MNO Youth Council using internet voting as further evidence that the MNO is committed to using technology to give citizens every chance to be part of their government. In a move that was very close to my heart, the AGA took the courageous step of passing a motion to establish a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Queer (LGBTQ) working group with the goal of setting up a Council or Secretariat or other body similar to the MNO Youth and Veterans’ Councils or the WSMNO.

Each of these established Councils and Secretariats made significant progress in increasing participation in their activities in 2016-17 and enhancing their leadership roles within the MNO. Both the MNO Youth Council and WSMNO held workshops and engagements and the MNO Veterans’ Council initiated its Vimy Memorial Project that brought together youth and veterans in Ottawa for Vimy Ridge Memorial events.



MNO and MNBC contingents at the National War Memorial following the National ceremony to remember the Battle of Vimy Ridge. (Front: left-right) Brittney Bertrand, veteran Eldon Clairmont, Lissa Smith MNBC Vice President and MNBC Veteran Minister, Jessica Curry, veteran Todd Ross, Veteran Robert Desjardins, PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix, veteran Shelly Claus MNO Veterans' Council Women's Representative, Eleni Pappas, veteran Sharlene Lance, veteran Dave Armitt C.D, veteran Barb Hulme C.D., PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case. (Middle: left- right) veteran Tanya Davoren, veteran Eleanor Creighton, MNO Veterans' Council Chair Guy Mandeville C.D., Senator Ralph Thistle, Matthew Bombardier (Back: left-right) Jane Brennan C.D., Dalton Latondress, Michael Strank, MNO President Margaret Froh, veteran Doug Woods, former MNO Veterans' Council Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy O.Ont., C.D., O.M.C., MNO Veterans' Council Sgt-At-Arms Brian Black.

The stars are aligning

The list of highlights I have provided, as well as those later in the Annual Report, can leave no doubt that MNO citizens have every reason to believe that the stars are aligning for the great Métis Nation of Ontario. These successes are in no small way owed to the contributions of all 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, hardworking 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.

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. "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



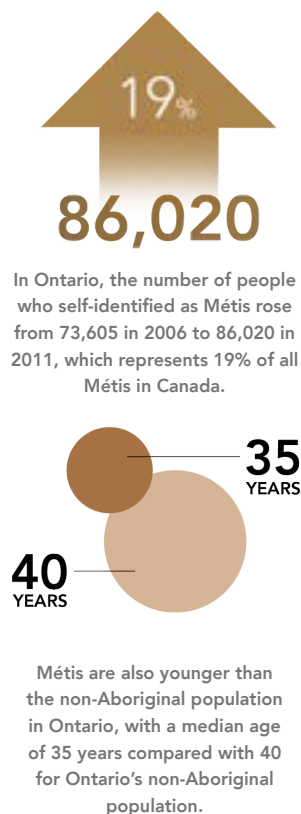
Who are the Métis?

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).

... 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; not to pursue a corporate focus. Based on this democratic, representative model, the MNO designed its governance structure to support the achievement of the Nation's self-government aspirations at a local, provincial and national level. It is also based on the Métis Nation's inherent and legal rights as distinct Aboriginal peoples.

MNO citizens exercise their collective right to self-government through a governance structure that continues to evolve as the MNO moves forward in the implementation of Métis self-government. A series of documents which 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. In 2017, the MNO and Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Reconciliation in Ontario.

... 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 & 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 (PCMNO) developed an Interim Registry poli-

cy 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 (AGA). This policy was amended at the 2015 MNO AGA.

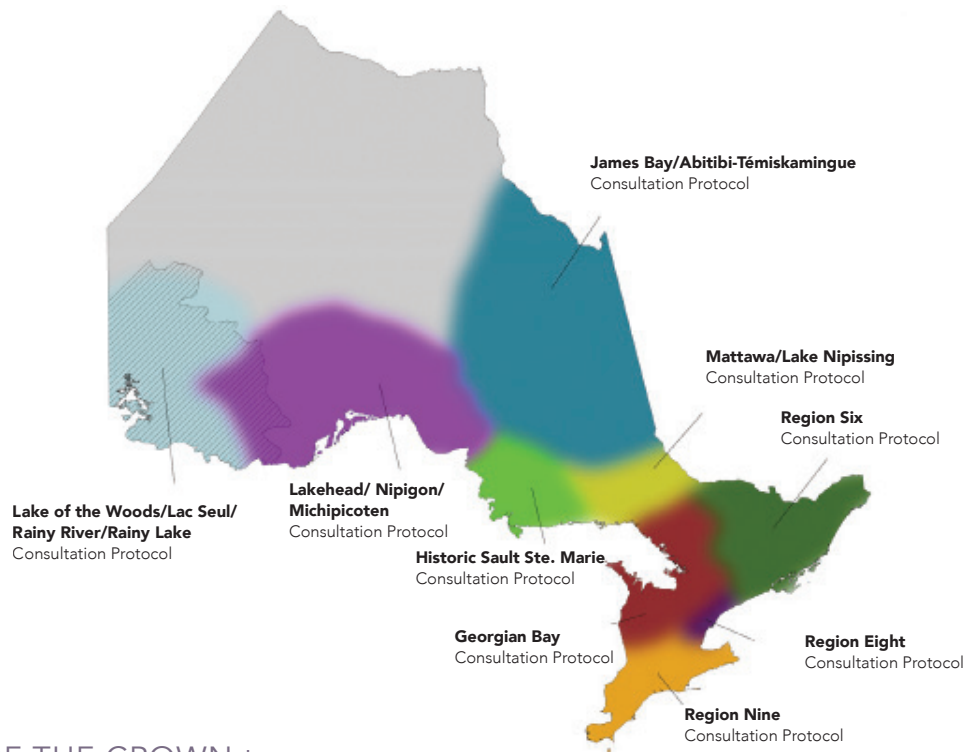
The rigorous application process must be undertaken by individual applicants because it establishes the credibility and integrity of the MNO's citizenship application process and distinguishes the MNO from other provincial or federal Métis organizations that grant or sell memberships without requesting 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.

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

— the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose



DUTY OF THE CROWN to

Consult & 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-governance 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 interconnected Métis families and settlements living in, and relying on, a shared traditional territory.

The overarching goal of the protocols is to ensure that all MNO citizens who are members of regional rights-bearing communities have an opportunity to be consulted on policies, plans, projects and developments that have the potential to impact the collective rights and interests of the Métis. Each protocol includes a regional consultation committee

comprised of the 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 Region 9 Consultation Committee touring the Wind Canada site near Windsor. (Front row: left-right) MNO Region 9 PCMNO Councillor Peter Rivers, CS Wind Project Manager SK Yoon and MNO Clear Waters Métis Council President Jerry Clarke. (Back row: left-right) MNO Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) Senator Carol Lévis, MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council (WEMC) President Donna Grayer, MNO Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC) President Derrick Pont, MNO GRMC Treasurer Leslie Muma, MNO NRMC Women's Representative Gisele Legiehn and WEMC Councillor Gary Lovell.



... 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

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 tradi-

tional Métis harvest activities will not be charged unless they are in violation of conservation or safety standards.

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

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



MNO Chapleau Métis Council President David Hamilton made a successful moose harvest during the 2016 fall season.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Captains of the Hunt

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

- Travel throughout their region and into MNO communities in their region to work with councils on Harvester's certificate issues.
- Assist Harvesters in the completion of applications for Harvester's certificates.
- Review and sign Harvester applications prior to sending them to the MNO Registry Branch for processing and final approval.
- Verify that Harvesters can properly and safely employ firearms.
- Answer inquiries from Métis 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 (2016-17)

Margaret Froh Chief Captain of the Hunt	
Brian Tucker 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



The 2016-2020 Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario: (front: left to right) Senator Ray Bergie, Region 1 Councillor Cam Burgess, Senator Verna Brunelle-Porter, Senator Rene Gravelle, Region 9 Councillor Peter Rivers (back: left to right) Youth Representative Mitch Case, Region 4 Councillor Ernest Gatien, Region 7 Councillor Pauline Richardson, Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, Region 3 Councillor Marcel Lafrance, Chair France Picotte, President Margaret Froh, Region 5 Councillor Dan Boulard and Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund.

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.

2016-2020 PCMNO Members

Margaret Froh President	
France Picotte Chair	Sharon Cadeau Vice-Chair
Tim Pile Secretary-Treasurer	Joseph Poitras Executive Senator
Theresa Stenlund Councillor, Region 1	Cameron Burgess Councillor, Region 2
Marcel Lafrance Councillor, Region 3	Ernest Gatien Councillor, Region 4
Dan Boulard Councillor, Region 5	Tom Thompson Jr. Councillor, Region 6
Pauline Richardson Councillor, Region 7	Anita Tucker Councillor, Region 8
Peter Rivers Councillor, Region 9	Mitch Case Youth Representative
Katelyn LaCroix Post-Secondary Representative	Rene Gravelle Senator
Verna Brunelle-Porter Senator	Ray Bergie Senator



Members of the WSMNO with the President of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak at the 2016 AGA. (left-right) Suzanne Jackson, Representative; Sharon Cadeau, Spokesperson; Melanie Omeniho, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak President; Pearl Gabona, Representative; Katelyn LaCroix, Representative; and Cora Bunn, Representative.

MNO COMMITTEE

Women's Secretariat

The Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation in Ontario (WSMNO) is a committee of the PCMNO 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 Indigenous 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, Cora Bunn and Katelyn LaCroix. Elections for WSMNO positions will take place at the 2016 MNO Annual General Assembly.

2016 - 2020 Women's Secretariat Representatives

Sharon Cadeau WSMNO Spokesperson	
Pearl Gabona Representative	Suzanne Jackson Representative
Cora Bunn Representative	Katelyn LaCroix Representative



Métis youth who attended the meeting of the MNO Youth Council prior to the 2016 MNO AGA in North Bay.

MNO COMMITTEE

Youth Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Youth Council is a committee of the PCMNO 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, works directly with the MNO Youth Council 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.

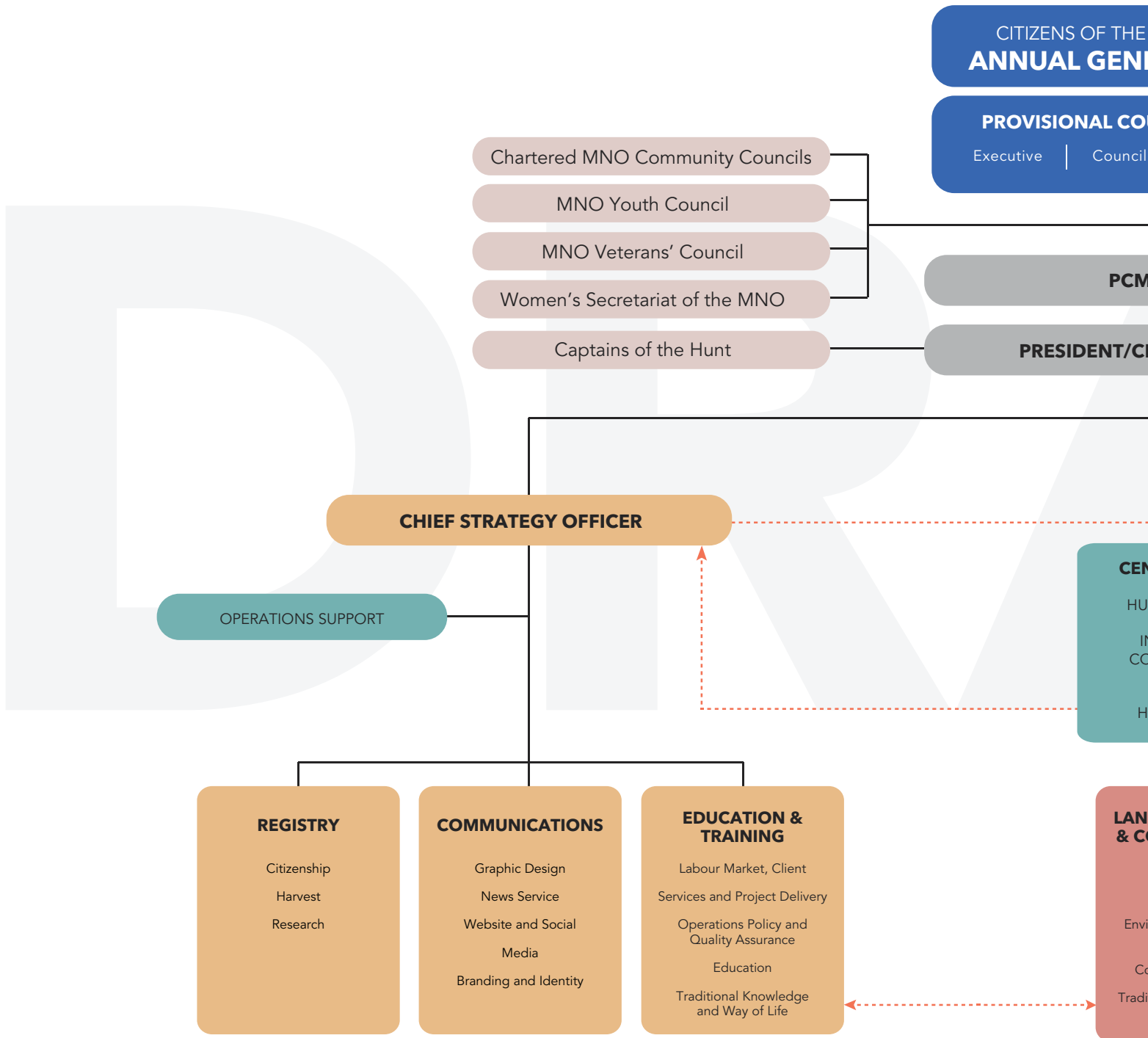
Elections for the MNO Youth Council are held every four years with the general MNO election. This election was held in May 2016 with the terms of the current MNO Youth Council members running until May 2020.

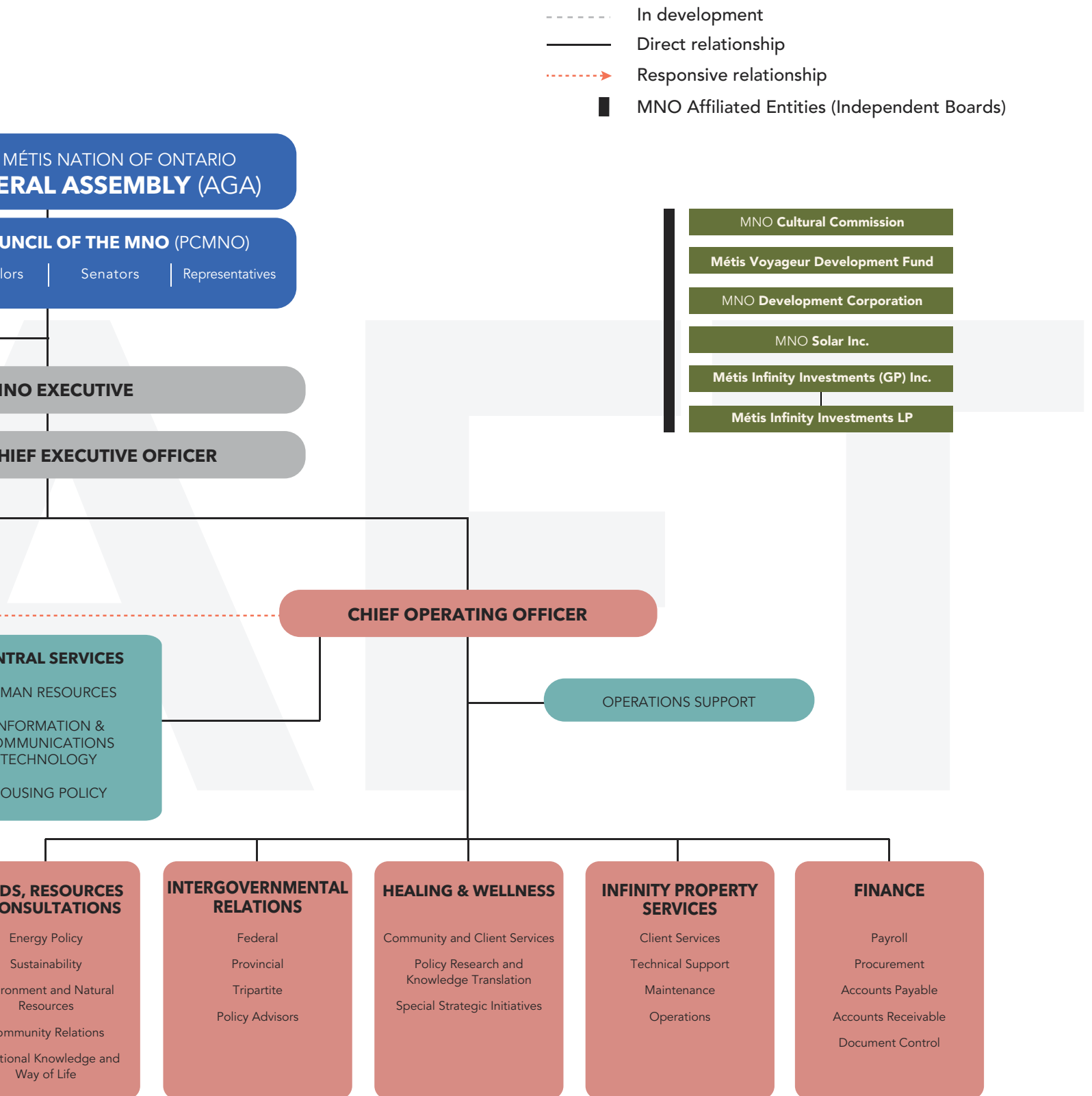
2016 - 2020 Youth Council Representatives

Mitch Case PCMNO Youth Representative	Kelly Duquette Region 1 Representative
Paul Robitaille Region 2 Representative	Brianne Gosselin Region 3 Representative
Taylor McNally Region 4 Representative	Vacant Region 5 Representative
Alexandra Dusume Region 6 Representative	Jordyn Plane Region 7 Representative
Vacant Region 8 Representative	Vacant Region 9 Representative

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Effective June 14, 2017







MNO Community Council Presidents at the 2016 AGA: (Back row, left to right) Jean Camirand (Thunder Bay) Urgel Courville (Northern Lights), William Gordon (Greenstone), Ronald Robinson (Northwest), Scott Lloyd (High Land Waters), Derrick Pont (Niagara), Jerry Clarke (Clear Waters), Tera Beaulieu (Toronto), Peter Coture (Great Lakes), Nelson Montreuil (Mattawa), David Hamilton (Chapleau), Brady Hupet (Sunset Country), Joel Henley (Kenora), and Trent Desaulniers (Superior North Shore). (Front row, left-right) Andy Dufrane (Peterborough), Liliane Ethier (Temiskaming), Benny Michaud (Ottawa), Yvonne Jensen (North Channel), Marlene Davidson (Atikokan), MNO President Margaret Froh, David Dusome (Georgian Bay), Kristin Randall (Oshawa), Kim Powley (Sault St. Marie), Jennifer Parkinson (Grand River), Donna Grayer (Windsor-Essex-Kent).

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Chartered Community Councils

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens volunteer thousands of hours every year to support the work of chartered MNO community councils. Composed entirely of volunteers, the members of MNO community councils play a crucial role in the fight for Métis rights and in promoting Métis culture and traditions.

The structure of 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 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 these citizens 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 to start building capacity at the local, regional and provincial levels. In addition to ensuring that MNO community councils operate in a transparent and accountable way, the training ensures that core capacity is in place at the community level to facilitate consultation work with government and industry.

Currently MNO Community Relations staff offers Governance and Finance course. This is a two-day seminar that explains where MNO community councils fit into the MNO governance structure and explains their role as local government. The course covers everything from how to run effective meetings and engage citizens in council activities to budgeting and the various financial practices, regulations and legislation that MNO community councils must follow. The MNO started offering the course in 2010 and over a dozen MNO community councils have taken the training since then.



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) MNO Grand River Métis Council President Jennifer Parkinson (left) and MNO citizen Barb Lair (right) presented at a workshop to educate students and teachers at local schools about Métis culture and heritage. **2)** Participants on a Medicine Walk held in Toronto by Elder Joe Paquette. **3)** (Left-right) MNO Niagara Region Métis Council citizens and Métis youth sit on their float for the Welland Rose Parade: Giselle Legiehn, Women's Representative; Garry Laframboise, Senator; Amanda Pont-Shanks, Chair; Holden Shanks, Preston Legiehn, Ema Brown; Leah Brown, Secretary; Brian Kon, Councillor; and Calab Legiehn. **4)** Métis youth and members from the MNO GBMC Youth Committee and Veterans' Council at the Fishing Derby. **5)** The MNO Kenora Métis Council held its Annual General Meeting in May 2016. PCMNO Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund (far left) stands with members of the MNO Kenora Métis Council: (left-right) Councillor Jordan Benoit; Treasurer and Region 1 Captain of the Hunt Sandra Triskle; Councillor Martin Camire; Chair Liz Boucha; Secretary Nina Henley; Senator Karen Cederwall; and, President Joel Henley. **6)** Members of the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council shared Métis culture and heritage at the Niagara District School Board Indigenous Summit in May 2016. (Left to right) President Derrick Pont, Chair Amanda Pont-Shanks, Councillor Brian Kon and Youth Representative Niki Ann Brideau. **7)** The MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) led 300 canoes down the historic Don River in May (left-right) MNO President Margaret Froh, MNO TYRMC Senator Constance Simmonds, Don Valley West Member of Parliament (MP) Rob Oliphant, Premier Kathleen Wynne, King-Vaughan MP Deb Schulte, Toronto-Danforth MP Julie Dabrusin, MNO TYRMC Chair Todd Ross, MNO TRYMC President Tera Beaulieu, and Beaches-East York Member of the Provincial Parliament Arthur Potts. **8)** MNO Credit River Métis Council Treasurer Darlene Lent and Senator Bill Morrison presented the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario with a Métis sash at an event in Brampton. **9)** The MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council visited a local MNO/Brightroof Solar project in their community. **10)** (Left-right) MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council raffled off a wolf quilt created by Women's Representative Shirley Loubert and MNO citizen Betty Sims. (Left to right) Shirley Loubert and MNO HSSMC Senator Brenda Powley hold up the wolf quilt. **11)** MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council President Andy Dufrane (right), here with Jeff Leal, Member of the Provincial Parliament for Peterborough, spoke at the first International Indigenous Environmental Studies and Sciences Conference. **12)** Youth from the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council and the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council were brought together in Midland for the Land-Based Knowledge Exchange workshop.





14



15



16



17



Photo by @jennkfrench, Twitter

18



21

13) The MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council developed a new Métis sash as part of their Weaving the Sash project. President Tera Beaulieu (far left) presents the new Métis sash to MNO TYRMC Youth Committee members (left-right) Elise St. Germain, Alicia Blore and Christine Skura. **14)** The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Youth Committee organized a bowling event for local youth and citizens at the local bowling alley. **15)** The MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council celebrated Powley Day in September 2016; those attending included (left-right) Iain Best (Youth Representative), Marie-Louise Perron (Councillor), Benny Michaud (President), Parm Burgie (Senator), Amanda Kisch (Women's Representative) and Tony Belcourt (Councillor and founding MNO President). **16)** The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council held its annual Aboriginal Week youth trip to Camp Kitchikewana. **17)** The Windsor Essex Kent Métis Council paid tribute to their local Métis veterans in a special presentation ceremony: (left to right) Robert Desjardins, Councillor; Joseph Paquette (MNO Veterans' Council President); Sharlene Lance, Women's Representative, Terry Desjardins, Chair, Steve Cadotte (MNO citizen), Shelly Claus (MNO Veterans' Council Women's Representative), Wilfred Rochon, Councillor and veteran, Jim Turner, Senator, Donna Grayer, President, Jon Rochon Secretary/Treasurer, Garry Lovell, Councillor, Peter Rivers, PCMNO Region 9 Councillor. **18)** The MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council (ODRMC) staged their highly successful Métis Heritage Festival again this year. Some of the dignitaries and MNO leaders present included: Back row (left-right): John Henry, Mayor of Oshawa; Dr. Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament (MP) for Oshawa; Shadi Ashabani-Azad, Métis Youth. Middle row (left-right): Serge Gagnon, Emcee; Peggy Forbes, Durham College Aboriginal Advisor, Aboriginal Student Centre; Jennifer French, Member of the Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Oshawa; Margaret Froh, MNO President; Alicia Blore, Keynote Speaker and MNO staff; Sylvie Gravelle, Assistant to the Emcee. Front row (L-R): Kristin Randall, MNO ODRMC President; Cecile Wagar, MNO ODRMC Senator; Joseph Poitras, PCMNO Executive Senator. **19)** The MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council (ODRMC) performed a smudging ceremony at Notre Dame Catholic School staff event (left-right) MNO ODRMC Senator Cecile Wagar (second from left) and Women's Representative Claire Kearns (third from left) with members of the Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School staff. **20)** The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council facilitated a number of their Métis youth completing First Aid training. (front row, left-right) Carl Ferris, Jocelyn Howe, Dalton Latondress. (Back row left to right) MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chair Larry J. Ferris, Even Logue, Brandon Howe, Jacob Martin, Devin Latondress, Alexa Martin. **21)** In June 2016, the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council partnered with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society in the Annual Paddle the Rouge event. MNO citizens and special guests including Prime Minister Trudeau pose during the event (left-right): Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, Senator Constance Simmonds, Ella-Grace Trudeau, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Chair Todd Ross, and MNO Citizen Virginia Barter.



The MNO Veterans' Council Executive members (left-right): Senator Guy Mandeville C.D., Women's Representative Shelly Claus, President Joseph Paquette, Secretary-Treasurer Greg Garratt and Chair Brian Black. Missing: Sgt-At-Arms Douglas Woods.

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 current executive expired in May 2020.

2016-2020 Veterans' Council Executive Members

Joseph Paquette President	Brian Black Chair
Greg Garratt Secretary/Treasurer	Douglas Woods Sgt. at Arms
Guy Mandeville, C.D. Senator	Shelly Claus Women's Representative

1) MNO Veteran Jack Cadeau receives the Louis Riel Medal honouring his service, which included time in Korea. **2)** Derrick Pont (middle), MNO Niagara Regional Métis Council President, carries the 1812 banner while Joseph Paquette (right), MNO Veterans' Council President, carries the Métis flag during the inaugural unveiling of the Landscape of Nations: Six Nations and Native Allies Commemorative Memorial event. **3)** MNO Veterans' Council Chair Guy Mandeville, C.D. (second from left) presents Sergeant Euper (second from right) from 81 Construction Engineer Flight with a brass plaque commemorating the completion of the Caribou Lodge.



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 at the 2016 AGA in North Bay.

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.

MNO SENATORS - CURRENT TO JUNE 28, 2017

PCMNO EXECUTIVE SENATOR:

Senator Joseph Poitras

PCMNO SENATORS:

Senator Rene Gravelle
Senator Verna Porter-Brunnelle
Senator Ray Bergie

MNO CHARTERED COMMUNITY COUNCIL SENATORS:

MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council: **Senator Brian Gouliquer**
MNO Chapleau Métis Council: **Vacant**
MNO Clear Waters Métis Council: **Senator Maryjane Buttenham**
MNO Credit River Métis Council: **Senator Wayne Copeland**
MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council: **Senator Ken Fraser**
MNO Greenstone Métis Council: **Senator Patricia Dryden**
MNO Grand River Métis Council: **Senator Carol Levis**
MNO Great Lakes Métis Council: **Interim Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle**
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 Joyceline Rose**
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: **Vacant**
MNO Northwest Métis Council: **Senator Alphonse Roussin**
MNO Oshawa and Durham Métis Council: **Senator Cecile Wagar**
MNO Ottawa Métis Regional Council: **Senator Parmallia Burgie**
MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council: **Senator Terry Bloom**
MNO Sudbury Métis Council: **Senator Richard Meilleur**
MNO Sunset Country Métis Council: **Senator John George**
MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council: **Senator Paul Turpin**
MNO Temiskaming Métis Council: **Senator Christina Acton**
MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council: **Senator Ken Simard**
MNO Timmins Métis Council: **Senator Pierre Lefebvre**
MNO Toronto-York Region Métis Council: **Senator Constance Simmonds**
MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council: **Senator Jim Turner**

VETERANS' SENATOR:

Senator Guy Mandeville C.D.

HONOURARY SENATORS:

Senator Reta Gordon
Senator Gordon Calder
Senator Audrey Vallee
Senator Roland St. Germain
Senator Olivine Tiedema
Senator Ruth Wagner
Senator Gerry Bedford

Métis National Council

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

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

Following this success, it became apparent that the Métis Nation needed to be able to represent Métis-specific interests at a national level. As a result, in March 1983, the Métis Nation separated from the Native Council of Canada to form the Métis National Council (MNC). Since then, the MNC has represented the Métis Nation nationally and

internationally. It receives its mandate and direction from the democratically elected leadership of the Métis Nation's governments from Ontario westward.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is a governing member of the MNC, along with the Manitoba Metis Federation, the Métis Nation Saskatchewan, the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis Nation British Columbia. The MNO President sits on the six-member MNC Board of Governors with the president of each of the governing members and the MNC President.

The MNC president is elected by the MNC's general assembly. In addition, the MNO, in collaboration with other governing members, participates within the Métis Nation Cabinet, the MNC's general assembly, and the MNC's secretariats, as well as national working groups and committees.

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



Métis Nation delegates at the meeting between Indigenous leaders and Canadian First Ministers (left to right) Métis elder Oliver Boulette, MNO President Margaret Froh, MNA President Audrey Poitras, MNC President Clément Chartier, MNBC President Clara Morin Dal Col, MMF President David Chartrand and MN-S Vice-President Gerald Morin.

Nation to Nation

Indians and Inuit, are one of three Aboriginal peoples of Canada. The term "Indians" is used in this context because its meaning is legally-defined. In contemporary society and in intergovernmental relations work, the term "First Nations" is the term most often used.

A number of international documents, including the United Nations' International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the United Nations' International

Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, acknowledge the right of all peoples to self-determination.

The Métis are a people whose legitimacy is established by history, territory, language, custom,

values and law. Having both national and international recognition as a people, who together form a Nation, is the basis on which the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) maintains nation to nation relationships with other nations. The MNO, through

the Métis National Council, works closely with the Assembly of First Nations and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami on issues of common concern at the national and international levels.

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



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

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

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, labour market development, housing, Duty to Consult and Accommodate, community relations, traditional knowledge, inter-governmental relations, economic development, finance, communications, human resources and information technology. Directed through seven branches, the MNO employs 200 + people located in 32 offices across Ontario.



ATIKOKAN
Healing & Wellness

BANCROFT
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness

BLIND RIVER
Healing & Wellness

BRAMPTON
Healing & Wellness

CHAPLEAU
Healing & Wellness

COCHRANE
Healing & Wellness

DRYDEN
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness

FORT FRANCES
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
Lands, Resources & Consultations

GERALDTON
Healing & Wellness

GRAVENHURST
Healing & Wellness

HAILEYBURY
Healing & Wellness

HAMILTON
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness

INNISFIL
Infinity Property Services

KENORA
Healing & Wellness

KINGSTON
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness

KITCHENER
Healing & Wellness

MATTAWA
Healing & Wellness

MIDLAND
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
Lands, Resources & Consultations

NORTH BAY
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness

NORTHBROOK
Healing & Wellness

OTTAWA (HEAD OFFICE)
Communications
Education & Training
Finance
Healing & Wellness
Human Resources
Information & Communications
Technology
Registry

OSHAWA
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness

OWEN SOUND
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
Lands, Resources & Consultations

PETERBOROUGH
Healing & Wellness

RENFREW
Healing & Wellness

SAULT STE. MARIE
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness

SUDBURY
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
Lands, Resources & Consultations

THOROLD
Healing & Wellness

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

TIMMINS
Healing & Wellness
Education & Training
Lands, Resources & Consultations

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

WINDSOR
Healing & Wellness



... 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

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:

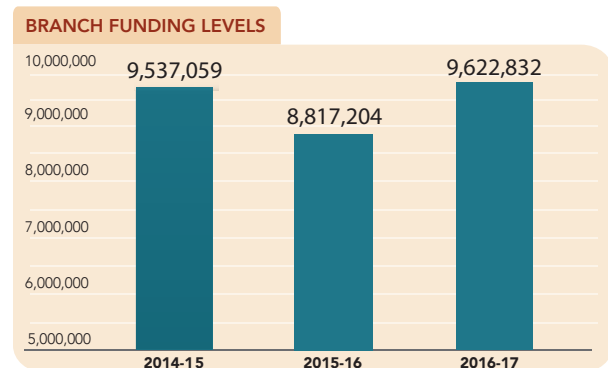
- demand driven skills development;
- partnerships; and
- accountability for improved results.

In order to meet these identified priorities, the MNO has paid special attention to strengthening program policies, re-

porting systems and assessment procedures. While

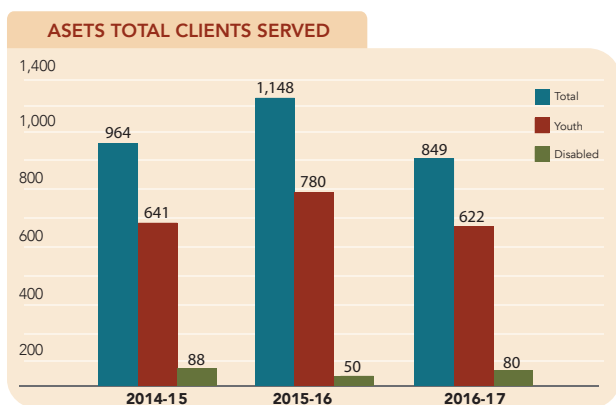
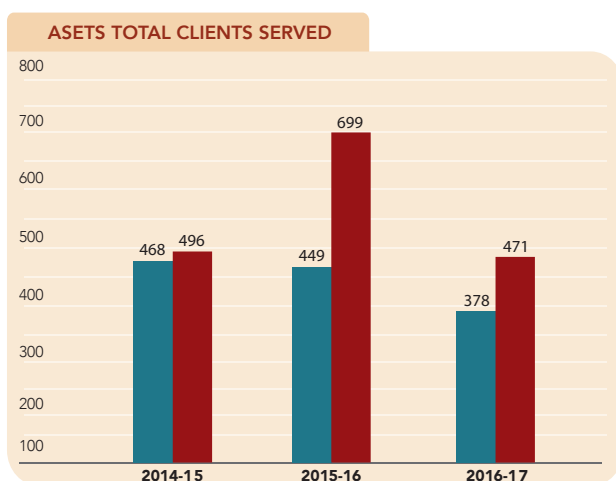
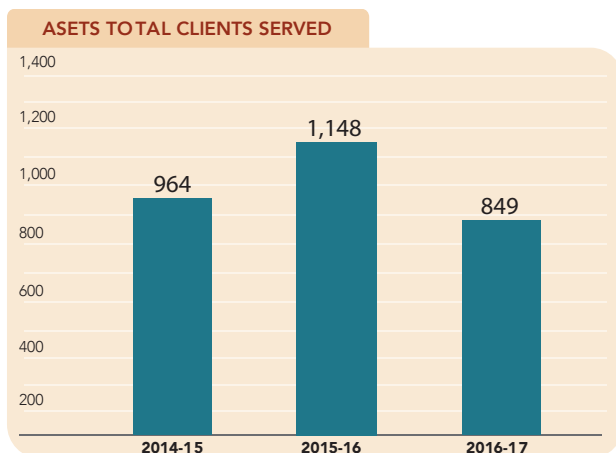
the MNO was one of the only ASETS funded agencies across Canada to witness an increase in its yearly funding amount—starting with the signing of the five-year agreement in 2010—the demand for skills training continues to grow and budgets remain limited. In an effort to expand funding opportunities, the 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.



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 Toronto, Midland, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Ottawa and Timmins, and leveraged ASETS youth program dollars to enhance the staff compliment. This funding allows the MNO to deliver a Métis Summer Youth Cultural pro-

gram in several locations across Ontario and to actively participate in displaying cultural activities during the Annual General Assembly (AGA).

- An inter-branch collaboration training session was held in Muskoka, Ontario to facilitate connectivity between MNO branches and improve service delivery to Métis people.
- ASETS has been extended to March 31, 2018 and the Federal Government has committed to develop a new strategy with enhanced funding.
- MNO is in negotiations to finalize approval of a Strategic Partnership Fund through ESDC. This is a significant achievement given the number of proposals that were made across Canada for this funding. This project will be an Employment in energy skills development project delivered in partnership with Georgian College and will begin delivery in September 2017. The MNO is one of 230 applications to ESDC that is currently in the negotiation phase.

MNO BURSARY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The (MNO) *Statement of Prime Purpose* states “We aspire to achieve our highest potential.” To help MNO citizens meet that objective, in 1997, the MNO established its Bursary Endowment Fund to assist Métis students. Today, the MNO Métis Student Bursary is available at 42 Ontario post-secondary institutions and additional MNO-partner bursaries continue to be established across the province



The MNO provides financial support to many Métis youth to help them pursue postsecondary education and training. Courtney Skyum, for example, attended Cambrian College to become a Dental Assistant.

BURSARY REPORTING RESULTS

(Updated August 2016)

Year	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	TOTAL
No of distributed bursaries	129	157	137	169	179	200	971
Total amt. distributed	\$104,595	\$109,532	\$97,967	\$104,654	\$120,691	\$136,772	\$673,941

MNO MÉTIS STUDENT BURSARY

(available at 42 institutions)

Métis students from any MNO Region can apply for Métis Nation of Ontario bursaries at the Financial Aid/Awards Office, Aboriginal Student Liaison Centre or through Student Support Services at their participating institution. Bursary applications are available to students at the beginning of each academic school year. Submission deadlines and timing of award notification are school specific, so students should confirm these dates with their institution. Students may re-apply for these bursaries each year when they register for school. The amount for disbursement will vary each year depending on the accumulation of interest.

BURSARY REPORTING RESULTS

(Updated August 2016)

The MNO bursary program is currently available through 42 post-secondary institutions across Ontario. The following is a highlight of the bursary reporting results for the past six years:

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AGREEMENT

The MNO and Ministry of Education MOU has been renewed. 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 are being made to the Métis Education Kits, with new resources and additional supports added.
- MNO and the Ministry of Education have finalized an enhanced, coordinated four year funding agreement (the funding has been confirmed by the ministry and



Members of the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program during their training in Thunder Bay. Back row: (left-right) Breton Burke, Shanese Steele, Ishmael Van Der Rassel, Warren McFadden, Simone Blais, Julia Simon. Middle Row: (left-right) Riley Smith, Melissa St. Amant, Abby Denning, Katie Plante, Sarah Bibeau, Dana Carson, Jordyn Playne, Breanne Martin. Front row: (left-right) Katelyn Lacroix, Jacob Crawford, Joanna Burt, Mattingly Turgeon, Karly Chapman, Cassidy Eames, Tessa Hope, Janique Belcourt, Valerie Labelle-Savard, Courtney Vaughan and Gerald Lavallee.

represents an overall increase in K-12-specific program funding relative to the previous year).

- Staff are working with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation to develop 15 Métis lesson plans to complement their Common Threads Teaching Resource. The lesson plans are scheduled to be released Fall 2017. Staff members are working with the Elementary Teacher's Federation of Ontario on a number of initiatives to help ensure the Métis perspective is included in their work.
- Staff members are working with the anti-bully organization COPA on a teacher's resource guide to support the previously created anti-bullying school resource.
- MNO continues to sit at several Ministry level working tables including: Student Achievement Division, Education Partnership Table, Minister's Advisory Council on Education (MAC), MAC Working Group, and Ministry Early Learning and Child Care Advisory Working Table, Truth and Reconciliation Curriculum Steering Committee, Joint Implementation Working Group, Curriculum Writing Team, Indigenous Languages Symposium Planning Committee (ILSPC), and the ILS Research Subcommittee and Proposal Evaluation Committees.
- The 2017 IR March Break Camp was held on March 12-16, 2017 at the Canadian Ecology Centre in Mattawa, and 24 youth attended the camp along with Infinite Reach Facilitators and Senators. A video of the camp has been produced and is available on the MNO website. The high school students came together to enhance their postsecondary 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.

- The Métis Education Kit (and additional supporting resources) has been made available in a digital format on the MNO website. Additional materials (including audio and video) will be added to the Education Kit page as they are developed.
- Funding support for Michif programming was obtained from NIB Trust for 2017-18.
- MNO AEC Rep meeting had the largest number of Council participants.

MINISTRY OF TRAINING, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AGREEMENT

The MNO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development in 2010, which established the basis for cooperation between the MNO and the Ministry. A renewed MOU is in the late stages of being finalized between the parties and the parties are exploring potential signing dates. The MOU provides for on-going meetings between MNO and Ministry officials that identify areas for future cooperation.

The MNO and MAESD have finalized an enhanced, coor-



Participants in the 2017 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp. Front row(s) (left-right): Michael Smith, Wanda Botsford, Emily (CEC Staff), Senator Verna Porter-Brunette, Heather Bell, Melody Chislett-Morris, Reagan Sicard, Rebekah Trudel, Riley Richmond, Sarah McCaveney, Nicole Beck, Janna Haitse and Gloree Hersom. Standing (left-right): Senator Robert Lloyd, Vic Brunelle, Steve Gautreau Senator Alis Kennedy, Kiel Cress, Shelby (CEC Staff), Karen Cox-Gourdon (CEC Staff), Maverick McBride, Sheandra Kitchen, Sebastien Tremblay, Sophie Laroque, Kaitlyn Gouliquer, Samantha Rose, Jacxsen Cress, Travis (CEC Staff), Savannah Whalen, Janna Rose, Paige Chartrand, Ivan Grisdale, Taylor Clark, Donelle Tynes, Robert McBride, Senator Ray Bergie. Missing from the photo: Hunter and Madison Mageau, Anne Trudeau, Alicia Blore, Allyssa Lewis and Scott Carpenter.



Members of the MNO Canoe Expedition provide a jigging demonstration while visiting Mattawa during their trek across Ontario that started in May 2017.

minated funding agreement. 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

- MNO and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (formerly call the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities) have finalized an enhanced, coordinated funding agreement (the funding has been confirmed by the ministry and represents an overall increase in PSE-specific program funding relative to the previous year).
- 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 37 MNO Infinite Reach facilitators were accepted into the program for 2016-17. Infinite Reach facilitators receive training to engage incoming Métis students at colleges or universities as well as provide support by connecting new Métis students to available student services, Métis cultural events, and MNO community councils. The 2017-18 Infinite Reach facilitator application process will be initiated in the spring of 2017.
- The MNO plays a key role in the redesign of Indigenous content for the OCT 2 year program through the Building Futures Indigenous Working Group (OCT)
- Metis 101 presentation to the Council of Ontario Universities.

2017 MNO CANOE EXPEDITION

The planning began for the 2017 Expedition in September of 2016. The draft of the Route Plan was developed through a consultant and provided the starting point for the call for proposals from organizations with experience overseeing Canoe Expeditions. The successful organization was Challenges Canada Inc. and they bring years of experience in the canoeing and outdoor education field.

Recent Notable Achievements

- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation: The MNO received funding from the MIRR Ontario 150 fund to support the 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition. The funds were used to cover the purchase of equipment and supplies as well as cover some of the professional fees related to consultant fees.

YOUTH LIFE PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

In response to the recent funding opportunity under the Ministry of Children and Youth Services; Youth Life Promotion Initiatives, the MNO is put forth a compilation of 5 projects which were funded. These projects are within the scope of funding and with the MNO's services and evidence based approaches will enhance the MNO's ability to better understand the needs of Métis Youth (age 15-29), their mental wellness and broaden opportunities incorporate Métis culture and history into culturally relevant life promotion activities.

Furthermore, these projects will build the groundwork for future youth life promotion investments and activities to provide the MNO opportunities to fill gaps in cultural and historical knowledge, enhance the MNO's knowledge re-



MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators with President Froh at the 2016 MNO AGA in North Bay: Back row (left-right): Gwendalyn Gomez; Amanda De Blasi; Alan Gauthier-Poelman (Algoma University); Isabella De Blasi (University of Guelph); Joanna Burt (Glen Gould School of Music); Andre Nault (University of Waterloo); Heather Bell (York University); Brittany Mathews IRF (University of Ottawa); Julia Simon (Algoma University); MNO President Margaret Froh; Tara Yeates (Algoma University); Matthew Bombardier (St. Clair College); Melissa St. Amant (Fanshawe College); Katie Plante (Queens University); Paul Robitaille (Lakehead University); Breton Burke (Queens University); and Dana Carson (University of Windsor). Front row (left-right): Faith Bell IRF (Lakehead University); Kayla Tanner (Lakehead University); Melanie-Rose Frappier (Laurentian University); Bryer Twiss (Confederation College); Jordyn Playne (Lakehead University); Janna Garrett (Nipissing University); Eleni Pappas (York University); and Shanese Steele (Trent University).

garding the current wellness needs of Métis youth, enhance MNO's ability to evaluate and further develop programs to meet those needs and promote Métis culture and history within its existing Métis Youth programming. All projects are interrelated with the overall goal of providing life promotional activities, services and supports grounded in Métis culture and history – a pillar to individual and community wellness now and for future generations.

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.

URBAN INDIGENOUS ACTION PLAN TABLE, MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION (MIRR)

MNO participates on the Urban Indigenous Action Plan Table along with the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) and Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA). The tables work throughout the past year has been focused on developing the Ontario Urban Indigenous Action Plan. The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) provided funding to support ongoing participation, policy development and research on issues impacting urban Indigenous peoples.

Recent notable achievements

- MNO held local community development project sessions in Fort Frances, Midland and Sault Ste. Marie in July 2016 to develop local action plans for each community. A second engagement was held in each community in March 2017 to develop an implementation plan

based on the action plan.

- Engagement sessions were well attended and successful in highlighting wise practices in community development and partnership building as well as creating implementation plans for action items.
- MNO held Community engagement Session in Fort Frances, Midland, Ottawa, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, and Toronto on the Urban Indigenous Action Plan to help inform the Ministry's development of the Urban Indigenous Action Plan.

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 wellbeing and a need for stronger employment connections. A final report will be produced that will include information from all sessions.

NAVIGATING EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS TRANSITIONS PROJECT (NEPTP)

(Provincial funding)

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

ways (NEP) program, and the Navigating Employment Pathways Youth Program (NEPYP) this program is a partnership between the MNO, Sioux-Hudson Literacy Council and the Ontario Tourism Education Corporation (OTEC) and focuses on workplace readiness and the development of employer partnerships at a local level. The program is designed to provide Essential Skills and Computer Literacy training to Aboriginal people seeking employment or the skills necessary to transition into Post-Secondary education. This Project is offered at two sites: Sault Ste. Marie and North Bay, with the main target client group being all self-identified Indigenous people.

OTHER NOTABLE BRANCH ACTIVITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS:

- The MNO Education and Training and Lands, Resources and Consultations Branches participated in developing Métis related information for the Parks Canada Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area (LSNMCA) Visitor Experience Strategy Workshops
- MNO Education and Training Branch staff assisted author, Erin Thomas, with the development of a Métis

character in her book *The Pale, Green Moon*. The Métis character is from the Michipicoten area.

- MNO Education and Training staff worked with the MNO Windsor-Essex Kent Métis Council and the Greater Essex County District School Board on signing an Indigenous Education Protocol.
- MNO Education and Training staff assisted the MNO Credit River Métis Council in submitting a successful Trillium proposal and will work with the council in the administration of the project.
- MNO Education and Training staff members sit on a committee of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Association of Ontario (FNMIIEO) and provide Métis presentations at their events.
- MNO Education and Training staff members were successful in two proposals to present at the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education. Presentations will occur July 2017.
- MNO Education and Training staff made presentations to the cast and crew of the Louis Riel Opera at the Canadian Opera Company and the National Arts Centre.
- MNO Education and Training staff members were involved with Truth, Reconciliation Commission initiatives through Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Youth Cultural Camps.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Program	# of Staff	Funder	Eligible Clientele	Locations
ASETS	28	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	5	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
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 Indigenous Action Plan Table	--	Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	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 Advanced Education and Skills Development	Self-identified Métis and other self-identified Indigenous people	North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie



...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

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 at 32 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 centred 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 to \$12.4 million in 2016-17. This increase is a result of the Métis Family Wellbeing Program funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy (OICYS).

HEALING AND WELLNESS STAFF TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN THE 2016-17 FISCAL YEAR

The MNO Healing and Wellness branch currently has a staff of approximately 109 individuals. 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.

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 2016-2017 fiscal year, the MNO delivered 39,198 units of service to 1,139 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 2016-2017, the MNO provided 15,992 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 6,135 units of friendly visiting in 2016-2017.
- 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 993 units of Caregiver Support to people involved with our clients' well-being during 2016-2017.

- Through the CSS program, the MNO has delivered 9,398 units of other Community Support in 2016-2017. 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 deliver 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 7,954 units of service and supported 706 clients; and
- delivered 600 collaborative participant gatherings with a total participant count of 15,830. It also staged 538 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



Cancer Care Ontario is a key partner of the MNO. MNO President Margaret Froh (centre) with Dr. Michael Sherar (left), President and CEO of Cancer Care Ontario and Dr. Linda Rabeneck (right), Vice-President of Prevention and Cancer Control with Cancer Care Ontario at the launch of the Path to Prevention report.

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 2016-2017 fiscal year, the MNO MHBHC program supported 461 clients, 4,029 services were provided and 463 participant gatherings were organized for a total of 15,923 participants. It also staged 280 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.

Recent notable achievements

- In 2016-17 fiscal year, the MNO CAPC reached 711 families engaging a total of 4,577 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.

Recent notable achievements

- Reached 80 families and engaged 2,675 participants.



In 2016-17 the MNO launched its new and exciting Métis Family Wellbeing program to deliver prevention-focused, culture-based supports to promote healthy communities in all 29 of the MNO's chartered communities.

MÉTIS FAMILY WELLBEING PROGRAM

The Métis Family Wellbeing Program (MFWB) is a new program aimed at supporting Healthy and Whole Métis families. The program is delivered by the MNO with support from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. The program is an investment under Walking together: Ontario's Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women and the Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy. The broader Indigenous Family Wellbeing Program funds the MNO and other Indigenous partners to design and deliver prevention-focused, culture-based supports to promote healthy communities. The MFWB program is delivered in 29 MNO communities.

Recent notable achievements

- From December 2016 to March 2017, the MNO MFWB program supported 61 clients, 124 services were provided and 118 participant gatherings were organized for a total of 2,086 participants. It also staged 356 community networking meetings.

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS PROGRAM

It has been an active year within this program as it engages MNO staff and communities on the gaps, needs and opportunities in the provision of services.

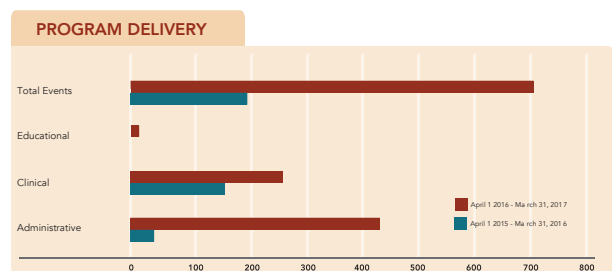
TELE-PSYCHIATRY PROGRAM

The MNO continues to receive psychiatric assessment, treatment and follow up for adults only from Providence Care in Kingston. Traditionally, offering two-half day clinics with a psychiatrist, Providence Care has been a wonderful partner for the last 10 years. Given that there have been no funding increases to this program; Providence Care has been only able to retain one physician since January 2016, which has limited the services to a one-half day clinic this year.

Despite this, within the last year the MNO tele-psychiatry clinic is operating at the same capacity with one physician as it has with two physicians in the previous year.

Recent notable achievements

- There were 258 clinical sessions offered to adults held this year compared to 156 last year. Utilization of the Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) in all services: Clinical, Administrative and Education increased by 72% compared to last year. See graph below:



MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES: YOUTH LIFE PROMOTION INITIATIVES

In March 2017, the MNO was successful in its application for a funding opportunity under the Ministry of Children and Youth Services; Youth Life Promotion Initiatives. The MNO put forth a compilation of five projects for consideration. These projects will enhance the MNO's ability to better understand the needs of Métis Youth (age 15-29), their mental wellness and broaden opportunities incorporate Métis culture and history into culturally relevant life promotion activities.

VETERANS AFFAIRS - OPERATIONAL STRESS INJURY (OSI) CLINICS

These are specialized outpatient programs across the country serving Canadian Forces veterans, current members and eligible members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Family members of clients may also be eligible to access these services. Each clinic has a team of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, mental health nurses, and other specialized clinicians who understand the experience and needs of veterans. Locations in Ontario are: Ottawa, London and Toronto. Through the use of OTN system within the MNO, the MNO can ensure convenient and confidential virtual connection to any of the specialized OSI clinics and their staff.

PROBLEM GAMBLING PREVENTION

The MNO Problem Gambling Prevention program

(PGPP) 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 and supports. The focus of this program is prevention of problem gambling issues through the dissemination of information, collaboration in educational/supportive community events, workshops, ongoing literature review, the development of culturally relevant tools for front-line MNO programs, and the development of a problem gambling prevention health promotion campaign.

Recent notable achievements

- The MNO Problem Gambling Prevention Program has supported and co-hosted networking events and workshops in MNO communities across the province, supporting front-line staff and community council events. This support continues throughout the new fiscal year in different communities across Ontario.
- The MNO PGPP has contributed some funding to support the new Metis Family Well-Being Program launch events.
- The MNO PGPP Group meets quarterly to develop new strategies and resources that are disseminated to all MNO Healing and Wellness branch staff.
- A MNO "Making Cents" Financial literacy toolkit is under development and is expected to be completed the fiscal 2017-18 year.
- The MNO PGPP 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.

Ending Violence against Indigenous Women

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN

The MNO is a key member of the Executive Committee (EC) to End Violence Against Indigenous Women that meets to identify key priorities for both the Ontario government and Indigenous leadership. The formation of the Executive Committee to End Violence Against Indigenous Women represents a culmination of the work of the Joint Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women (JWG) and serves as a tool to continue building on the foundation established by the Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women.

The EC consists of Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of the Status of Women and

other ministries as required and members of the Indigenous Caucus - two representatives from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC), the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA), the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), Independent First Nations (IFN), and one representative from each of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) and Six Nations of the Grand River Territory.

On February 23, 2016, Walking Together: Ontario's Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women (the Long-Term Strategy) was publicly launched. This strategy represents a phase of the implementation of the Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Indigenous Women.

The Ontario government and Indigenous partners work together on initiatives to end violence against Indigenous women by focusing on six key areas:

- supporting children, youth and families;
- community safety and healing;
- policing and justice;
- leadership, collaboration, alignment and accountability;
- prevention and awareness;
- Improved data and research.

HONOURING MÉTIS WOMEN IS PART OF OUR CULTURE

In MNO's efforts to support clients living free from violence and abuse, the MNO 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 Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women (EVAIW). 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.

During this fiscal year the MNO entered into a new agreement with Ministry of Indigenous relations and reconciliation to continue EVAIW program from 2017-2019.

Recent notable achievements

- One hundred and sixty-four Ministry of Education staff training participated in a session on Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women.
- Thirty-one new staff were trained using the Community Engagement Toolkit: Understanding Violence against Indigenous Women and Consent
- Twenty-five Youth, four Senators and MNO staff participated in a youth March Break camp.
- One hundred and thirty-six staff participated in a healing moccasin workshop.
- Five MNO sites held community vigils for National Day of Remembrance and Action to End Violence Against Indigenous Women.
- One hundred Honouring Métis Women shawls and 400 Champions of Changes sash pins were disseminated throughout the province.
- The MNO participated on the planning committee as part of the host province contingent for the National Indigenous Women's Summit.
- The EVAIW team hosted two sessions in the fall of 2016 to assess needs of youth and Women leaders in terms of ending violence against Indigenous women.
- The EVAIW team disseminated 35 Consent Workshop in a Box kits to all MNO Healing and Wellness sites.

VICTIM SERVICES

The Ministry of the Attorney General's Ontario Victim Services, administers funding for the Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women (EVAIW) Fund. During 2016-2017, the MNO supported Métis and other Indigenous women and their families who experienced violence and abuse, including violent crime, through victim services provided by staff members that are involved in the delivery of four of the MNO's core healing and wellness programs.

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.



Métis Earth Angels Thorold Workshop participants Carrie Hosinger and Mignon Lacroix Hagar.

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.

Direct client services were provided by trained Healing and Wellness Branch staff working in 32 MNO offices located across the province. The Victim Services on occasion provide direct services to victims in the Northern and Southern regions.

The MNO has entered into a new agreement to continue Victim Services programming from 2017 to 2019.

Recent notable achievements

- Seventy-three women were directly supported by the Victim Services Coordinators.
- Six hundred and ninety-seven clients received services from staff who used materials or acquired knowledge from the Victim Services Program.
- Trained staff used Victim Services materials or knowledge acquired through training 1,041 times.
- Two hundred and ten Home Flee Kits were available and 21 kits were distributed.
- Thirty-one staff completed the Walk With Me in person training.
- Ninety-four staff accessed Finding Our Voices - Healing Our Communities distance education training.
- Eighty staff completed Beyond Surviving to Thriving distance education.
- Across the province, 253 collaborative relationships were established.
- Three hundred and seventy-one community workshops were staged that 11,258 individuals attended.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

For the past ten years the MNO has been engaged in a program of targeted research designed to meet the need for Métis-specific data, evidence and program information to support policy and service development. Such data and evidence allow for the targeting of resources to where they will be most effective in improving Métis health and well-being.

The MNO's research program is strategic, purpose-driven, and collaborative in nature, and has involved the development of formal agreements and working relationships with various partners, including most notably, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, Cancer Care Ontario, and the Sunnybrook Research Institute.



MNO youth Mattingly Turgeon at the "We Belong" conference in Vancouver. The conference focused on the ways to prevent Indigenous youth suicide.

Research findings to date have indicated that Métis people in Ontario face significant health challenges and suffer disproportionately from a wide range of chronic diseases and conditions, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, musculoskeletal disease, and some cancers. Métis people are also at significantly greater risk of disease compared to the general provincial population, and are more likely to die in the year following hospitalisation for acute kidney disease. Métis people also experience significantly higher rates of bipolar disorder, mood/anxiety disorders, and drug-related disorders than other Ontarians, and higher rates of reported new cases of schizophrenia and bipolar disorders. Métis people with chronic disease are also less likely to receive the primary and specialist care they need to effectively treat and manage their disease, and are more likely to end up in emergency wards. They are also under screened for several types of cancer compared to other Ontarians.

The MNO's program of collaborative research has produced the most comprehensive profile of the health status of Métis people in Ontario available to date. Results have been shared widely with MNO government partners at all levels and a variety of forums. MNO driven research is now widely referenced across Canada in numerous policy and program development initiatives, and is helping build the essential knowledge and evidence base to support collective action required to improve health outcomes for MNO citizens.

MOVING FROM KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION

The MNO maintains its strong commitment to communicating research findings, knowledge mobilisation, and ensuring that high quality, research evidence is taken up and translated into more effective policy and programming which will ultimately lead to better health outcomes for the at-risk, under-served Métis Nation.

Recent notable achievements

- Indigenous Health Conference: May 2016, Mississauga, Ontario: During the 2016-17 fiscal year, MNO staff served on the planning committee for, and later participated in, the Indigenous Health Conference 2016, which was hosted by the University of Toronto and held in Mississauga in May 2016. MNO President Froh provided a keynote address at the conference, and MNO researchers and partners presented key findings highlighting Métis health priorities and service needs at separate sessions.
- Knowledge to Action Workshop: December 2016, Ottawa, Ontario: MNO staff presented the results of MNO's health research to senior federal and provincial government representatives and Indigenous partners from across Canada at the Knowledge to Action workshop hosted by Cancer Care Ontario and the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer.
- Canadian Partnership Against Cancer Forum: January 2017, Calgary, Alberta: MNO staff presented to delegates at the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Control Forum: Celebrating Partnerships and Progress held in Calgary, Alberta, which was attended by senior representatives from the federal and provincial governments and Indigenous partners at the national and regional levels. MNO Chair France Picotte was also in attendance.
- Indigenous Perspectives on Open Data: March, 2017, Ottawa, Ontario: MNO staff participated in Indigenous Perspectives on Open Data, a two-day workshop hosted by the Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada (TBS) in collaboration with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).
- Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) 2016



MNO clients take part in the Generations Mother's Day Tea in May 2016 in Bancroft.

Conference: For the past several years, MNO researchers have presented on the results of MNO collaborative health research at the annual Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) Conference. The annual CPHA Conference is the largest annual public health conference in Canada, and is well-attended by MNO's government partners, health care providers and professional associations from across the country.

- Health Quality Ontario Report 2016-2017: In January 2017, MNO senior research staff members were invited to review and contribute to the preparation of a Health Quality Ontario (HQP) specialized report examining issues of access to health services for Ontarians living in the North.
- Health Quality Index 2016-2017: The MNO was invited to review and provide input into Cancer Care Ontario's provincial Prevention System Quality Index: Health Equity report, which examines the impacts of policies and programs that can reduce cancer risk factors on populations experiencing social inequities with a special focus on First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

During 2016-17 the MNO policy and research team were engaged in a number of significant research, engagement and evaluation activities.

Recent notable achievements

- MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government: Starting in November 2016, the MNO's Policy and Research Team has worked closely with the MNO Commissioners and Commission staff to provide the research and data analysis expertise required to support the analysis of over 100 hours of audio recordings gathered during the engagement sessions.
- MNO Household Survey: Work towards an MNO-wide survey of all citizens designed to identify the priority service and programming needs of MNO citizens and their families across the lifespan, including their children and youth started during the 2016-17 fiscal year.
- Cancer Screening: Barriers and Facilitators: The MNO engaged in a collaborative research project with partners from Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), the Sunnybrook Research Institute and the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), to identify barriers and facilitators of cancer screening among Métis people in Ontario, as well as challenges to accessing health services and supports more generally.
- Legal Needs Study (2017-2018) The MNO secured research grant funding through the Ministry of the Attorney General, Government of Ontario, for a study designed to assess key legal needs of Métis people in Ontario. The specific purpose of this project is to explore

the need for legal and social services to support and assist Métis individuals and families in their interactions with the social and criminal justice systems in Ontario.

EVALUATION AND COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The MNO is committed to a quality improvement approach to program and policy development, one which involves regular community needs assessments, program evaluations, and performance measurement.

Recent notable achievements

- A formal evaluation of the MNO Inter-branch Training session held between 2 – 4 February, 2016
- Evaluation MNO Healing and Wellness Training for frontline staff, held in August 25-25, 2016 and an accompanying training needs assessment.
- An all-staff Training Needs Assessment, conducted in preparation for the 2017 MNO Inter-branch Training Session held in February 2017 and an associated follow-up evaluation for that same training session.
- Regular evaluations of various components of MNO's Student Youth Cultural Programming and associated cultural training provided in collaboration with the MNO Education and Training Branch
- Evaluations of the MNO Faceless Dolls Workshop held with participants at the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCS).
- An evaluation of the MNO Métis Education Kit.

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

Partnerships play a key role in MNO's applied health research activities and programming. Such partnerships and collaborations are founded on the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and are governed by formal data governance and partnership agreements that require adherence to MNO's research guidelines and requirements that ensure MNO citizens' rights and interests are respected and protected at all times.

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES)

MNO's partnership with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) is a cornerstone of MNO's broader program of collaborative health research - a partnership which began in 2010 and which continues today.

The MNO-ICES collaboration was further strengthened in 2016-17 through the signing of a formal MNO-ICES data governance and partnership agreement in July 2016, and the establishment of a Data Governance and Partnership Committee to guide MNO and ICES collaborative research



MNO Thorold staff and guests celebrating the official opening of the new MNO office in Thorold and the launch of the MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Program. (Left-right) MNO Healthy Babies Healthy Children Rebecca Vander Sanden, MNO Family Wellbeing Coordinator Amanda Pont-Shanks, Mayor City of Thorold Ted Luciani, President Niagara Region Métis Council Derrick Pont, MNO Community Relations Coordinator Glen Lipinski, MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Terry-Lynn Longpre and MNO Community Support Service Coordinator Tammy Wintle.

efforts going forward. This agreement builds upon an MNO-ICES Memorandum of Understanding that was signed at the MNO Health Summit in February 2015.

Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) and the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC)

Research conducted by CCO and MNO researchers in 2015 showed that Métis people in Ontario are at significantly greater risk of cancer compared to the general provincial population. To address this risk, MNO continues to work closely with CCO and with CPAC to increase access to cancer prevention services and supports as well as access to care and treatment for Métis community members with cancer. This work proceeds under a Memorandum of Understanding signed with CCO in February 2015 and a series of project specific partnership agreements with each partner.

SURVEY RESEARCH CENTRE (SRC)

The MNO Household Survey that is underway in 2017-18 is being conducted in partnership with senior scientists from the Survey Research Centre (SRC), University of Waterloo and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES). During 2016-17, the development work for the MNO Household Survey was completed, in preparation for the data collection that will begin in the Spring of 2017. MNO has recruited the services of the Survey Research Centre (SRC) at the University of Waterloo to assist with data collection and the survey research methodology. This work is proceeding under a formal project partnership and research agreement. Results will strengthen MNO's internal infrastructure and capacity, and continue to inform our policy, programming and advocacy work for years to come. Data gathered through the survey will also be used in broader assessments of the impacts of different programming activities and initiatives.

Program Summary

PROGRAM	# OF STAFF	FUNDER	ELIGIBLE CLIENTELE	LOCATIONS
Community Wellness	18	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
Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children	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
Community Support Services	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
Community Action Program for Children	3	Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)	At-risk children	Bancroft, Dryden, Thunder Bay
Canada Pre-natal Nutrition Program	1	PHAC	Children zero to six years of age and their families	Thunder Bay
Aging at Home	1	Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle	Elderly and critically ill individuals	Midland
Mental Health	1.5	AHWS	Individuals diagnosed and undiagnosed with mental health issues	Ottawa
Problem Gambling Prevention	1	Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care	Métis people	Sudbury
Victim Services	2	Ministry of the Attorney General	Victims of crimes	Bancroft and Thunder Bay
Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women	1	Ontario Women's Directorate	Métis people	Ottawa
Indigenous Anti-Human-Trafficking Liaison	1	Ontario Native Women's Association	People who have been or are being trafficked; community organizations who provide services to victims of trafficking.	Thunder Bay
Healthy Weights Connection Project	1	PHAC	Métis and First Nations children living off reserve in the London, Midland & Penetanguishene areas	Midland



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

– from the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Lands, Resources & Consultations

INTRODUCTION

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

The LRC Branch is overseen by a Director, who is supported by four managers with distinct areas of responsibility. These managers, supported by staff located 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 situated throughout the province, federal and provincial ministries and regulatory agencies as well as proponents from various industries.

The primary objectives of the LRC Branch are to:

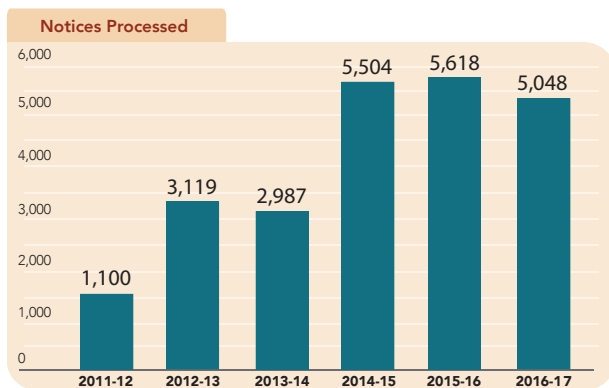
- Act as a "one-window" contact for consultations with MNO;
- In collaboration with the RCCs and consistent with the MNO's Consultation Protocols and the MNO's Statement of Principles on Consultation, triage and prioritize incoming requests for consultation and identify acceptable levels of required 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 impact Métis rights, interests and way of life;
- Initiate, guide, and carry-out the development of MNO Traditional Knowledge and Land Use (TKLU) Studies in collaboration with the Associate Director of Education and Way of Life, and qualified external consultants;
- Initiate, guide and carry out the development of Technical Reviews of regulatory documents, and other technical analysis/ research in collaboration with external consultants; and
- Convene regional workshops and/or provincial conferences to engage MNO citizens on new projects, the Duty to Consult, regulatory processes, assessing effects and accommodation-related issues.

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 high volume of notifications from government agencies and industry proponents is a fundamental and very 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. The chart on page 52 illustrates the annual notifications processed by the LRC Branch.



SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

In addition to the core funding from Ontario's NRF, the LRC Branch receives funding from industry proponents and government agencies. This funding can generally be divided into the following three categories:

- Federal government funding for participation in environmental assessments (i.e., to review Environmental Impact Statements and participate in regulatory hearings);
- Provincial government funding for participation in consultations on government initiatives that may affect the Métis community; and

- 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

- In 2016-17, twenty-one (21) staff worked for the LRC Branch at MNO offices in Fort Frances, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Timmins, Midland, Welland, Brampton and Toronto.
- The majority of the funding for the LRC Branch comes from the NRF (approximately \$2.2 million). By working with industry proponents and government agencies, the LRC Branch was also able to leverage approximately \$1.7 million for consultation capacity support during the 2016/2017 fiscal year. This funding greatly 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 2016/2017, the LRC Branch processed approximately 5,048 notifications from government agencies and industry proponents, all of which seek to inform and/or update the MNO about proposed activities related to lands and resource development activities throughout the province.
- LRC Branch staff members are currently engaging with approximately a 100 industry proponents in the mining,



(Left-right) MNO Chair France Picotte, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers Ontario Advisor David Sword and MNO President Margaret Froh at the MNO's highly successful Collaborative Forum with Industry in February 2017.



Every year the MNO Community Relations team offers Governance and Finance Workshops to MNO community Councils. In 2016-17, eight Workshops were held including this one with the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council. (Front: left-right) Women's Representative Carla Macdonald, Office Coordinator Susan Schank, Chair Robert LeClair, Secretary Helen Marietta (Back: left-right) Treasurer Jamie Coture, Councillor Patrick VanWyck, Councillor Murray Hillyer, President Pete Coture and Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle.

oil and gas, power generation (nuclear, wind, solar and natural gas), power transmission, transportation, waste management, forestry, municipal works and aggregates sectors.

- The LRC Branch currently manages some sixty 60 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 with government.
- In 2016-17, the LRC Branch continued to support the development of five Impact and Benefits Agreements with proponents in the mining and energy sectors.
- The LRC Branch is utilizing a new approach to study and demonstrate the impacts of proposed development projects on Métis land use. It is anticipated that results from these studies will not only be incorporated by project proponents into Environmental Impact Statements and serve to support consultations going forward, but will also add to the MNO's data base on Métis land use across the province.
- The LRC Branch coordinated direct MNO consultation activities with federal and provincial government ministries on a range of important environment-related topics, such

as climate change impacts, the health of the Great Lakes, modernizing the National Energy Board, development of a new Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, and protections under the Fisheries Act and the Navigation Protection Act.

- The LRC Branch participated in the Independent Electricity Operator System's (IESO) Aboriginal Energy Working Group meetings which serve as a forum for the discussion of topics including, for example, an overview of IESO's Energy Support Programs and Ontario's draft Long Term Energy Plan.
- The LRC Branch prepared a detailed report concerning two train derailments that took place near Gogama, Ontario in early 2015 and that the resulting oil spillage into water and soil may have on the local Métis community.

WAY OF LIFE FRAMEWORK (WOLF)

The Way of Life Framework (WOLF) takes a high-level, strategic focus that serves as a connector or "central station" for MNO way of life (Traditional Knowledge and culture) activities. It provides guidance, resources such as standardized Traditional Knowledge (TK) methodology and manages



MNO Consultation Committees work closely with the MNO LRC branch to develop strong relationships and agreements with proponents. In January 2017 the Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Committee hosted a Presidents' Dinner for MNO President Froh and Bruce Power President Mike Rencheck. Left to right) John Peevers (Bruce Power), Region 7 Captain of the Hunt Greg Garratt, PCMNO Region 7 Councillor Pauline Richardson, Senator Larry Duval, MNO President Margaret Froh, Bruce Power President Mike Rencheck, Emily Johnston (Bruce Power), MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council President Dave Dusome, MNO Great Lakes Métis Council President Peter Coture, James Scongack (Bruce Power) and Francis Chua (Bruce Power).

the repository of TK information. It works to gather, protect and share, as appropriate, Métis TK and land use information and to conduct outreach and training on the Métis Way of Life. WOLF conducts Traditional Knowledge and Land Use (TKLU) studies, an annual survey of MNO harvesters, and develops and conducts outreach and training sessions on Métis culture, history and way of life.

Key activities:

- Work across branches to provide strategic advice for way of life knowledge gathering and other initiatives inside MNO
- Assist, provide input, and provide standardized methodology for TKLU studies, as well as maintain the TK data repository.
- Oversee data organization, storage and use of the TK data so that it is maintained in a central repository.
- Inform MNO education materials and other programming with way of life information.

Recent Notable Achievements

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

- Nextbridge East West Tie TKLU Study (approximately 30 knowledge holders);
- KGHM Victoria Mine – Region 5 TKLU Study (approx-

mately 15-20 knowledge holders);

- NWMO TKLUS – Region 1 (approximately 34 knowledge holders);
- Algonquins of Ontario Land Claim TKLUS – Region 5 (approximately 30 knowledge holders);
- Great Lakes Water Quality TK Pilot (approximately 21 knowledge holders); and
- Additional studies are being planned as per upcoming proponent agreements are finalized.

Other activities:

- Ongoing review, organization, backup and cataloguing of collected traditional knowledge and land use information;
- The 2016 MNO Harvester Survey was completed.
- A survey of moose harvest was completed.
- Participated in MNO/MNRF Policy Dialogue Table
- 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.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Community Relations team develops and works to improve relationships and governance within the MNO. The Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Community Charter Agreements provide a strong foundation for the MNO to implement its inherent right to self-government. This involves

maintaining strong relationships between the various MNO governing bodies and providing Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Regional Councilors with resources and training. Ultimately, these activities serve the broader goals of strengthening capacity of MNO citizens, generating social capital and moving the MNO towards self-government.

Recent notable achievements

- Conducted numerous Métis Cultural Workshops for chartered community councils, museums and municipalities across Ontario, including Métis Voyageur Games and Community Events (total attendance was approximately 5,160).
- Attended twenty-six (26) 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 Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government.
- Assisted in drafting election notices and nomination forms and acted as Returning Officer for ten community council elections.
- Provided Governance and Finance Training to eight MNO community councils.
- Acted as a mediator in a number of conflicts within the MNO.
- Worked with the MNO's Registry Branch to process 112 MNO citizenship verification requests.
- Revised and updated the MNO's Governance and Finance Training resource manual and presentations.
- Continued to support Chartered Community Councils seeking guidance and assistance with respect to governance-related issues.

Program Summary

PROGRAM	# OF STAFF	FUNDER	ELIGIBLE CLIENTELE	LOCATIONS
New Relationship Fund (NRF) - Core Capacity Building	11	Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	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	Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	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	Midland
Adaptive Phased Management Project	1	Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)	MNO Secretariat, MNO Chartered Community Councils, PCMNO Regional Councillors	North Bay/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

INTRODUCTION

Infinity Property Services (IPS) has five contracts to manage social housing units on behalf of community housing boards and Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS). 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 437 of rental units and 5 homeowner units located in:

IPS also completed supervisory services for the North

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

Western Ontario office for 218 units for the year ending December, 2016.

Agreement Holder: Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS)

Recent notable achievements:

- Housed 43 families and individuals
- Completed building condition assessments of all 442 units

URBAN AND NATIVE HOUSING PROGRAM (Geraldton)

The Urban and Native Housing (UNH) program provides 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:

- Negotiated a three year contract ending in December 31, 2019 with a possible extension for an additional two years

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 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:

- Negotiated a three year contract ending in December 31, 2019 with a possible extension for an additional two years

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. One of the Ministry of Housing initiatives under the 2016 Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF) included doubling the current IAH for two years. IPS was the successful proponent to deliver the OR-NRC component under the 2016 SIF program over two years.

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 | • Thunder Bay |
| • Kenora | • Algoma |
| • Cochrane | • Parry Sound |
| • Nipissing | • Sudbury-Manitoulin |
| • Temiskaming | |

Agreement holder: Ministry of Housing

Recent notable achievements:

- IAH (2014 Extension) OR-NRC contract extended until March 31, 2019
- Negotiated service contract for SIF OR-NRC until March 31, 2018

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:

- Continued administration agreement until December 31, 2019

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 Housing. IPS provides inspection services on behalf of OAHS.

ONTARIO RENOVATES – INSPECTION SERVICES

Similar to the Ontario Renovates programs described above, the Nipissing, Thunder Bay and Rainy River District Social Services Administration 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: District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB), The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) and Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB)

Recent notable achievements:

- Continued service contract with DNSSAB until March 31, 2020 or the date the IAH for Ontario Program funding ends
- Negotiated service contract with TBDSSAB until December 31, 2017
- Negotiated service contract with RRDSSAB until December 31, 2017

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, showerheads, 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 (contract ended as at December 31, 2016)

Recent notable achievements:

- Completed 30 of the remaining audits on RNH resulting in costs saving for low-income tenants

Program Summary				
PROGRAM	NO. OF STAFF	FUNDER	ELIGIBLE CLIENTELE	LOCATIONS
Rural & Native Housing Program (RNH)	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 has a total staff of twelve members. Two staff members are located in Innisfil, one staff member in Owen Sound and nine staff members in Thunder Bay.



...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 consultations and serves as a staff liaison with other governments and agencies.

MNO Intergovernmental Relations supports many initiatives including The *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*, the federal consultation protocol, research initiatives, consultation processes with government and the North American Indigenous Games activities. 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 a multi-year agreement with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) 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.

The current agreement expires at the end of the 2018-19 fiscal years. This agreement must be renewed for the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Recent notable achievements

- The 2016 MNO AGA held in North Bay in August, 2016.
- PCMNO, Executive and Finance meetings were held throughout the 2015-16 fiscal year.
- The 2015-16 MNO annual audit was completed and approved at the 2016 AGA.

BASIC ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY AGREEMENT

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

The current agreement expires at the end of the 2018-19 fiscal years. This agreement must be renewed for the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Recent notable achievements

- The 2016 MNO AGA held in North Bay in August, 2016.
- PCMNO, Executive and Finance meetings were held throughout the 2016-17 fiscal year.

MINERAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATORS

Funded through the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM), this multi-year agreement provided capacity for the MNO to employ two Mineral Development Coordinators. They process plans and permits, provide support and training to communities, provide advice to MNO Consultation Committees and Community Councils in their discussions with mining proponents and provide advice



MNO President Froh arrives in a canoe with other dignitaries at the 2016 AGA in North Bay.

regarding The *Mining Act* and its regulations. This agreement also supports the annual Collaborative Forum with industry.

The current agreement expires at the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year. This agreement must be renewed for the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Recent notable achievements

- The annual Collaborative Forum was held in Toronto on February 16, 2017 with MNO Consultation Committees, mining, energy and forestry proponents and government officials in attendance.

MINERAL CAPACITY COORDINATOR

Funded through the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM), this multi-year 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 provided funding for an annual meeting with the Minister, the attendance of Regional Councillors (Regions 1-5) at the Canadian Aboriginal Mineral Association (CAMA) Conference and the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) international convention and partial funding for an annual collaborative forum with industry proponents.

The current agreement is in its last year and must be renewed for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Recent notable achievements

- Regional Councillors from Regions 1-5 attended CAMA in November 2016.
- Regional Councillors from Regions 1-5 attended PDAC in March 2017.
- The annual Collaborative Forum was held in Toronto on February 16, 2017 with MNO Consultation Committees, mining, energy and forestry proponents and government officials in attendance.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION CAPACITY FUNDING

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) provided funding for relationship building and engagement with MNO Consultation Committees. This year the agreement focused on an information and engagement session on Northern Ontario's Multimodal

Transportation Strategy and Intercommunity Transportation in Regions 1-5 and Intercommunity Transportation in Regions 6-9.

Recent notable achievements

- On November 26, 2016, an information session was held to update on Northern Ontario's Multimodal Transportation Strategy and to present new information on Intercommunity Transportation. This session was held in Thunder Bay for Regions 1-5 Regional Consultation Committee representatives.
- On February 11, 2017, an information session was held on Intercommunity Transportation in Toronto for



Members of the PCMNO were sworn in by Justice Todd Ducharme during the Welcome to the AGA in a ceremony in North Bay (left to right) Chair France Picotte, Region 6 Councillor Tom Thompson, Justice Ducharme, Youth Representative Mitch Case, Region 2 Councillor Cam Burgess, Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund, Region 4 Councillor Ernie Gatien, Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau, Postsecondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix, President Margaret Froh, Secretary- Treasurer Tim Pile, Senator Verna Brunelle-Porter, Senator Ray Bergie and Senator Joe Poitras. Not visible in this picture but in attendance were : Region 5 Councillor Dan Boulard, Region 7 Councillor Pauline Richardson, Region 8 Councillor Anita Tucker, Region 9 Councillor Peter Rivers and Senator Rene Gravelle.

Regional Consultation representatives from Regions 6-9.

- MNO representation on the Multi-modal Transportation System Committee for Northern Ontario.

MNO REGISTRY FUNDING

(Powley A Agreement)

The MNO Registry is funded through Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). Through Powley A funding, INAC provides the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) with the necessary capacity funding to maintain MNO Registry operations (see

Registry section for more details).

NEW RELATIONSHIP FUND (NRF)

Core Capacity

The multi-year Core Consultation Capacity funding provided by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) 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, PCMNO meetings and some MNO Finance and Communications staff costs. See the Lands Resources and Consultation, Finance and Communications sections for more details.

The current agreement expires at the end of the 2017-18 fiscal year. This agreement must be renewed for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Recent notable achievements

- The 2016 MNO AGA held in North Bay in August,

2016.

- PCMNO meetings were held throughout the 2016-17 fiscal year.
- See the Lands Resources and Consultations Branch section of the Annual Report for additional achievements.

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Funded through the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR), this multi-year agreement provided capacity for the MNO to pursue a tripartite process with Ontario and Canada, support MNO's meeting with the Premier, partially support PCMNO and Commission meetings and provide consultant start-up support to Métis Infinity Investments.

The current agreement expires at the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year. This agreement must be renewed for the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Recent notable achievements

- A Terms of Reference was established for the Framework Agreement Coordinating Committee.

TREATY LAND ENTITLEMENT

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) provided capacity funding to facilitate and support the engagement between MNO Consultation Committees and the Ministry regarding the Treaty Land Entitlement - Additions to Reserve Lands process.



The Royal Canadian Legion and Métis fiddler Alicia Blore led the procession during the 2016 Louis Riel Day Ceremony at Queen's Park in Toronto.

Recent notable achievements

- The Regional Consultation Committees impacted by the addition to reserve lands participated in an information session on the Matachewan and Wikwemikong Islands Boundary Claim additions to reserve lands.
- MIRR provided a TLE training session to the Regional Consultation Committees impacted by the addition to reserve lands on March 28, 2017.

TREATY STRATEGY

Métis Rights Awareness

The funding provided through this agreement from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) is supporting the MNO in conducting Métis Treaty related activities. The agreement provided a small portion of funding to support the salaries of those staff assisting with this project. A facilitated discussion on Treaty Awareness and the Métis Perspective was conducted in March of 2017 and videos on the Métis and Treaty in Ontario were produced.

Recent notable achievements

- The facilitated discussion on Treaty Awareness and the Métis Perspective was held in Toronto with over 40 participants on March 16, 2017.

TRIPARTITE

The funding provided through Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) provided capacity funding which included staff salaries, partial support for a PCMNO meeting, professional and legal fees to facilitate and support conducting



MNO leaders with dignitaries and guests at the 2016 Louis Riel Day ceremony at Queen's Park: (Left to right) Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, Senator Verna Brunelle-Porter, Member of the Provincial Parliament Norm Miller, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation David Zimmer, Grand-niece of Louis Riel Jean Tiellet, President Margaret Froh, Senator Rene Gravelle, Executive Senator Joesph Poitras, Chair France Picotte and Youth Representative Mitch Case.

a mapping exercise to identify key federal and provincial policy and program commitments to shape ongoing tripartite work, commission and present a paper on Métis Health rights and legal issues, drafting of template articles of incorporation and by-laws related to implementation of the *Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act*, development of a discussion paper on the pros and cons of incorporation for interested MNO Community Councils and the development of communication materials addressing implementation. Capacity was also provided to continue the development of MNO's economic development strategy.

Recent notable achievements

- Template Articles of Incorporation and by-laws related to the implementation of the *Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act*.
- Research paper on Métis Health Rights and a gap analysis of federal policies and programs.
- Identification of key federal and provincial policy and program commitments to inform future tripartite work.

ALGONQUIN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE

The funding provided through Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) provided legal fees for the review of the Algonquin Agreement in Principle, community meetings and the development of Agreement in Principle (AIP) communication materials.

Recent notable achievements

- MNO's Region 5 Consultation Committee participated in



In September 2016, the MNO leadership held its annual meeting with Premier Kathleen Wynne. (Left to right) Premier Wynne, President Margaret Froh, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation David Zimmer and Chair France Picotte.

discussions related to the Algonquin land claim.

- An information session with Canada on the claim is planned for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

RECONCILIATION

Powley

The funding provided through Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) supported the trilateral discussions between the MNO, Canada and Ontario, relationship development with the First Nations, the work associated with MNO governance costing and the development of communications materials.

Recent notable achievements

- Discussions are ongoing between the MNO-Canada and Ontario to build a collaborative tripartite approach in working on areas of mutual interest.
- Relationships were strengthened with the First Nations.

CONSULTATION ENGAGEMENT

The funding provided through the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (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 February 11, 2017, Regions 6-9 Consultation Committee representatives participated in an information and engagement session on Ontario's Aboriginal



President Froh (centre) speaking during the meeting between federal cabinet ministers and Métis Nation leaders on January 30. Listening intently are Treasury Board President Scott Brison (left) and Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett (right).

consultation policies.

- On March 27, 2017, Regions 1-5 Consultation Committee representatives participated in an information and engagement session on Ontario's Aboriginal consultation policies.

FEDERAL PROTOCOL AGREEMENT

The funding provided through Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) provided capacity support to the MNO for an MNO staff position, professional fees related to federal consultation and allowed the MNO to host a federal/provincial Collaborative Forum for Canada and Ontario public servants.

Recent notable achievements

- The Federal Consultation Protocol agreement is the first Métis agreement in Canada and the first federal consultation protocol in Ontario.
- A Federal/Provincial Collaborative Forum was held in Toronto for Canada and Ontario public servants on March 31, 2017.

ELECTION

The funding provided through Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) provided funding so that the MNO could prepare for and hold its election on May 2, 2016. Capacity support was provided to hire the Chief Electoral Officer and the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer. This funding agreement also provided partial support to hold a PCMNO meeting.



In February 2017 the MNO and Canada signed the Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Reconciliation. (Left to right) Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Dr. Carolyn Bennett, President Margaret Froh, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation David Zimmer and PCMNO Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund.

Recent notable achievements

- PCMNO, MNO Youth and Veterans' Council elections were held in May 2016.
- 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.

MNO/ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER WORKING GROUP

The funding provided through the Ministry of Indigenous Relation and Reconciliation (MIRR) provides capacity for the MNO to participate in 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*. Legal fees, a portion of an MNO staff salary and travel costs are funded through this agreement.

Recent notable achievements

- Historic community assessments for Killarney and Lakehead/Nipigon were finalized.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The funding provided through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) provided engagement capacity for representatives of the Regions 1-9 Consultation Committees to participate in an engagement session



President Froh with Prime Minister Trudeau at a Canada/Métis National Council meeting in December 2016.

on climate change adaptation, cap and trade, and Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan.

Recent notable achievements

- On January 21, 2017, Consultation Committee representatives from Regions 1-9 participated in the engagement session and provided feedback to the Ministry on Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND LAND USE STUDY – ALGONQUIN LAND CLAIM

The funding provided through Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) provided funding to conduct a Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study to support MNO's discussions with Canada regarding the Algonquin Land Claim.

Recent notable achievements

- A Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study to support MNO's discussions with Canada regarding the Algonquin Land Claim.

HARVESTING INDEPENDENT REVIEW

The funding provided through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) provided capacity funding to prepare and finalize Métis Root Ancestor materials that will be assessed in the independent review. The funding also



The MNO AGA is always a great cultural gathering of Métis people in Ontario. Above MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council Senator jigs up a storm at the 2016 AGA in North Bay.

provided the capacity required to develop and implement a mutually agreeable Memorandum of Understanding, Terms of Reference and a Request for Proposals process for the independent registry review.

Recent notable achievements

- Métis Root Ancestor materials finalized for citizenship application use.
- Independent review of the MNO Harvester Card system.

POLICY DIALOGUE TABLE

MNR Bilateral Process

The funding provided through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) provided capacity funding to conduct a bilateral process with MNRF to build a mutually positive relationship in the area of natural resource management and to create policy products to support this relationship.

Recent notable achievements

- COTH Resource Management Meeting took place on March 23 and 24, 2017.

TREATY 3

Exploratory Discussions

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) provided capacity funding to facilitate an exploratory discussions process for the Métis community that continues to occupy the southern region of what is now known as northwestern Ontario and generally includes Kenora, Dryden, Rainy River, Fort Frances, Atikokan and environs. The funding included capacity for legal counsel, research, community meetings and participation in exploratory discussion meetings.

Recent notable achievements

- Exploratory discussions are proceeding and will continue into the 2017-18 fiscal year.
- Genealogical Workshops were held in Kenora, Dryden, Atikokan and Fort Frances during the month of March 2017.
- A Community Meeting was held in Fort Frances on March 25, 2017 with over 100 people in attendance.
- Communications tools have been developed:
- Plain speak Booklet on Métis Community's History
- Frequently Asked Questions and Facts Sheets on Métis Community
- Video for MNO Website on the Métis Community's History

Program Summary

PROGRAM	SUPPORTS	# OF STAFF SUPPORTED	FUNDER	ELIGIBLE CLIENTELE	LOCATIONS
Core Bilateral Funding Agreement	Secretariat	2	Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)	MNO Community Councils, PCMNO Regional Councillors	Ottawa
Basic Organizational Capacity Agreement	Secretariat	3.5	Indigenous Affairs & Northern Development Canada	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	1	Ministry of Northern Development and Mines	MNO Consultation Committees & MNO Citizens	Sudbury
Ministry of Transportation Engagement	Secretariat	--	Ministry of Transportation	Regions 1-9 Consultation Committees	Thunder Bay & Toronto
MNO Registry Funding	Registry	7.75	Indigenous Affairs & Northern Development Canada	MNO & MNO Citizens	Ottawa
New Relationship Fund (NRF) Core Capacity	LRC, Communications & Finance	16	Ministry Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	MNO Citizens, PCMNO, government & industry proponents	Fort Frances, Midland, Ottawa, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Toronto & Welland
Framework Agreement	Secretariat	1	Ministry Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	MNO & MNO Citizens	Ottawa
Treaty Land Entitlement	Secretariat	--	Ministry Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	MNO and MNO citizens in Regions 3, 4 and 7	Toronto
Treaty Strategy – Métis Rights Awareness	Secretariat	.15	Ministry Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	MNO citizens and the general public	Ottawa
Tripartite	Secretariat	1.25% of staff position	Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development Canada	MNO, MNO citizens, PCMNO	Toronto
Algonquin AIP	Secretariat	--	INAC	MNO, MNO Citizens	Ottawa
Reconciliation - Powley	Secretariat	--	INAC	MNO, MNO Citizens	Ottawa
Consultation Engagement	Secretariat	--	Ministry Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	Regions 1-9 Consultation Committees	Toronto
Federal Consultation Protocol	Secretariat	1	INAC	All MNO Citizens	Toronto
Election	Secretariat	--	INAC	All MNO Citizens	Ottawa
MNO/Assistant Deputy Minister Working Group	Secretariat	.50	Ministry Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	All MNO Citizens	Ottawa Ottawa
Climate Change	Secretariat	--	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	All MNO citizens and Regional Consultation Committees – Regions 1-9	Toronto

Program Summary continued

PROGRAM	SUPPORTS	# OF STAFF SUPPORTED	FUNDER	ELIGIBLE CLIENTELE	LOCATIONS
Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study – Algonquin Land Claim	Secretariat	.25	INAC	MNO and the citizens in Region 5	Region 5 – Mattawa Area
Harvesting Independent Review	Secretariat	--	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	All MNO Citizens	Ottawa
Policy Dialogue Table	Secretariat	.50	MNRF	All MNO citizens	Ottawa
Treaty 3 – Exploratory Discussions	Secretariat	.25	INAC	MNO and Region 1 citizens	Ottawa



... 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

Central 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 preapproved 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 reporting and analysis to Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), senior management, budget managers and funders. The Branch maintains the current database of all of the MNO's funding agreements.

Services

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

- Payroll;

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

Over the past 5 years, program funding has increased by 47% with a corresponding increase in workload. In order to handle this workload, the Branch has implemented improved processes and systems.

Recent notable achievements

- As of March 31, 2017, the MNO's repayable debt had decreased to \$256,538 from the \$4.2 million that confronted the MNO in 2008.
- As at March 31, 2017, the MNO was in a surplus position of \$1.7 million.
- 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 and analysis capabilities have been improved, providing better service to both management and funders.

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

- During the MNO election, the Communications Branch coordinated the mail-in ballots for the Chief Electoral Officer, maintained a special elections section of the MNO website, provided regular updates of deadlines and other issues and produced ballots, electoral instructions and other items for the Chief Electoral Officer.
- PCMNO Transitional Briefing Book and the 2016 AGA Binder were produced.
- Within a three day period a special documents binder was compiled and produced to be distributed at a meeting between the MNO and federal Ministry of Indigenous and Northern Affairs officials on October 14. A special video was also produced in 12 hours for use at the same meeting. Arrangements were also made to have the entire meeting video recorded for future use by the Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government.
- Three “We Aspire” TV commercials have been completed and were aired on APTN during October-November 2016. The commercials were also posted on the MNO website, Facebook and Twitter pages. Each commercial focused on a different Métis youth’s success story.
- Research on whether the Métis nation flag originated at Fort William was carried out.
- A series of memes were developed for Powley Day and to coincide with the release of the Isaac Report. The Isaac Report memes were enlarged into posters used at the AGA.
- 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.
- Other major new and updated sections on the MNO website include: AGA page; By-elections at the MNO AGA page; Summer Youth Cultural Program; *Daniels v Canada*; MNO Election; Vimy Ridge Project; MNO Secretariat Act; We Aspire TV Commercials; Infinite Reach March Break Camp; Youth Engagement Sessions; Economic Development; Louis Riel Day; MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government; 2017 Annual General Assembly; 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition; MNO-Canada MOU; MNO Education Kit; MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator Biographies; and MNO SWAG Shop.
- A special website was developed for the MNO Youth Council elections.
- separate Facebook page was established for the MNO Infinite Reach program, which as of July 13, 2017 had 56 fans.

- The new MNO merchandising website, known as the MNO SWAG Store was launched. It can be used by staff using purchase orders or by any MNO citizen using a credit card. The MNO SWAG Store features over 100 different items including clothing, office supplies, technology, drinkware and gifts. All include approved MNO branding including the new line of “We Aspire” products. Since beginning operations in March until May 17, 2017, the new MNO SWAG website has done \$218,808.17 worth of business.
- The MNO added a social media sharing function to the MNO website. This allows people to easily post MNO webpages to their personal social media feeds. The function includes a usage tracker and the function is being utilized with most MNO news stories getting upwards of 20 Facebook postings. Most notably the news story on the MNO-Canada MOU received an impressive 776 Facebook shares.
- Short videos were produced for the 2017 Infinite Reach March Break Camp, the 2017 Summer Youth Cultural Program training and the National Aboriginal Day event between Prime Minister Trudeau and past members of the MNO Canoe Expeditions.
- A year-end video message from President Froh was produced and distributed at the end of 2016.
- A new We Aspire video was produced for MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government engagement sessions.
- A video promoting the 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition was produced and distributed.
- Production began on a “How to apply for MNO citizenship” video that will include three elements; a motivational introduction that will encourage potential citizens to apply; an introduction to the MNO; and an explanation of the mechanics of applying. Major video work was done during the 2016 AGA and first-cut versions of the introduction and a “What being Métis means to me” section have been developed as well as preliminary scripting and animated elements are currently in production.
- A series of four signs and four booklets were produced for the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government engagement sessions.
- The 2015-16 MNO Annual Report was produced and distributed to citizens through MNO offices. A supplementary video featuring highlights from the report was also produced, shown at the AGA and posted to the MNO website and social media pages.
- The number of MNO Facebook fans increased from 3083 on June 1, 2016 to 4,314 on July 13, 2017. 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 MNO Twitter account was activated in July. As of July 13, 2017, the MNO Twitter page had 1663 followers.
- The number of news stories posted on the MNO website, which also appears in the Métis Voyageur and eVoyageur has increased to 403 articles 2016-2017 compared to the 345 articles published in 2015-16.
- Five editions of the Métis Voyageur were published in 2016-17.
- Eighteen editions of the eVoyageur were published in 2016-17.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Purpose

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

ICT supports all the MNO branches in their efforts to fulfill the 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.

MNO ICT Ongoing Service Deliverables

- Manage and maintain the MNO's network and data infrastructure including 12 virtual servers on two VMWare hosts, 24 VPN connected regional office routers, 29 switches and their associated means of connectivity.
- Provide helpdesk assistance for all MNO systems and users accessing 175 + desktop and laptop computers and 45 printers (which include photocopy, fax, email and document digitization capabilities), including upgrades, supplies, hardware and software support requirements.
- Maintain and upgrade specialized databases and program software such as the Registry Application and da-

tabase; Great Plains financial system; Lands, Resources and Consultations Portal; Healing and Wellness Portal; Online Health Activity Tracking System, (OHATS); Exchange email; File servers; Antivirus server and clients; Security appliances; Email spam scanner; data disaster recovery and long term archiving.

- Maintain and manage all the MNO's land-based telephone services and dedicated phone systems as well as 150+ cellular and smartphones.
- 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 regional offices where applicable.

Recent notable achievements

- Completed renegotiations with Bell Cellular resulting in new hardware for 45 smartphone and 77 cellphone users including an 11.8% monthly discount for the duration of the contract, 40% discount on smartphones, a \$14,000.00 loyalty credit as well as a number of beneficial contract exceptions and services.
- Upgraded the MNO back-up systems to Veritas Backup Exec 16 Capacity Edition. MNO currently archives over three terabytes of data weekly, while maintaining daily incremental backups for file restore and disaster recovery as well as monthly full backups for archiving.
- Installed version upgrades to the MNO's dedicated Antivirus server and upgrades to all MNO computer and systems antivirus clients.
- Completed an organisation wide computer audit resulting in the purchase of over 65 new laptops for deployment in late fiscal 2016/early fiscal 2017. Many retired units were reconfigured and redeployed for lite/temporary duty in programs such as the MNO's Summer Youth Cultural Program, at no cost.
- Coordinated the installation and configuration of new, cost saving, dedicated phone systems in Hamilton, Windsor, Sault Ste. Marie as well as move's for Brampton and Thorold.
- Working with Xerox, ICT completed upgrades to software and equipment for the Registry's in-house document digitization processing.
- Coordinated the purchase of upgrades to the MNO's primary gateway routers and dedicated Spam filter for installation in early fiscal 2017 as well as updates and upgrades to all MNO regional offices routers.
- Assisted Healing and Wellness with the revamp of the MNO's Telemedicine program including reviews of con-

nectivity and hardware upgrades.

- Assisted Healing and Wellness with the purchasing and coordination of opening new Métis Family Wellbeing offices including cellphone's, laptops / docking stations, landlines, internet access and printing.
- Assisted with AGA 2016 including remote office set up, donated printer services, E-Voting for Youth Council elections, coordination of audio video and web streaming service requirements and general day-to-day operations.
- Working with external developers, ICT has embarked on a reassessment and rebuild of the LRC Branch Share-Point portal to redesign and enhance functionality for mid fiscal 2017 delivery
- Working with external developers, ICT is coordinating a complete rebuild and upgrade of the MNO's Online Health Activity Tracking System (OHATS) for improved performance and the addition of reporting services for the Métis Family Wellbeing, Telemedicine / Mental Health and Ending Violence Against Women programs.
- Coordinated an enterprise wide review of Bell landline use for dramatic savings in early fiscal 2017.
- Continues with facility manage at Head Office working with service providers to upgrade windows and security film, security systems, heating and air conditioning, emergency lighting and signage. ICT has also assisted several regional offices with connectivity and communications upgrades and contractors where possible.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Purpose

The goal of MNO Human Resources is to help the MNO achieve its mission, always mindful of the declarations in the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose* and Métis values, which are the centre of everything we do.

MNO Human Resources upholds the principles of accountability, transparency and excellence as integral components of the operational arm of the MNO. MNO policies and procedures reflect its commitment to recruit and retain the best-qualified personnel with preference being given to Métis applicants where all other considerations are equal.

The success of Human Resources will be measured by its ability to align and integrate processes with the MNO strategic mission. It does this by identifying issues and executing corrective measures effectively.

As MNO Human Resources moves forward, it has targeted its key responsibilities, in coordination with the responsibilities of all management in the MNO workplace:

- the safety and health of our employees and the workplace;
- the performance of employees;
- the expected output of functional oversight;
- the mitigation of risk to the MNO;
- the integrity of the MNO.

Services and support

The MNO Human Resources team consists of a Manager and a Coordinator. As the MNO is rapidly growing, more staff will be required to transform Human Resources from being a transactional and reactionary service to participating as a business partner in strategic initiatives and developing and retaining top-rated employees. The Human Resources 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 protecting confidential and personal information;
- effectively administering group benefits, a registered pension plan, workplace health and safety, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) and 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;
- providing assistance with resolution of workplace conflict or non-compliance with MNO's Policies and Procedures and legislated requirements.

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.
- The on-line application process created in 2015 has provided statistics for analysis. 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, Human Resources developed an MNO online training portal in 2015. This 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 training 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) and the Human Rights Code. All new employees are required to complete these courses. Further courses are now available and many employees have completed these as well.
- Other activity in the 2016-2017 fiscal year included: 1,932 applications were received in response to 121 postings. Several postings offered multiple worksite locations bringing the total to more than 150 positions related to backfill, Summer Youth Cultural Program (about 30 students). Approximately 30% of the applicants identify as Métis.

Moving forward

- In the coming year, Human Resources will use its resources and staff to become a more active, consulting partner for the MNO.
- Human Resources capacity will grow to meet the demands for service with new initiatives and programs.
- Human Resources supports strong internal partnerships through management meetings, daily workplace interactions and the development and implementation of relevant training programs for staff.
- We value training and professional development to enrich the Métis Nation through the development of a highly skilled MNO public service.



...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.

Recent notable achievements

- Ongoing research continues in 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.
- Genealogy sessions were held in all four councils of Region 1. This was the beginning of working towards a “Mobile Registry.”
- Root Family work is ongoing in the Registry. These charts and reports will soon be available on our website.
- The Registry has hired two individuals to work as Historical Research Assistants. Both staff members are well trained in research and have worked extensively on the Root Families project. They will soon be available to assist applicants and citizens that require assistance with their Métis genealogy.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

NO. OF STAFF	FUNDER	ELIGIBLE CLIENTELE	LOCATIONS
5	Indigenous and Northern Affairs 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:

Margaret Froh
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.



Métis Nation of Ontario ∞

500 Old St. Patrick Street, Unit D | Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4 | 800-263-4889 (toll free) | 613-798-1488

metisnation.org



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