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## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE

#### Where We Got Our Name

The Statement of Prime Purpose

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

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

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

- Louis Riel, 1885

## Who We are as a People

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Now Therefore We Declare as Follows:

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

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

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

- to research, publish and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and to establish and maintain a registry of the Métis Citizens of Ontario;
- to establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government;
- to encourage the full participation of all Métis in the Métis Nation;
- to promote and foster community development;
- to re-establish land and resource bases;
- to develop prosperity and economic self-sufficiency within the Métis Nation;
- to provide care and support necessary to meet the fundamental needs of the citizens of the Métis Nation;
- to promote the improved health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community;
- to establish effective means of communication for the Métis Nation;

- to encourage academic and skills development and to enable citizens of the Métis Nation to attain their educational aspirations;
- to promote the history, values, culture, languages and traditions of the Métis Nation and to create an awareness of our proud heritage;
- promote Métis artistic and cultural achievement;
- to ensure that Métis can exercise their Aboriginal and Treaty rights and freedoms and in so doing, act in a spirit of cooperation with other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people;
- to establish good relations with all Aboriginal peoples for the pursuit of our common interests and goals;
- to continue our affiliation with the Métis
   National Council for the representation of the
   interests of the Métis Nation in Ontario at the
   National and International levels; and
- to gain the recognition and respect of the Métis as a Nation and a people.

The members of the 2014 MNO Canoe Expedition are a living example of the vision of the Statement of Prime Purpose.





The first of the of the three canoes containing the PCMNO leadership and dignitaries arriving during the 2013 AGA Welcome in Ottawa.

Participants in the signing ceremony of the new MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement: (Left to right) MNO Senator Ray Bergie, Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David de Launay, the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, MNO Chair France Picotte, MNO President Gary Lipinski and MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson.



# PRESIDENT

t is my privilege to welcome you to the 21st Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and to provide greetings for the MNO 2013-14 Annual Report.

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

As it has every year, the AGA brings Métis leaders and citizens from across Ontario together with friends, family and colleagues to showcase our rich culture, pass on our traditions to younger generations, and celebrate our stories. This year's AGA is in Thunder Bay, which is part of a region that has been important to Métis for centuries; going back to its earliest history when it played a pivotal role in the fur trade to more recent times such as in 2004, when the MNO and the Ontario government signed the Interim Harvesting Agreement at the AGA that year. Today, Métis are important players in not only culture and economy of Thunder Bay but also in many other Metis communities throughout Ontario. Through Memorandums of Understanding between the MNO and resource companies such as Osisko, Detour Gold and Union Gas and other agreements with educational institutions such as Lakehead University and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, the MNO contributes to building a stronger future for Métis people in Ontario.

The AGA, however, is just as much about making history as it is about remembering history. The AGA is where the business of the MNO is conducted and like all our contemporary Métis governance structures is unique. Our annual assemblies are Métis self-government in action, where we affirm our nationhood, our status as one people and our traditions. Through resolutions and discussion the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) takes direction from the AGA and works closely with its 29 chartered Community Councils and their democratically elected leadership. At the AGA, you the citizens can review the work of your leadership over the last year and consider the MNO's direction for the future. That is because for all the lists of achievements in this Annual Report and all the work done for the last 21 years; everything done in the past has ultimately been to build a stronger future.



GARY LIPINSKI

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
PRESIDENT

MNO representatives with the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement for Voluntarism Award: (left to right) Richard Sarrazin, PCMNO Regional Councillor Pauline Richardson, MNO President Gary Lipinski, Senator Brenda Powley and PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case.



## Economic self-sufficiency law

I was very proud that at the 2013 MNO AGA, the assembly unanimously passed the economic self-sufficiency law. This law will advance Métis self-government and as I said at the time, I predict that it will prove to be a significant landmark in Métis history along with other watersheds such as the 2003 *R. v. Powley* Supreme Court decision and the 2008 MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement. By working together we have realized the vision and the dreams of the MNO founders who outlined economic self-sufficiency as one of our key objectives in the Statement of Prime Purpose. The law moves the MNO towards its long-term goal of self-government by establishing the structure that will permit the MNO to capitalize on emerging opportunities in a number of fields.

It is fitting that only a day before the AGA passed the economic self-sufficiency law that I was able to join with the Honourable Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Energy, to announce that the MNO was set to become a long-term owner of commercial-scale solar projects, earning income over a 20-year period while helping generate clean electricity across the province.

This is being accomplished through the Métis Nation of Ontario - BrightRoof Solar Limited Partnership formed between the MNO Solar Inc. and BrightRoof Solar. Contracts obtained through the limited partnership will generate approximately 16 MW AC of electricity. One of the Métis Nation's long-term goals is to be able to generate enough green energy for Ontario's electric system to meet the needs of every Métis household in the province. This limited partnership puts us on the path to achieving this goal, while also creating training opportunities, jobs and wealth for Métis communities in the province.



(Left to right) Roddy, Paul, Brenda and Evelyn Powley prior to the 2013 Louis Riel Day ceremony at Queen's Park.

## Twentieth Anniversary of the MNO and the Tenth Anniversary of the Powley Decision

Twenty-thirteen marked the 20th anniversary of the founding of the MNO in 1993 and the 10th anniversary of the landmark 2003 *R v Powley* Supreme Court of Canada case.

To mark these historic twin anniversaries, a documentary film about the history of the MNO was produced. *The Métis Nation of Ontario:* 1993-2013 features interviews with some of the MNO's founders and early leaders including myself, Tony Belcourt, Jean Teillet, Jason Madden, Louis Goulding, Senator Reta Gordon, France Picotte and many others as well as rare archival interviews with Steve Powley and Marion Larkman. The film features hundreds of photographs and rare video clips that show the amazing achievements of MNO citizens who worked so hard to build the Métis Nation in Ontario.

A special sneak preview of the documentary was shown at the 2013 MNO AGA where it was warmly received and the final version was premiered to rave reviews at 2013 provincial Louis Riel Day events. The Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs was so impressed by the movie that he commented he wanted to have it shown to Members of the Provincial Parliament. The documentary is now posted on the MNO website.

The MNO also commissioned the creation of a special commemorative coin that on one side recognized the 20th anniversary of the MNO and on the other side acknowledged the Powley anniversary. The coin was very well-received and was initiated by MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson and designed by Métis graphic artist Marc St. Germain. It was distributed to all attendees at the 2013 AGA and additional copies were provided to chartered Community Councils, so, they could be presented to local citizens they wished to recognize and thank.

The Powley anniversary was also commemorated through events during the 2013 provincial Louis Riel Day in Toronto. This included a public legal education equity event co-sponsored by the MNO and the Law Society of Upper Canada that focused on the significance of the Powley Case to Métis rights and a tribute dinner to Steve Powley with the Powley family present.

The 2013 twin anniversaries reminded us of the many contributions of the MNO founders and of their volunteerism which was and is so crucial for the MNO's achievements. It is very fitting therefore that in 2013 John Graham, a long-time friend of the MNO, nominated the MNO for the June Callwood Award for Outstanding Achievement in Voluntarism. In his nomination Mr. Graham said that he felt that as this was the 20th anniversary of the MNO, it was an apt time to recognize those who worked so hard to build the Métis Nation in Ontario. I was very honoured to accept this award on behalf of all MNO's volunteers past, present and future.



The newly minted MNO anniversary medallion created to recognize both the MNO's 20th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of *R. v. Powley*.

## **MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement**

When reviewing this past year, it is worth remembering that together in 2008, we set an agenda that built on our past achievements and has been the basis for the MNO's work since then. A key foundational element of that agenda was the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, which was a five year agreement signed November 17, 2008.

The original *Framework Agreement* outlined mutually agreeable objectives for: strengthening the MNO; recognizing and promoting Métis history and culture; enhancing the wellbeing of Métis individuals, families and communities; and facilitating the recognition of Métis rights in Ontario. It proved to be the lynchpin for our relationship with the Ontario government and has led to a number of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with other Ontario government ministries, agencies and post-secondary institutions. It has also facilitated economic development initiatives that were part of the MNO's first strategic plan and economic development strategy.

As 2013 was the last year of the first agreement, the MNO and Ontario entered negotiations for a new agreement and in November 2013 were able to sign an extension to the agreement. Our two governments have since been able to renew the *Framework Agreement* for another five years. I am very pleased to report the new *Framework Agreement* was signed on April 17, 2014.

The renewed *Framework Agreement* builds on its 2008 predecessor with an increased focus on Métis rights through "advancing reconciliation between the Crown and the Métis people" and providing "a framework for meeting Ontario's constitutional obligations towards the Métis people consistent with the honour the Crown and decisions of the courts."

Notably, the renewed *Framework Agreement* commits the MNO and Ontario to jointly "pursu[ing] discussions with the Government of Canada on Métis rights issues and the Crown's consultation duties." Ultimately, the MNO hopes a federal Métis claims policy is developed, which would provide a process to address these outstanding rights and claims issues similar to what the federal government has developed for First Nations and Inuit peoples.

The renewed *Framework Agreement* also makes a new commitment on the part of the MNO and Ontario to "advance initiatives that support Métis children and youth to be the best that they can be." This enhanced youth-oriented commitment is a major priority that I have outlined for the MNO and which is part of our commitment to building a stronger Métis Nation and Ontario.

## New Relationship Fund

Along with the renewed Framework Agreement, the New Relationship Fund (NRF) remains a pillar in the assertion of Métis rights in the province. The NRF has provided funding for MNO staff that work with regions and communities to ensure that Ontario Métis are at the table and able to participate in a meaningful way whenever the Duty to Consult is triggered. The work of this staff has included facilitating community council charters and regional consultation protocols, which have now been signed in all nine regions. NRF funding also supports a variety of Traditional Knowledge and Métis Way of Life activities, such as Traditional Knowledge gatherings and celebrations that were held this year.



The signatories and witnesses to the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement extension. (Left to right)
PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case, MNO President Lipinski, MNO Senator Brenda Powley and the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.



MNO President Gary Lipinski with Honourable Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Energy, during the Solar Projects announcement.



MNO leadership and senior staff with Premier and Minister at Queen's Park on November 12. (Left to right) MNO COO Doug Wilson, MNO Chair France Picotte, Minister David Zimmer, Premier Kathleen Wynne, MNO President Gary Lipinski and PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case.



MNO President Gary Lipinski addressing the Nation at the 2013 MNO AGA.

## Encouraging Métis children and youth to be all they can be

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

Providing every opportunity to our young people is not simply something the MNO can do by offering programs and other supports. Every MNO citizen needs to step forward and encourage young people to be their best. This may mean helping them save for a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) or simply communicating to our sons, daughters, nieces, nephews and grandchildren that completing high school and going onto postsecondary is not only possible but something they should expect.

During 2013-14, MNO citizens and staff responded very positively to my challenge and there were many indications that we were achieving success. One of the clearest indications was the record number of youth who attended the 2013 MNO AGA. It has been especially gratifying for me to see our young MNO citizens step forward to increasingly play leadership roles in our government. Whether it is the expanding activism of the MNO Youth Council, the larger roles for Youth Representatives on MNO Chartered Community Councils or the greater interaction we are seeing between MNO youth and MNO veterans and Senators; there can be no question that our younger generations are readying themselves to build a wonderful future for the Métis Nation.

#### Education

A key element in building that stronger future is securing the Métis place in the provincial education system. Accordingly, this year the MNO held three Ready to Work sessions for Métis youth that allowed participants to explore and address barriers to employment and provide recommendations on the best ways to engage youth. While all these sessions showed a need for improvement, they also demonstrated a strong interest on the part of educators and government officials to work together with the MNO for meaningful change.

Contributing to our growing influence in the post-secondary field is the MNO Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network, which had another highly successful year. Twenty-seven Infinite Reach facilitators from 16 Ontario post-secondary institutions were trained this year. These enthusiastic Métis youth assist other Métis students adjust to academic life and identify services and programs that can help them. They also encourage our students to participate in the wider Métis community and embrace their heritage. These facilitators play a key role in the exciting March break camps that the MNO organizes to help prepare Métis high school students for post-secondary education. This year's March break camp attracted 22 students from across Ontario, which was a significant increase over the previous year.

We also continue to sign MOUs and build partnerships with post-secondary institutions. Our most recent MOU was signed with Northern College in 2013 and like our MOUs with other institutions, it will lead to increasing

Métis participation in, and access to, Northern College programs and services, engagement in joint Métis research initiatives, and the promoting of Métis content across the curriculum.

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

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

## Economic development

Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) clients reported that they created 12.2 full-time equivalent direct jobs and another 16 positions were created by their subcontractors and partners. With an additional six jobs maintained by our financing, MVDF has created 28 jobs in Ontario and saved six existing jobs.

In addition to the work of the MVDF, the MNO also supported Métis economic opportunities through strong relationships with resource companies. One highlight this year was the signing of an MOU with Rainy River Resources Limited with regard to the development of the Rainy River Gold Project. In addition MOU agreements signed in previous years continue to generate economic opportunities for MNO citizens. This includes the MOU signed with Osisko Hammond Reef Gold Ltd. This MOU sets out the way in which the local Métis community, as represented by the MNO Treaty #3/Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul/Rainy River/ Rainy Lake Consultation Committee and the MNO Community Councils that are part of the committee will be consulted regarding the development of the Hammond Reef Gold project in northwestern Ontario.

In 2013-14, Union Gas has continued to be a stalwart partner for the MNO by working with us on many joint ventures

The MNO also continued to see the value of the Impact and Benefit Agreement (IBA) that it signed with Detour Gold in 2013-14. This was the first agreement of its kind between a Métis government and a proponent anywhere in the homeland, and in it, Detour Gold committed to providing employment and business opportunities, training and education initiatives as well as financial participation in the Detour Lake project. Among the benefits already accrued have been the joint MNO and Detour Gold Employment in Mining project, which is providing Métis individuals and businesses with economic opportunities related to the Detour Gold Lake mine.

## Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy

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

The 2014 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp participants with MNO staff and volunteers.



Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women representatives during the October 21 meeting in Toronto. (Left to right) FRONT **ROW: MNO Chair France** Picotte, Minister Teresa Piruzza, Minister David Zimmer, Sheila McMahon (Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres), and Dr. Dawn Harvard (Ontario Native Women's Association). BACK ROW: Tobias McQuabbie (Shwanaga First Nation), Grand Chief Harvey Yesno (Nishnawbe Aski Nation), Deputy Grand Chief Denise Stonefish (Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians), and Lynda Lynch (Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation).



"flow through" services for satellite projects operated by other Aboriginal agencies involved in healing and wellness. Through this process the MNO has developed successful working relationships the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA), Niijkiwendidaa Anishinabe-kewwag Services Circle, the Native Women's Resource Centre (NWRC), Aboriginal Peoples Alliance of Northern Ontario (APANO), Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre, and the Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre in Peterborough.

## MNO leads the way

The MNO's work with the AHWS contributes to the MNO's strong reputation as a leader and a strong partner that follows best practices in the field of Aboriginal healing and wellness. The MNO was recognized in November 2013 for its excellence in service delivery through a number of fronts including in the Health Council of Canada report entitled *Canada's most vulnerable: Improving health care for First Nations, Inuit and Métis seniors.* 

In 2013-14, the MNO continued our ground-breaking research on chronic diseases within the Ontario Métis population in cooperation with the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Science. Adding to the impressive work already done on diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, the MNO released a study about the preponderance of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in the Ontario Métis population. Also in December 2013, the MNO with the financial support of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer held a focus group to learn about the experiences of Métis cancer patients. The focus group was part of a broader Canada-wide initiative that aims to better understand issues facing Métis cancer patients, in order to make improvements to cancer control programs.

The MNO continues to have a leadership role in the Ontario Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program (OAR-GP). Last year, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care selected the MNO to take on the role of lead coordinator for the OARGP. The MNO was selected because of our administrative capacity, experience working with Aboriginal partners and our responsiveness to the needs of the Ministry. The MNO will be the lead in this program until March 31, 2017.

The MNO also continues to show leadership in the area of ending violence against Aboriginal women. On October 21, 2013, MNO Chair France Picotte represented me on behalf of the MNO at a meeting of the members of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Violence Against Aboriginal Women (VAAW). The Honourable Teresa Piruzza, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues and the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs were both in attendance.

The MNO has been a key player in advancing the agenda to end VAAW. It has participated in five summits on ending VAAW, is a full signatory to the Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women and an active member of the JWG on VAAW since its inception in 2010. The MNO has also been integrating awareness about VAAW within the MNO and in particular the Women's Secretariat of the MNO has been heavily involved in this critical issue.

The meeting was the second opportunity for the JWG, which consists of 10 provincial ministries, the MNO,

the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, the Ontario Native Women's Association, the Chiefs of Ontario and Independent First Nations to report on its progress. The MNO commended the Government of Ontario for supporting efforts to reduce the very high rates of violence affecting Metis, First Nations and Inuit women in Ontario and called upon the two lead Ministers to report back to their cabinet colleagues on progress and ongoing challenges articulated in the meeting. It is expected that the JWG will continue to convene on an annual basis.

## Infinity Property Services

For many years the MNO was a leader in the field of social housing, which it participated in through the MNO Housing Branch. In 2012-13, the MNO took its experience in this area to a new level by transforming the branch into Infinity Property Services. Infinity Property Services is an agency of the MNO that operates under fee-for-service contracted agreements to provide property management and program management on behalf of federal, provincial, and municipal governments. Infinity Property Services is self-sustaining, which means its operations are not maintained through grants or funding agreements but rather through result-based contracts payable to the MNO for work performed. All profits from revenues generated are reinvested into the MNO Secretariat to assist in repayment of the debt load and contribute to any operational costs.

Infinity Property Services continued to pursue new contract opportunities in 2013-14 in the property management and program administration sectors by developing business proposals and maintaining good relationships with all levels of government. Furthermore, Infinity Property Services pursues housing related funding to build or acquire social housing units, and operating funding, for rent subsidies, for building Métis specific housing. As Infinity Property Services grows it will generate revenue that will allow the MNO to provide our citizens with greater services and programming that will contribute to a brighter future for all Métis in Ontario.

## Aboriginal Skills and Employment Strategy (ASETS)

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

ASETS funding supports a wide range of employment services for Métis people across Ontario including job training programs such as Employment in Energy, Navigating Employment Pathways and the Métis Mining Strategy as well as job search assistance, client assessment, case management, action plan development, labour counseling,

The 2014 MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program students during training at Fort William in Thunder Bay.



job placement and follow up. The funding also helps MNO staff maintain job boards, toll-free phone lines, research material, computer access and updated reference materials for clients.

ASETS funding also supported the MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp, Métis cultural summer student programs, inter-branch collaboration training, youth networking and brain-storming meetings and youth and client success story videos.

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

## Citizenship applications

The ongoing support of the Federal Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development is also a key to creating positive impacts for Métis families and communities. In 2013-14, the Registry Branch made further inroads in the root families work and the research and compilation of these family genealogies is ongoing.

Improved processes and procedures have allowed the Registry to reach a level never before achieved. In 2013-14 an impressive 1,306 citizenship cards were administered in the wait time for assessment was reduced to approximately five months. This increase clearly shows that more and more people want to be part of the future of the MNO.

## Métis rights

Métis citizenship represents a legacy that came down to us from our ancestors. Our Aboriginal and Treaty rights as recognized in the *Constitution Act*, 1982 and as affirmed by the Supreme Court in *R. v. Powley* remain our most sacred. Protecting these rights was the reason that the 2012 AGA instructed the MNO leadership to perform an internal audit of harvest files and is also the reason this decision was re-affirmed at the 2013 AGA. The AGA resolution required that all Harvesters lacking evidence that they meet the criteria of the Powley test submit the necessary documentation. The MNO Registry worked with impacted Harvesters to help them obtain the necessary documentation as this is essential not only to meet the requirements of the Supreme Court of Canada but to maintain our harvesting rights as Métis.

In early 2012, the Federal Court of Canada came down with a landmark ruling in *Daniels v. Canada* that according to the Canadian constitution Métis fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government. This has potential wide-ranging benefits to Métis but unfortunately the federal government appealed this case and it went to the Federal Court of Appeal in October 2013. Due to the significance of this case to Métis rights, the MNO successfully sought out intervener status in the case, Métis lawyer Jean Teillet represented the MNO at the Federal Court of Appeal. The Court released its decision on *Daniels v. Canada* on April 17, 2014 and upheld key aspects of the rulings of lower courts that asserted that Métis are the responsibility of the federal government and should be recognized as "Indians" under section 91(24) of the Canadian Constitution in the same way as First Nations and Inuit are recognized, and therefore the federal government should move to negotiate similar rights and benefits.

We are now waiting to see if the federal government will appeal the decision to the Supreme Court or finally accept the message from the courts which is very clear. The federal government cannot continue its complete exclusion of Métis from specific and comprehensive claims processes that are open to the two other constitutionally recognized Aboriginal peoples. The jurisdictional football the Métis are subjected to with respect to their rights, and claims must end.

The harvesting audit and *Daniels v Canada* both represent continuing advancement in the recognition of Métis rights which will be crucial to building the future of the whole Métis Nation.



(Left to Right) MNO President Lipinski with Métis lawyers Jason Madden and Jean Teillet and Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras at the Supreme Court of Canada. Teillet represented the MNO at the Daniels hearing while Madden represented the MNA.

## Financial accountability and management

Also critical to the future will be the MNO's ability to continue managing its financial affairs as a competent and responsible government. When I accepted the position of President, one particularly important commitment in our agenda was to strengthen the MNO's financial management, administration and accountability. Although this has proven to be the most challenging of all the commitments, I am pleased to report that in the past year we have continued to make significant headway in getting MNO's "financial house" in order.

As of March 31, 2014, the MNO's repayable debt had decreased to \$967,000 from about \$4.2 million that confronted us in 2008. The MNO has been able to completely pay off its Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) debt and Employer Health Tax Debt (EHT). The repayment of this debt took only three years and four years respectively rather than the original 25 years MNO had negotiated. The MNO has additionally significantly reduced its debts owing to Service Canada and Health Canada. The amount originally owing to Service Canada in 2008 was \$1.6 million and an estimated 24 years for repayment, but as of March 31, 2014 this has been reduced to \$805,011 with only four years left to repay. The amount owing to Health was originally \$261,000 in 2008, but as of March 2014, it has been reduced to \$162,527.

While we have received accolades and acknowledgement from most of our funders for these dramatic improvements, we must continue to demonstrate real effort and diligence on this front as both are critical to ensuring the MNO remains strong for the future

## Challenges ahead

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

On a personal note, I would like to thank and acknowledge the PCMNO, MNO Community Councils, Women's Secretariat, Veterans' Council, Senators, Youth Council and Captains of the Hunt and all others who hold leadership positions. 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 staff who so ably support the leadership an 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 will continue to move forward with our work as guided by the *Statement of Prime Purpose* and directed by MNO citizens at every AGA. With ever increasing attention from governments at all levels, industry proponents and the public, there may never be a better opportunity to capitalize on the gains made to date. "We aspire to attain our highest potential," is a worthy goal that I challenge all MNO citizens to embrace.

So this AGA, enjoy the Métis music, dance and storytelling, knowing that you are the heart and soul of this Nation and your participation and your voice is critical to our continued success. Thank you to all of you for making time in your busy schedules to be here. Thank you to the MNO Region Two Community Councils and the Valhalla Inn for hosting the 2014 AGA. These assemblies would not be possible without the support of dedicated volunteers, MNO staff and our sponsors. I look forward to a productive assembly and working with all of you for many years to come in order to ensure that our Nation continues to grow and prosper.

Thank you, Marsi, Megwetch!

Gary Lipinski

President, Métis Nation of Ontario

Tary Lyanske



The MNO's repayable debt decreased to \$967,000 in 2013-14 from about \$4.2 million in 2008.



# WHO ARE THE MÉTIS?

he Métis are a distinct Aboriginal people with a unique history, culture, language and territory that includes the waterways of Ontario, surrounds the Great Lakes and spans what was known as the historic Northwest.

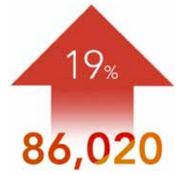
The Métis Nation is comprised of descendants of people born of relations between Indian women and European men. The initial offspring of these unions were of mixed ancestry. The genesis of a new Aboriginal people called the Métis resulted from the subsequent intermarriage of these mixed ancestry individuals.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

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.

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

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-Aboriginal people. Métis are younger than the non-Aboriginal



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.



"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."



population in Canada, with a median age of 31 years compared with 40 for the non-Aboriginal population.

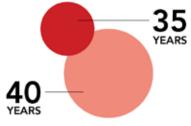
Métis are also younger than the non-Aboriginal population in Ontario, with a median age of 35 years compared with 40 for Ontario's non-Aboriginal population.

The 2010 Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) report, Aboriginal 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%).

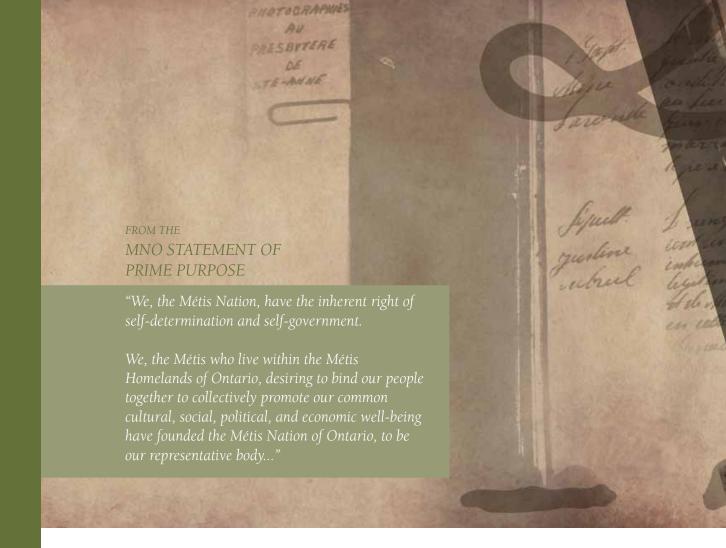
The report also confirms that the Aboriginal population in Ontario is highly mobile, with frequent moves between urban and rural areas. This trend is more common amongst younger individuals within the population because of moves to and from more remote communities to urban centres for school or work.

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

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



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



# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO CITIZENSHIP AND IDENTIFICATION

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

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

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

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



## NATIONAL DEFINITION OF MÉTIS

- 1.1 "Métis" means a person who selfidentifies 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 Halfbreeds 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.

# FROM THE MNO STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE

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

provides assurances to government and industry representatives who negotiate with the Métis Nation of Ontario that they are dealing with democratically elected representatives of rights-bearing Métis communities.

In 2013 MNO's Registry team held two genealogy workshops to assist with the understanding of the national definition of Métis and provide information on where and how to find the information required to meet the current standards of documentation. After the presentations were heard, staff were available to answer more specific questions with citizens in a one-on-one approach.



The 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly in Ottawa.

# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO SELF-GOVERNANCE

FROM THE
MNO STATEMENT OF
PRIME PURPOSE

"... ensure that Métis ca exercise their Aborigina and Treaty rights and freedoms and in so doing, act in a spirit of cooperation with other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people."

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

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

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

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

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

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

The MNO has James Bay/Abitbi-Témiskamingue Consultation Protocol negotiated and executed nine Regional Consultation Protocols Mattawa/Lake Nipissing Consultation Protoco Region Six Consultation Protocol Lakehead/ Nipigon/ Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul/ Michipicoten Rainy River/Rainy Lake Consultation Protocol Consultation Protocol Historic Sault Ste. Marie Consultation Protocol THE DUTY OF THE CROWN TO CONSULT AND ACCOMMODATE **Georgian Bay** Consultation Protocol Region Eight Consultation Protocol **Region Nine** Consultation Protocol

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

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

The overarching goal of the protocols is to ensure that all MNO citizens who are members of regional rights-bearing communities have an opportunity to be consulted on policies, plans, projects and developments that have the potential to impact the collective rights and interests of the Métis. Each protocol includes a regional consultation committee comprised of the MNO's Regional Councillor and a representative from each community council in a given traditional territory.

The committees work in collaboration with the MNO staff to ensure inclusive, transparent and meaningful Métis consultation and accommodation processes with the Crown and proponents are in place. As well, this collective-based, aggregate approach enables the MNO to ensure that regional rights-bearing Métis communities have access to the technical and scientific expertise they need to effectively engage in consultation and accommodation processes.

The MNO has negotiated and executed nine Regional Consultation Protocols. These are:

- Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul/Rainy River/Rainy Lake;
- · Lakehead/ Nipigon/Michipicoten;
- James Bay/Abitbi-Temiskamingue;
- Mattawa/Lake Nipissing;

- Georgian Bay; Historic Sault Ste. Marie;
- · Region Six;
- · Region Eight;
- and Region Nine.

# FROM THE MNO STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE

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

# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO HARVESTING POLICY AND CAPTAINS THE HUNT

he 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 negotiate a Métis harvesting agreement. In 2004, the interim agreement between the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) recognized the MNO's existing harvest card system. The interim agreement is short and set out in four points. The essence of the agreement is that MNR will apply its Interim Enforcement Policy (IEP) to each MNO Harvester's certificate holder who is harvesting for food within his or her traditional territory. This means that MNO Harvester's certificate holders, engaged in traditional Métis harvest activities will not be charged unless they are in violation of conservation or safety standards.

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

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

- A Captains of the Hunt meeting to allow MNO and MNR to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern.
- Discussions with MNR regarding on the ground harvesting issues and knowledge exchanges on topics such as the Métis Way of Life, MNR enforcement, and moose population management.
- Completion of the annual MNO Métis Harvester's survey, which was distributed to all MNO Harvester's certificate holders.

MNO Captians of the Hunt at the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly. (Left to right) BACK ROW: Tom Thompson Jr. (Region 6), Peter Rivers (Region 9) and Greg Garratt (Region 7). SECOND ROW: Ken Simard (Region 2), Andy Lefebvre (Region 3), Gerry Bedford (Region 8), Richard Sarrazin (Region 5) and Art Bennett (Region 4). FRONT ROW: Louise Goulding (Deputy Chief COTH), Patricia Thibault (Region 6) and MNO President Gary Lipinski (Chief COTH).



## **Captains of the Hunt**

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

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

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

## MNO CAPTAINS OF THE HUNT

as of June 30, 2014

**Gary Lipinski** Chief Captain of the Hunt

**Louise Goulding** Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt

**Dean McMahon,** Region One

**Ken Simard,** Region Two

**Andy Lefebvre,** Region Three

**Art Bennett,** Region Four

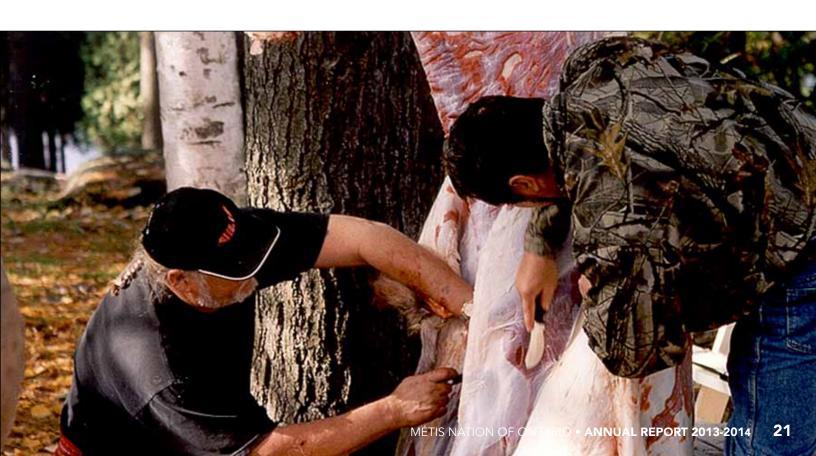
**Richard Sarrazin,** Region Five

**Patricia Thibault,** Region Six

**Greg Garratt,** Region Seven

**Gerry Bedford,** Region Eight

**Peter Rivers,** Region Nine



## PROVISIONAL COUNCIL

ally in August.

election.

## OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

## **2012 - 16** PCMNO MEMBERS

#### EXECUTIVE



Gary LIPINSKI



Chair France PICOTTE



Vice-Chair Sharon McBRIDE



Secretary-Treasurer
Tim



Executive Senator
Reta
GORDON

#### REGIONAL COUNCILLORS



Region 1
Theresa
STENLUND



Region 2
Cameron
BURGESS



Region 3
Marcel
LAFRANCE



Region 4
Ernest
GATIEN



Region 5
Juliette
DENIS



Region 6
Tom
THOMPSON JR.



Region 7
Pauline
RICHARDSON



Region 8
Anita
TUCKER



Region 9
Peter
RIVERS

## FROM THE MNO STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE

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

he 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 PC-MNO 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, usu-

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. The most recent MNO general election was held in 2012. The terms of all current members of the PCMNO expire in 2016 when there will be another general

#### PCMNO SENATOR



Rene GRAVELLE



Verna BRUNELLE



Senator Joseph POITRAS

#### YOUTH & POST-SECONDARY REPRESENTATIVE



Youth Representative Mitch CASE



Post-secondary Representative Jennifer HENRY



(Left to Right) PCMNO members Peter Rivers and Anita Tucker during the 2013 MNO AGA Opening Ceremonies.

# EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



**GARY LIPINSKI PRESIDENT** 

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

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

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

President Lipinski was re-elected MNO Chair several times, and when in 2003, the Supreme Court in R. v Powley affirmed that Métis are a full-fledged rights-bearing people; he was selected as the MNO's chief negotiator in talks with the Ontario government to implement the Powley decision. These negotiations resulted in an agreement on Métis harvesting rights between the MNO and the Ontario Ministry for Natural Resources in July 2004. Today, this remains the only agreement of its kind in Canada.

Shortly after being elected president in 2008, President Lipinski successfully negotiated the MNO - Ontario Framework Agreement. This agreement represented a notable turning point in Ontario-Métis relations as it recognizes the unique identity, history, culture and rights of Ontario Métis communities, in stark contrast to generations of government policy that denied the very existence of Ontario Métis. The Framework Agreement led to similar agreements with other government ministries, agencies and post-secondary institutions. President Lipinski successfully negotiated a second five-year Framework Agreement with Ontario in 2014.

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

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

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

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



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





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

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

Chair Picotte's professional training is as a lab technician, and as a result she has taken a strong interest in promoting and advancing health issues in the Métis community. Her passion for the preservation of Métis culture was

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



SHARON MCBRIDE VICE-CHAIR

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

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



TIM **PILE**SECRETARY-TREASURER

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

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

issues. The students return to the NOSM with greater knowledge and appreciation of the Métis in Ontario. The students who participate also make presentations to their classmates about their experience in the community raise additional awareness of the unique culture of the Métis in Ontario.



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

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

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

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



MNO President Gary Lipinski and MNO Chair France Picotte sharing a laugh at the 2013 AGA.

# PCMNO COMMITTEE: WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT

## OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

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

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

The Spokesperson for the WSMNO is MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride and four women serve as WSMNO Regional Representatives. Currently these representatives are: Shirley Lynn Pantuso of Ottawa; Pearl Gabona of Bowmanville; Barbaranne Wright of Welland and Rosalyn Calder of Fort Frances. Rosalyn Calder replaced Candace Lloyd of Thunder Bay part way through the year.



## **PCMNO COMMITTEE:**

# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO YOUTH COUNCIL

he Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) is a committee of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) with the mandate to identify issues impacting Métis youth and to work within the MNO to ensure these issues are addressed. The MNOYC consists of nine Regional Representatives who are elected in the MNO provincial ballot-box elections held every four years.

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 MNOYC 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.

The MNO Youth Council is striving engage youth across the province and further define its governance structure and policies and procedures. Each year, the MNO Youth Council attends the MNO Annual General Assembly in an effort to bring together the Regional Youth Representatives for consultation and planning.

### Recent notable achievements

- The 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) attracted the largest contingent of young MNO citizens to ever attend an AGA. This strong representation was largely due to President Gary Lipinski's youth initative that he announced at the 2012 AGA.
- During the 2013 MNO AGA, a large group of young MNO citizens participated with MNO veterans in a tour of national war memorials and museums in Ottawa.
- The MNO Youth Council continued to hold monthly conference calls and held one face-to-face meeting.
- The MNO Youth Council Facebook page and e-mail distribution lists have been used effectively to facilitate ongoing communications among MNO youth in Ontario.
- MNO Youth Council members participated in three MNO Ready to Work seminars.
- MNO Youth Council members facilitated cultural workshops in communities, schools and post-secondary institutions.
- The MNO Youth Council is represented on the MNO Michif language committee.
- MNO Youth Council members participated in training sessions, meetings, conferences and gatherings where they represented the views of MNO youth on numerous issues critical to the Métis Nation.



# **2012 - 16**MNOYC REPRESENTATIVES

**PCMNO Youth Representative**Mitch Case

**Region One Representative** Kelly Duquette

**Region Two Representative** Janine Landry

**Region Three Representative**Brianne Gosselin

**Region Four** Vacant

**Region Five Representative** Sylvie Forest

**Region Six Representative** Phoebe Mandry

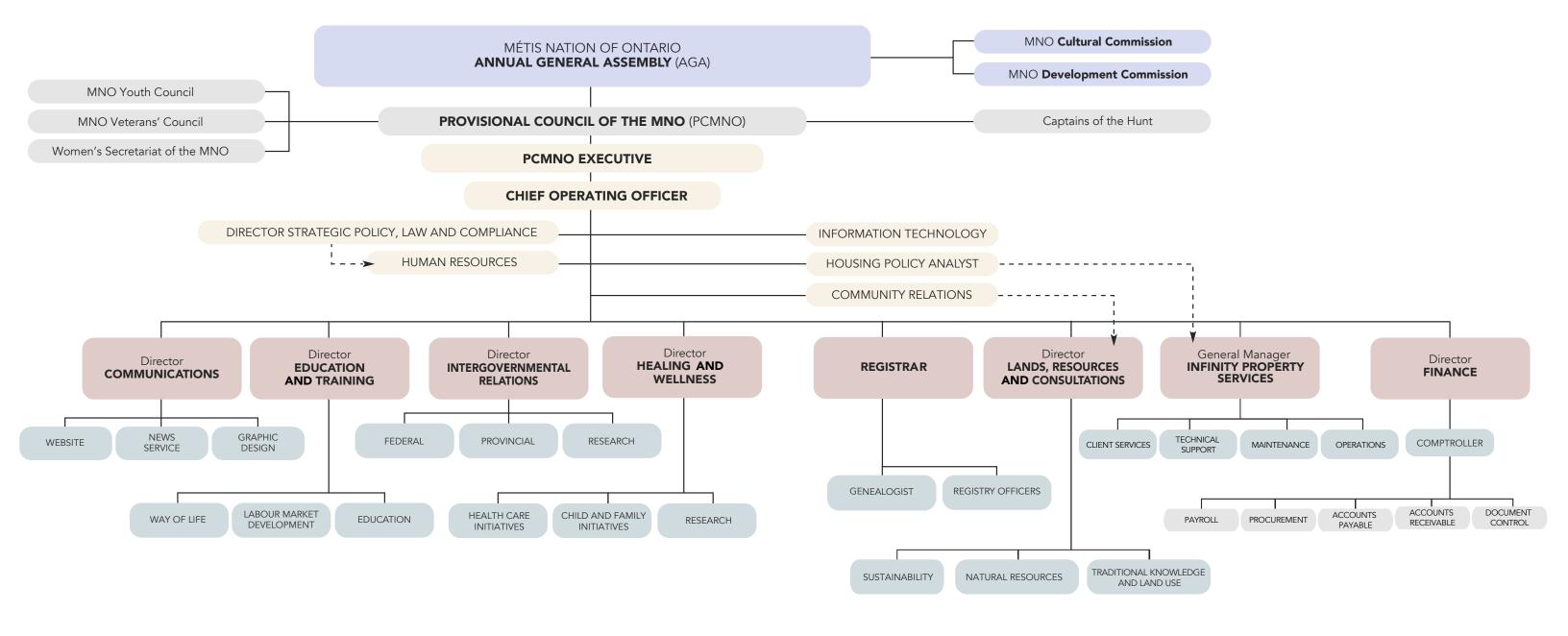
**Region Seven Representative** Kyle Grenier

**Region Eight Representative** Nicholas Delbaere-Sawchuk

**Region Nine Representative** Alex Young

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

# **MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO** ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO CHARTERED COMMUNITY COUNCILS

FROM THE
MNO STATEMENT OF
PRIME PURPOSE

"...promote and foster community development.

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

## The structure of MNO Chartered 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. The overarching goals and aspirations of the MNO are articulated in the *Statement of Prime Purpose*. These values and principles are fundamental building blocks, and they guide the MNO's governance and decision-making systems.

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

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

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

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

MNO Community Council Presidents at the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly. (Left to right) FRONT ROW: Lisa McCron, Liliane Ethier, Deidre Thompson, Sandy Triskle, Marlene Davidson, Valerie Pelepetz, Joanne Young and Alvina Cimon. MIDDLE ROW: Robert Bird, Andrew Dufrane, Kim Powley, Derrick Pont, President Lipinski, Cora Bunn, Jean Camirand, Roger Giroux and Richard Cuddy. BACK ROW: Keith Henry, Chris Lavigne, Andrew Good, William Gordon, Nelson Montreuil, David Hamilton, Urgil Courville, David Dusome, Alain Lefebrye, Marc Laurin, Peter Couture and Trent Desulniers.





## **COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

- MNO Kenora Métis Council
- MNO Northwest Métis Council
- MNO Sunset Country Métis Council 3.
- MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council 4.
- 5. MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council
- MNO Greenstone Métis Council 6.
- MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council
- 8. Métis Nation of Ontario Timmins
- 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

## Growing stronger within the MNO

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

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

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







- 01: MNO Oshawa and Durham Métis Council members making pancakes at a Maple Syrup Festival.
- 02: MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council members with other volunteers who took part in the 2013 tree planting project.
- 03: MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette with MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council President Tera Beaulieu at the Minaake Awards.
- 04: Marsha Depotier, (far left) and Senator Brenda Powley (far right) present local Walking with Our Sisters exhibit organizers with a Métis healing blanket.
- 05. MNO Senator Micheline Boisvert hosting a drumming workshop during the Chapleau Children's Pow Wow.
- 06. MNO Credit River Métis Council Richard Cuddy (*left*) presents the MNO 20th Anniversary commemorative coin to former MNO Credit River Métis Council Vice-President and Chair, Bill Morrison.







## Capacity building

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

MNO local governance training is offered through MNO Community Relations staff and provides instruction and resources needed to start building capacity at the local, regional and provincial levels. MNO Community Relations staff offers Governance and Finance courses to Chartered Community Councils. The Governance and Finance course is a two-day seminar. It explains where MNO community councils fit into the MNO governance structure and explains their role as local government. The course covers everything from how to run effective meetings and engage citizens in council activities to budgeting and the various financial practices, regulations and legislation that MNO Community Councils must follow. The MNO started offering the course in 2010 and over a dozen MNO community councils have taken the training since then.











- MNO Grand River Métis Council Traditional Knowledge workshop on guillwork.
- 8. MNO Grand River Métis Council capote coat workshop.
- 9. Ottawa Chief of Police Charles Bordeleau, MNO staff member Jo MacQuarrie, Past MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council President Chris Lavigne and an expert jigger celebrating at the Ottawa Police Service headquarters to celebrate Riel Day.
- 10. MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council raised the Métis National flag for the first time in front of Windsor City Hall on June 21.
- 11. MNO Peterborough Wapiti Métis Council, President Lipinski, and Chair Picotte signing the Region 6 Protocol during the 2013 MNO AGA.



MNO Veterans' Council (left to right) Chris Plummer, Guy Mandeville, Alis Kennedy, Joseph Paquette, Lisa Tessier, and Greg Garratt.

# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO VETERANS' COUNCIL

he Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council is a MNO Chartered Council established in 2001 to represent the interest of MNO veterans. The MNO Veterans' 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. The next election is scheduled for 2016.

### MNO VETERANS' COUNCIL

**President** 

Paquette, Joseph

Chair

Mandeville, Guy

**Treasurer** 

Plummer, Christopher

Sgt-at-arms

Garratt, Greg

Secretary

Vacant

Senator for Veterans

Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy

Women's Representative Tessier, Lisa



#### Recent notable achievements

- MNO Veterans' Council members participated at the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Ottawa.
- Nov 11, 2013 many MNO veterans attended Remembrance Day events at the local and provincial levels.
- Nov 15, 2013 MNO veterans attended the Louis Riel Day in Toronto and laid a wreath at the Louis Riel Rebellion monument at Queen's Park.
- Jan 1, 2014 the MNO veterans attended Levees at the provincial and municipal levels.
- In March 2013, the MNO veterans launched its 'Métis Veterans' Book' project.
- Secured permission with the Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Command in Ottawa to utilize their copyrighted poppy logo.
- The Council was successful in acquiring private funding to purchase 25 additional Louis Riel medals during the summer of 2013.
- The MNOVC was instrumental in acquiring private funding from Mr. Roger Lauzon (a MNO citizen), to bring 100 year old Métis Veteran Alexander Boucher to the 2013 AGA. The Louis Riel medal was presented to Boucher by MNO President Gary Lipinski.
- MNO created a new design for a Veterans banner that has been used on several occasions by the Council.
- In October 2013, Veteran Lisa Tessier was appointed to the position of Women's Representative. Tessier's swearing in ceremony took place on April 5, 2014.
- A new design created for the Louis Riel certificate has been available since April 2014.
- During the 2013-2014 year. the Council has brought on board approximately 13 new verified Veterans. There were 16 Louis Riel Certificates issued, accompanied by 13 Louis Riel Commemorative medals.
- The MNO Veterans' Council held meetings in August 2013 and April 2014.

Métis youth and MNO veterans at the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument in Ottawa.



MNO Senators at the 2013 Annual General Assembly. (Left to right) FRONT ROW: Joe Poitras, Verna Brunnelle, Terry Bloom, Lois McCallum, Robert Lloyd, Reta Gordon, Rene Gravelle and Dora McInnis. MIDDLE ROW: Bob Mckay, Audrey Vallee, Cecile Wager, Patricia Dryden, Micheline Boisvert, Brenda Powley and Malcom Dixon. BACK ROW: Gerry Bedford, Eugene Contant, Romeo Sarrazin, Roland St. Germain, Al Roussin, kempton Gravelle, Larry Duval, John George and Ray Bergie.

# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO SENATORS

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

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

FROM THE MNO STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE

"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."

#### MNO SENATORS (Current to June 30, 2014)

**PCMNO Executive Senator** 

Senator Reta Gordon

**PCMNO Senators** 

Senator Rene Gravelle Senator Verna Brunelle Senator Joseph Poitras

#### MNO CHARTERED COMMUNITY COUNCIL SENATORS

MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council - Senator Brian Gouliquer

MNO Chapleau Métis Council - Senator Micheline Boisvert

MNO Clear Waters Métis Council - Senator Doris Lanigan

MNO Credit River Métis Council - Senator Ray Bergie

MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council - Senator Dora McInnis

MNO Greenstone Métis Council - Senator Patricia Dryden

MNO Grand River Métis Council - Senator Carol Levis

MNO Great Lakes Métis Council - Senator Malcolm Dixon

MNO High Land Waters Métis Council - Senator Robert Lloyd

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

MNO Kenora Métis Council - Senator Karen Cederwell

MNO Mattawa Métis Council - Senator Romeo Sarrazin

MNO Moon River Métis Council - Senator Larry Duval

MNO Niagara Region Métis Council - Senator Gary Laframboise

MNO North Bay Métis Council - Senator Marlene Greenwood

MNO North Channel Métis Council - Blair Sterling

MNO Northern Lights Métis Council - Senator Eugene Contant

MNO Northwest Métis Council - Senator Alphonse Roussin

MNO Oshawa and Durham Métis Council - Senator Cecile Wagar

MNO Ottawa Métis Region Council - Senator Lois McCallum

MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council - Senator Terry Bloom

MNO Sudbury Métis Council - Senator Norm Prevost

MNO Sunset Country Métis Council - Senator John George

MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council - Vacant

MNO Temiskaming Métis Council - Vacant

MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council - Senator Bob McKay

Métis Nation of Ontario Timminsl - Senator Len Rondeau

MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council - Senator Robert Bird

MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council - Senator Robert Leboeuf

#### **VETERANS SENATOR**

Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy

#### **HONOURARY SENATORS**

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

66

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





MNO Senators event at the 2013 MNO AGA.

# MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL

FROM THE
MNO STATEMENT OF
PRIME PURPOSE

"... 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."

hroughout 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.

Three great Métis Nation leaders (left to right) Métis Nation British Columbia President Bruce Dumont, Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras and MNO President Gary Lipinski.



# NATION TO NATION

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

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

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

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

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

FROM THE
MNO STATEMENT OF
PRIME PURPOSE

"... establish good relations with all Aboriginal peoples for the pursuit of our common interests and goals."

MNO President Gary Lipinski (centre) at the Supreme Court on May 15 with (left to right) Nuri Frame with the law firm of Pape, Salter and Teillet, MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, Grand Chief Warren White of the Grand Council Treaty #3 and Jason Madden with Pape, Salter and Teillet.





#### **BANCROFT**

Healing & Wellness

#### **BRAMPTON**

Healing & Wellness

#### DRYDEN

Healing & Wellness

#### **FORT FRANCES**

Healing & Wellness Education & Training Lands, Resources & Consultations

#### **HAMILTON**

Healing & Wellness Education & Training

#### **INNISFIL**

Infinity Property Services

#### **KENORA**

Healing & Wellness

#### **KINGSTON**

Healing & Wellness Education & Training

#### **MIDLAND**

Healing & Wellness Education & Training Lands, Resources & Consultations

#### **NORTH BAY**

Healing & Wellness Education & Training

#### **OSHAWA**

Healing & Wellness Education & Training

Healing & Wellness

#### **OTTAWA**

Education & Training
Registry
Finance
Communications
Information & Communication
Technology
Human Resources

#### **OWEN SOUND**

Healing & Wellness Education & Training Lands, Resources & Consultations

#### **RENFREW**

Healing & Wellness

#### **SAULT STE. MARIE**

Healing & Wellness Education & Training

#### **SUDBURY**

Healing & Wellness Education & Training Lands, Resources & Consultations

#### **TIMMINS**

Healing & Wellness Education & Training Lands, Resources & Consultations

#### **THUNDER BAY**

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

#### **TORONTO**

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

#### WELLAND

Healing & Wellness Lands, Resources & Consultations

#### WINDSOR

Healing & Wellness



## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Paddlers in the second and third canoes to arrive during the 2013 AGA Welcome in Ottawa.

o carry out the work outlined in the *Statement of Prime Purpose*, the MNO established a province-wide infrastructure to deliver and manage programs and services for Métis people in Ontario in healing and wellness, education, labour market development, housing, Duty to Consult and Accommodate, community relations, traditional knowledge, intergovernmental relations, economic development, finance, communications, human resources and information technology. Directed through seven branches, the MNO employs 178 people located in 21 offices across Ontario.

FROM THE MNO STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE

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

17,000+
Métis Nation of Ontario
CITIZENS

21
Métis Nation of Ontario
OFFICES
supporting 29 communities

178
Métis Nation of Ontario
EMPLOYEES

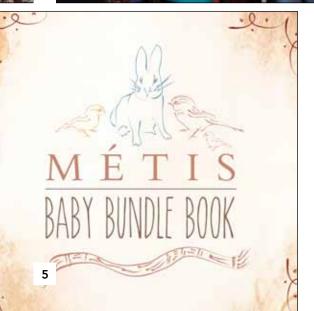
148
CONTRIBUTION
AGREEMENTS
between MNO and other governments
and thier agencies











- 01: The Métis and Urban Aboriginal Leadersip Roundtable held in Toronto on June 10. (Left to right) The Honourable. Teresa Piruzza, who was Minister of Children and Youth Services at the time, Sheila McMahon, Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, MNO President Gary Lipinski, Dr. Dawn Harvard, Ontario Native Women's Association, and the Honourable. David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.
- 02: MNO representatives and friends at the launch of the Métis Baby Bundle Book on October 17 in Ottawa.
- 03: MNO Healing and Wellness Community Wellness Workers programming held at a public school in Timmins.
- 04: The MNO Chronic Disease Surveillance Program offered a workshop at the 2013 Canadian Public Health Association Annual Conference in Ottawa.
- 05: The MNO Métis Baby Bundle Book cover.

# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO HEALING AND WELLNESS BRANCH

he Healing and Wellness Branch delivers programs and services to Métis communities across Ontario through 19 delivery sites. The centrally administered MNO approach to healing and wellness in Métis communities is culturally grounded, holistic in nature, client-centred, evidence-based and is recognized as a best practice model.

In accordance with the *Statement of Prime Purpose*, Healing and Wellness provides culturally appropriate, supportive, self-directed health and wellness services to address the emotional, spiritual, mental and physical needs of individuals, families and communities. Programming promotes respect, compassion, dignity and empowerment to fosters unity, balance, hope, belonging and pride. Core activities of the branch are centered on health promotion and interventions informed by research and knowledge.

The Healing and Wellness branch has built a solid reputation with other Aboriginal organizations, research partners and funding agencies and has a track record of effective delivery and leadership in a range of initiatives. For example, the MNO is playing a lead coordinating role at the provincial level with the Ontario Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program (OARGP) Working Group that consists of eight members including the MNO. The MNO will be the lead agency on this provincial file until at least March 31, 2017 (\$300,000/year for three years).

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

The MNO works with the Aboriginal caucus to the Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women and works in partnership with Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres and Ontario Native Women's Association in a range of initiatives.

#### Recent notable achievements

In addition to meeting or surpassing deliverables set forth in the respective program funding agreements, the MNO has made significant strides in specific areas. Following are a few examples of achievements in this fiscal year end.

- Entrenchment of Violence Against Aboriginal Women and the Joint Working Group to End Violence Against Women into Government of Ontario policy.
- Leadership discussions and the development of a multi-year proposal by the Aboriginal Caucus of the Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women.
- Knowledge Translation a great focus on Knowledge to Action activities in support of front-line community work.
- Best Practice recognition the MNO was recognized for its excellence in service delivery through a number
  of fronts including the report entitled "Canada's most vulnerable: Improving health care for First Nations, Inuit
  and Métis seniors. November 2013, Health Council of Canada.
- Growth the MNO now delivers 10 new urban Aboriginal programs in Kingston with funding provided through the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres. This has resulted in several new staff positions within the branch

# FROM THE MNO STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE

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

#### **BRANCH DETAILS**

Number of Staff: 78

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



#### **COMMUNITY AND CLIENT SERVICES**

Community and client services in Métis communities are possible through a number of agreements with a range of provincial and federal government funders as well as through research collaborations. Following is a list of core programs and services as well as other agreements that are supporting shorter-term or project-specific initiatives.

#### **CORE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:**

- Community Support Services (CSS) Program
- Aging at Home
- Community Wellness Worker (CWW) Program
- Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children (MHBHC) Program
- Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)
- Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP)
- · Aboriginal Diabetes Education Initiative
- Mental Health
- Victim Services
- Problem Gambling Prevention Program
- Chronic Disease Surveillance Program
- Provincial coordination of Ontario Aboriginal Responsible Gambling

#### SUPPLEMENTAL / PROJECT-SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS:

- Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy Satellite Flow-through
- Aboriginal Youth Strategy (new in 2013-2014- funding commitment to March 2015)
- Mental Health Training (new in 2013-2014)
- Healthy Eating Connections (new in 2013-2014 funding commitment to March 2017)
- Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (new in 2013-2014)
- Cancer Care Ontario Focus Group (new in 2013-2014)
- OWD Sexual Violence Trauma Training
- Provincial Aboriginal Sexual Violence Community Response Initiative
- Urban Aboriginal Services Kingston (new in 2013-2014 funding commitment to March 2016)

#### WHAT IS A CLIENT SERVICE?

A client service is a direct, focused effort in which program resources such as employee time or allotted use of funding is provided to support an individual in overcoming challenges that are related to their own unique, expressed needs. Client services vary from person to person depending on what their needs are and which MNO Healing and Wellness program they are accessing.

#### HOW ARE CLIENT SERVICES DELIVERED?

MNO's Healing and Wellness branch provides services through a process of informed consent that is entirely client-driven. This means that the consumers bring their own particular needs to our programs and that they have a significant say in how all supports are provided to them.

## **Funder:** Healing and Wellness Strategy (AHWS) Government of Ontario

Number of Staff: 19

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

**Eligible Clientele:** Any person (Métis and others).

#### **COMMUNITY WELLNESS WORKER (CWW)**

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

Community Wellness provides direct services to clients, builds meaningful collaborations and supports community-based educational gatherings - all with a greater goal of reducing the occurrence and effects of violence and promoting greater Aboriginal health, healing and wellness.

A client can be any person who receives one-to-one support from CWW workers to help them identify and plan to overcome their uniquely expressed health, healing and safety challenges. These types of confidential supports are "client-centred" and led by the desires and comfort level of the client.



#### Community Wellness Worker **Client Service Growth**

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

Client services include:

- Peer counselling
- Wellness planning
- Referrals and advocacy
- Support with forms, documentation and applications
- Crisis intervention
- Supportive accompaniment to consultations

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

#### Recent notable achievements:

- In 2013/14 CWW delivered 613 collaborative participant gatherings to a collective participant count of 22,492 attendees throughout the province.
- CWW gatherings vary in size and content and have featured activities such as Cultural Community Fests, Harvest Feast Celebrations, Community Kitchen/Nutrition Workshops, Stress Management and Self-Care Presentations, Beading Circles, Family Fun Days, Violence Prevention Circles, Health Fairs, Snow-Shoe Soccer Tournaments, and Responsible Gambling Awareness Events.
- Each CWW Site provides a minimum of 35 participant activities per year.
- In order to meet the unique local needs of each Métis community, CWW coordinators engaged in 439 community networking meetings in 2013/14 to develop important partnerships and promote the MNO.

MNO Community Wellness Workers also support Chartered MNO Community Councils through education/information sharing community initiatives and events including Annual General Meetings. Community based networking takes places on an on-going basis with Children's Aid Societies, health units, women's shelters, diabetes educators, schools, Friendship Centers, mental health service providers, counselling centres, Ontario Disability Support Program, and youth centres.



In 2013/14 CWW delivered 613 collaborative participant gatherings to a collective participant count of 22,492 attendees throughout the province.



CWW coordinators engaged in 439 community networking meetings in 2013/14



66 Thank you for all the days that have been brighter, happier and richer because of you."

MNO COMMUNITY WELLNESS CLIENT

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

Number of Staff: 15

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

#### MÉTIS HEALTHY BABIES HEALTHY CHILDREN (MHBHC)

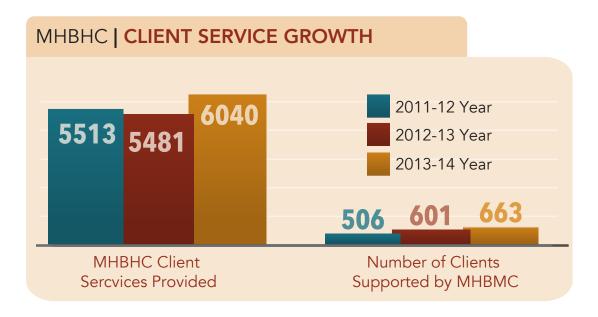
A client is any person or family who receives one-to-one or group support from MHBHC workers to help them identify and plan to overcome their uniquely expressed needs related to the spectrum of child and family development from pregnancy to age six. These types of supports are always led by the desires and comfort level of the client families, and are entirely confidential.

Client services include:

- Home visits
- Play based learning activities
- Parenting skill support/referrals
- Advocacy
- Baby weight monitoring and standardized screening tools
- Healthy tobacco use

MNO's MHBHC programming has seen great success over the years – both in the number of people supported and in the successful outcomes for our clients:

The MNO MHBHC program also encourages personal development and education to participants through community level cultural gatherings designed to increase the knowledge and skills, change attitudes and encourage healthy decisions.





Métis Healthy Babies/Healthy Children Client Service Growth

This chart illustrates the total number of client service encounters provided by MNO MHBHC coordinators during the indicated fiscal years.

Thank you so much for all your kind and caring advice and information during our pregnancy and after baby's birth. We appreciate your expertise and loving gestures."

MNO MÉTIS HEALTHY BABIES HEALTHY CHILDREN CLIENT



Words will never say how grateful I am for the love, support and kindness that you have shown my dad. I will always remember how good you all were to my dad. I appreciate everything you have done, especially during this difficult time"

DAUGHTER OF MNO COMMUNITY WELLNESS CLIENT

#### Recent notable achievements:

- In 2013/14 the MNO delivered 516 MHBHC collaborative participant gatherings to a collective participant count of 18,190 attendees throughout the province.
- These gatherings vary in size and content and have featured activities such as Cultural Community Fests, Harvest Feast Celebrations, Community Kitchen/Nutrition Workshops, Baby Food Making Workshops, Smoking Cessation Presentations, Parenting Skills Workshops, Family Literacy Activities, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Presentations, and Safe Swimming.
- Each MNO office with MHBHC staff provides a minimum of 35 participant activities per year.
- In order to meet the unique local needs of each MNO community, MHBHC coordinators engaged in 491 community networking meeting and events in 2013/14 to develop important partnerships and promote the Métis Nation of Ontario.
- Some of our key networking included -Children's Aid Societies, health units, schools, hospitals, Legal Aid clinics, Friendship Centers, breast feeding educators, nutritionists, nurses, and Best Start hubs.

The program aims to ensure that families with young children have access to resources and knowledge that will facilitate optimal growth and development of children and promote the maintenance of safe family living environments. Through training, practice and ongoing support, front-line community workers are able to utilize intervention strategies including advocacy, referral and wellness planning that help clients in achieving their goals.

MHBHC coordinators engaged in 491 community networking meeting and events in 2013/14.

#### **COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN (CAPC)**

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

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

Funder: Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

Number of Staff: 3

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

#### **CANADA PRENATAL NUTRITION PROGRAM (CPNP)**

The MNO Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada and is delivered through the MNO office in Thunder Bay.

The CPNP targets children zero to six months and their families. MNO CPNP staff provides support to Métis parents and families to help them achieve optimum health and wellness of their infants and young children. Beginning during pregnancy and continuing through the child's infancy and early years, program staff work closely with families to provide ongoing guidance and support on to ensure healthy child and family development.

Supports include prenatal, infant and child nutrition and development, parenting and care giving skills. The 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.

Funder: Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

Number of Staff: 1

Staff located in: Thunder Bay

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

Number of Staff: 18

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

#### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (CSS)**

MNO Community Support Services is in place to help the elderly and chronically ill increase their independence and quality of life through involvement in a network of volunteer and employee delivered services including the following:

- Friendly visiting
- Safety checks
- Coordination of medical transportations
- Accompaniment to medical appointments
- Advocacy
- Caregiver supports

The MNO Community Support Services program delivers services, through a volunteer network, to support the elderly and chronically ill to increase their independence and improve their quality of life. Clients are individuals who receive one-to-one supports that are based on their distinct needs through a process of informed consent.

#### Recent notable achievements:

- In the 2013-14 year the MNO delivered 50,771 units of service to 1,035 clients across 16 communities.
- 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 2013-14 the MNO provided 17,544 units of transportation service throughout the province.
- Friendly Visiting is a CSS service that helps reduce isolation and increase the sharing of knowledge and social connection. Friendly visits can occur at home, out in the community or at the local Métis Center and are always based on the interests of our clients. MNO delivered 14,992 units of friendly visiting in 2013-
- 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 client who are playing a direct supportive role-MNO was able to assist with 2,209 units of Caregiver Support to non-professional people involved with our clients' well-being during 2013-14.
- Through the CSS program, MNO has delivered 16,016 units of other Community Support in 2013-14. These types of supports range from providing client safety checks to ensuring a client receives access to appropriate cultural knowledge holders to assisting with referrals to other services or assisting clients and their families at meetings.



In the 2013-14 year the MNO delivered 50,771 units of service to 1,035 clients across 16 communities.

I just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate your help and kindness. Since we brought (M) home the Métis Nation of Ontario has been so helpful and gracious to us and has been there with open arms. Being new parents especially with a sick child is very devastating and its so nice to see an organization of people like yourselves, spending your hard working days trying to assist people like ourselves on so many levels. We are beside ourselves with happiness and gratitude for all of the help you have given us, financially as well as personally....Thank you from the bottom of our hearts as well as all our families and friends; we really do appreciate all that you do."

MNO COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICE CLIENT ASSISTED WITH MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS AT THE SICK KIDS HOSPITAL IN TORONTO



Thank you for listening to me when all I can do is complain and for laughing at my jokes even when they are lame. Thank you for giving me the recipe for Basic Bread and for stopping at the lights when they turn red. Thank you for just being here with a smile on your face, you make the world seem like a much nicer place."

MNO COMMUNITY SERVICE SUPPORT CLIENT

#### **CSS INCLUDES:**

- Transportation to medical appointments: CSS coordinators and volunteers transport and escort clients to a variety of medical appointments.
- Home and telephone visitation: CSS coordinators regularly follow up with clients in person and by phone to provide wellness planning services which promote safety and independence.
- Facilitate access to additional supports: CSS coordinators maintain viable community relationships with a variety of stakeholders, which in turn facilitate valuable client referrals and opportunities for advocacy.
- Support to caregivers: Collaborative education and varied support is provided by CSS coordinators to the care providers in a client's family who are pivotal in helping to maintain their independence, viability and
- Participant-based education: Targeted partnerships allow for increased education and prevention in regards to health issues.

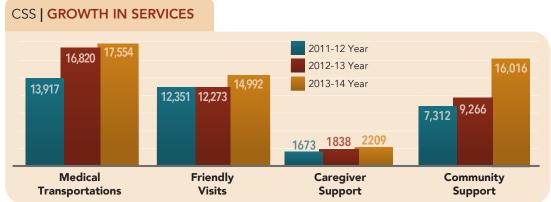
#### MCSS DOES MORE THAN ASSIST CLIENTS:

- MNO Community Support Services have been instrumental in providing ongoing diabetes foot care clinics at various communities helping people to access free, qualified services.
- Some CSS sites have worked with clients and community members to develop unique social networking opportunities such as regular sewing sessions, walking groups and story sharing.

The MNO delivered 14,992 units of friendly visiting in 2013-14.

The MNO was able to assist with 2,209 units of Caregiver Support to non-professional people involved with our clients' well-being during 2013-14.

The MNO has delivered 16,016 units of other Community Support in 2013-14.



#### **Community Support Services Growth in Services**

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



The staff is always courteous and welcoming; they make you feel like family. They help you get the services that you felt were impossible to achieve on your own. Being a Métis has great benefits."

MNO AGING AT HOME CLIENT

Funder: Barrie Area Native Advisory Council (BANAC)/ North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network

Number of Staff: 1

Staff located in: Midland and Ottawa

#### **AGING AT HOME**

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

#### **INTEGRATED PROGRAMS**

The MNO has integrated programs across its primary program operations - resulting in the efficient implementation of supplemental supports such as Mental Health services, Victim Services and Problem Gambling Prevention. The following programs have relatively small staff bases and funding levels but, through strategic integration into program infrastructure, are able to reach many clients across the province.

As part of their partnership, officials from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) met with MNO staff at the MNO Midland office on July 17, 2013.





My family and I are sincerely grateful and really appreciate your excellent service to us. I feel the quality of care in far beyond all expectations. Your staff is very helpful in all respects."

MNO AGING AT HOME CLIENT

#### MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

MNO's Mental Health program is designed to support people with diagnosed and undiagnosed mental health issues in receiving timely and accessible support services in their communities. This includes:

- Access to MNO Tele-psychiatry services
- Assistance understanding/accessing community services
- Access to cultural stakeholders

The Mental Health program utilizes Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) certified video-conferencing technologies to link clients to confidential, specialized mental health care as a result of a service agreement with Queen's University and Providence Care in Kingston. The MNO offers weekly clinics to its clients with a relatively short waiting period for appointments. The program also provides important training, education, professional development opportunities designed to increase staff and community capacity.

#### **Program Priorities:**

- · Mental health programming and services ground in the community oriented, family-centred Métis culture and way of life. This includes ready access to mental health workers who are knowledgeable about mental health issues for Métis children and youth specifically; and Métis-specific resources and cultural supports.
- Expand Tele-psychiatry and mental health services and programs to Métis children and youth that build upon MNO's existing mental health and Tele-psychiatry model, programming and infrastructure, which has been recognized as a best practice.





#### Mental Health Program

- Growth in support services provided

This chart illustrates the total number of client services provided by MNO MHP coordinators during the indicated fiscal years.

Funder: Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (AHWS)

Number of Staff: 1.5

Staff located in: Ottawa



- 01: MNO citizens and staff at the Bancroft National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women vigil.
- **02:** The MNO Victim Services Emergency Home Flee Kit.
- ${\color{blue} {\rm O3:}}$  Métis fidler Lillian Penner at the MNO Family Fun Day held in Kenora.
- 04: MNO Healing and Wellness staff during a Family Fun Day held in Bancroft.
- **05:** MNO Healing and Wellness staff hosting an information booth during the Aboriginal Day celebration in Dryden.









I am thankful for the MNO's help and listening to me and not judging me. It's hard to talk at times for me when I truly don't know someone on a person level. But you made me feel really comfortable. Thanks for your support."

MNO TELE-PSYCHIATRY CLIENT

#### VICTIM SERVICES

The MNO offers culturally relevant Victim Services within all Healing and Wellness programs to prevent, address and end violence against Métis women and children. These services will address the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual impacts of victimization.

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

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

**MNO Victim Services:** 

- Help clients be effective advocates for themselves.
- Help clients and community workers navigate victim services.
- Provide clients and community workers with Métis-specific resources, access to cultural supports, as well as recommend Métis community groups and circles to support healing journeys.
- Connect clients with other agencies and programs (both Aboriginal and mainstream) as well as make referrals to psychiatrists who support MNO clients through a partnership with Providence Care.
- Assist in the development of a safety plans and provide information regarding local shelters or safe-housing options. This may include assisting clients with the completion of housing applications to support their right to live free from violence.
- Provide Home Flee Kits in communities throughout the province for individuals and their families who have fled an abusive or dangerous situation.
- Provide information and assistance regarding court processes and court orientation, including Victim Impact Statements.
- Provide short-term peer support.
- Host and facilitate MNO workshops. Coordinators are available to give workshops on a variety of topics (including but not limited to navigating victim services, identifying warning signs of abuse, court processes, child witnessing, general raising awareness of violence and prevention strategies) Workshops include a good balance of information, sharing and healing activities/crafts.
- Participate in and support related events in the community. Coordinators are available to attend and present at events hosted by other agencies and organizations on issues related to victim services.

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

#### Recent notable achievements:

• MNO Victim Services staff is on track in the development of the Possibilities manual. The Manual will be a client focused programming tool that provides protection, prevention and possibilities when working with clients who have experienced violence. MNO Victim Services staff is working closely with other MNO Healing and Wellness staff as part of a core team to meet the specific needs of community workers and especially their clients.

Funder: Ministry of the Attorney General

Number of Staff: 2

Staff located in: Bancroft. Thunder Bay



In 2013-14, MNO Victim Services staff provided 30 workshops and other events in 17 MNO communities on such topics as family emergency preparedness, safety nights, anti-bulling, empowering women, healthy relationships, self-care and violence awareness.

- MNO Victim Services staff completed the delivery of Foundational Training to all Healing and Wellness staff in 2013-14 as well as training through video-conferencing on topics including Introduction to Court Processes.
- In 2013-14, MNO Victim Services staff provided 30 workshops and other events in 17 MNO communities on such topics as family emergency preparedness, safety nights, anti-bulling, empowering women, healthy relationships, self-care and violence awareness.

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

Number of Staff: 1

Staff located in: Ottawa

#### PROBLEM GAMBLING PREVENTION PROGRAM

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

#### Recent notable achievements:

- The MNO was selected to play a lead coordinating role at the provincial level with the Ontario Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program (OARGP) Working Group which consists of eight members including the MNO.
- The MNO Métis Responsible Gambling Committee continues to meet regularly.



You give me confidence that I can be a good mom."

MNO MÉTIS HEALTHY BABIES HEALTHY CHILDREN CLIENT

#### TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Healing and Wellness program and project-specific agreements enable on-going professional development opportunities for front-line community workers. In 2013-2014, three in-person training sessions were held. Training sessions delivered in 2013-2014 include:

#### MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID FOR ADULTS WHO INTERACT WITH YOUTH

This course offered on March 18-19, 2014 by Mental Health First Aid Canada and the Mental Health Commission of Canada was designed to be sensitive to the unique aspects of mental health problems in young people. It assists education professionals, health providers, parents and other adults in the identification of mental health problems and appropriate first aid intervention strategies.

Mental health problems often first develop during adolescence or early adulthood, with half of all mental disorders beginning by age 14, and 75 percent beginning by age 24. The training focused on mental health problems and first aid for youth aged 12 to 24. Most mental disorders develop gradually. The early signs and symptoms of developing mental health problems are different from the more established clinical profiles that are reflected later in life. The social, educational and family environments in which mental disorders occur in young people are also different from those later in life.

The following mental health problems were covered:

- Mood disorders
- Anxiety disorders
- Psychosis
- Substance Use Disorder
- Eating disorders
- Deliberate self-injury

The following mental health crisis situations were covered:

- Suicidal behaviour
- Overdoses
- · Panic attacks
- Reactions to traumatic events
- Psychotic episodes

#### MNO TELE-PSYCHIATRY PROGRAM

Held on March 20, 2014, Healing and Wellness Branch staff provided input into a MNO Mental Health Needs Assessment. The session began with a presentation by Providence Care. Murray Hillier provided an overview of Providence Care/MNO's Tele-psychiatry services as well as how the MNO is leading this type of service in the province. Groups presented their issues and barriers and fed into a larger strategic planning session for the Healing and Wellness Branch in terms of its MNO Mental Health Strategy.

#### PERSONAL TRAUMA AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

In the second year of a two-year funding agreement with the Ontario Women's Directorate, the MNO led the delivery of Sexual Violence Training for Aboriginal caucus to the Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women on February 4-6, 2014.



What I liked best about the workshop were the topics and the participation activities, and the actual interventions we witnessed left no room for second guessing the methods."

PERSONAL TRAUMA AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE WORKSHOP TRAINEE

#### CHRONIC DISEASE SURVEILLANCE TRAINING - KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION

An all-day training session was held in Ottawa on August 23 that provided a variety of learning activities related to chronic disease in Métis communities.

- · Participants had the opportunity to visit the 'Sharing Best Practices Café' where they learned about unique tools and resources from other Métis health workers.
- A case study exercise explored a composite patient who experienced very difficult health episodes related to the lack of a continuum of care. This led to a discussion on what could be done to improve the continuum of care for their community members.
- · Participants identified short/medium/long term goals related to chronic disease and applied a change management approach to planning the implementation of one goal.

#### **POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

#### JOINT WORKING GROUP TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN

In 2013-2014, the MNO participated in the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Violence Against Aboriginal Women (VAAW) with 10 provincial Ministries and four other Aboriginal partners. The Aboriginal caucus of the Joint Working Group has been in discussion to formalize its relations and to develop priorities to shape the direction of the Joint Working Group. Achievements this year include:

- · The Joint Working Group and its ministry membership and mandate has been fully endorsed by the Government of Ontario. The entrenchment of this Strategic Framework to End Violence policy will help ensure a "whole of government' approach to addressing violence against Aboriginal women and girls (this government commitment was announced at a meeting of Assistant Deputy Ministers from ministries and the Aboriginal caucus on January 15, 2014).
- The development and submission of a multi-year proposal by the Aboriginal Caucus of the Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women to the Ontario Women's Directorate (and a subsequent commitment of two million dollars over two years in provincial budget for VAAW).
- A progress report on the Joint Working Group work was developed and presented to the two lead Ministers and to the Aboriginal leadership in the fall of 2013.

- The MNO continued to support the development of research proposals on human trafficking as a member of the sub-committee on human trafficking;
- As a result of continued advocacy, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs has begun engaging with the Aboriginal caucus members in its inter-governmental work on ending violence against women and girls and related issues.
- MNO Healing and Wellness staff facilitated specific community events throughout 2013-2014 focused on violence against women and/or victim services in all of its delivery sites.
- The MNO continues to access funding for Victim Services through the Ministry of the Attorney General as a result of its work on the Joint Working Group.

#### ABORIGINAL SEXUAL VIOLENCE COMMUNITY RESPONSE INITIATIVE

The MNO Aboriginal Sexual Violence Community Response Initiative is a project aimed to increased community capacity to address sexual violence against women by developing locally driven intervention strategies in Thunder Bay. This project is funded by the Ontario Women's Directorate and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres is the 'flow-through' agency for the MNO project and four other community-based projects.

#### CHILDREN AND YOUTH

In June 2013, a leadership roundtable was held which included the Ministers of Children and Youth Services and Aboriginal Affairs and the MNO and other Aboriginal groups. At the roundtable a joint commitment was to work together to improve outcomes for Métis, First Nations, Inuit and urban Aboriginal children and youth and an18-month engagement process leading to the creation of a strategy was officially launched.

#### Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy

- The strategy is envisaged to build upon previous work including that of the MNO and others; and is
  intended transform the way in which service supports for Aboriginal children and youth are designed and
  delivered.
- The proposed vision is "an Ontario where Aboriginal children and youth enjoy more opportunities to succeed and reach their full potential and where Aboriginal communities and organizations take a lead in the decision-making, care, and support of their children and youth".
- The MNO is participating in a technical table to development the Métis, Inuit and urban Aboriginal components of the strategy.
- The MNO, Ontario Native Women's Association and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship
  Centres are working collaboratively on a joint submission identifying principles and priorities from urban
  Aboriginal and Métis perspectives.
- The MNO has created opportunities for Métis community-specific dialogue on the subject matters under review (such as the MNO Youth Council meeting in February 2014 and the MNO March Break Camp in March 2014).
- Quarterly meetings with Assistant Deputy Ministers of Ministry of Children and Youth Services continue to take place with the MNO Chief Operating Officer and other leaders.

#### **Child and Family Services**

On September 10, 2013 the MNO President wrote to the Minister of Children and Youth Services in regards to the periodic review of Ontario's Child and Family Services Act (CFSA), which is required by 2015. He requested that the government take all necessary steps to ensure formal, meaningful engagement of the MNO in the 2015 review process.

The letter stated "the MNO views the five-year review of the Act as an important opportunity to bring forward and enact some overdue and necessary amendments to the CFSA, and to address issues with respect to children's aid societies' and other service providers' compliance in their practices."

The formal engagement of the MNO in the review process has also been raised at the level of the Deputy Minister of Children and Youth Services. It is anticipated that the Ministry will take efforts to ensure inclusion of the MNO in the review process scheduled for 2015. The MNO will continue to provide 'real life' case studies demonstrating a range of issues and challenges in terms of the status quo of child and family service provision in Ontario.



MNO Healing and Wellness merchandise created to promote healthy living.

#### LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEM INTEGRATION ACT REVIEW

The Local Health System Integration Act, 2006 (LHSIA), which is the legislation that the Local Health Integration Networks are governed by, is under review by the Government of Ontario. During this process the Standing Committee on Social Policy is reviewing LHINs' decision-making processes and accountability; the extent to which LHINs have fulfilled their obligations under the Act; and recommendations of the Drummond Report – a report that advises the government on reform of Ontario's public services.

The MNO was invited to submit a position paper to the Standing Committee in February 2014. Its submission addressed a number of challenges that Métis individuals, families and communities face within the current health care system in Ontario. Some are associated with the unique cultural, demographic and geographic characteristics of the Ontario Métis population itself – a largely rural and widely dispersed population – while others have to do with the way in which the provincial health service delivery system has evolved over the past several years since the introduction of the LHINs, and what this has meant for the Métis community as a whole.

Key challenges articulated in the MNO paper include: recognition of the Métis presence and reality in Ontario; increasingly regionalized mechanisms for consultation, engagement and funding of First Nations, Métis and Inuit health services; and the need for better health system planning and performance measurement. Recommendations to address these largely systemic challenges include that:

- 1. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care work with the MNO to establish a formal mechanism to incorporate the perspectives and address the pressing health needs of the Métis in planning provincial health services and programming.
- The Government immediately amend the Local Health System Integration Act, 2006 (LHSIA) to explicitly
  replace the current use of "First Nations and Aboriginal peoples"/"Aboriginal and First Nations" with the
  appropriate "First Nations, Inuit and Métis" terminology.
- 3. The Métis Nation of Ontario be formally involved in, and appropriately and fully consulted, in all health planning processes that will impact Métis health and well-being.
- 4. In developing and monitoring the ministry's performance expectations and obligations of the LHINs, specific performance indicators and associated targets related to the health of Métis populations in Ontario be included and tracked through the LHINs regular quarterly reporting to the ministry, and that the MNO be consulted by the ministry when such performance indicators are being established.
- 5. Decision-making related to support and funding eligibility for programming and services for First Nations, Inuit and Métis be reviewed, and where necessary, revised to take full account of the centralized governance structure and service delivery model of the MNO in its role as governing body and recognized representative of the Métis people of Ontario.
- 6. That a continuous quality improvement approach be taken to both amending the LHSIA and to designing and delivering programs and services through the LHINs, based on quality dimensions that foster health system equity, responsiveness, integration and continuity of care, safety (including cultural safety) appropriateness (including cultural appropriateness), efficiency and access.



MNO was recognized for its excellnce in service delivery in the report entitled Canada's most vulnerable: Improving health care for First Nations, Inuit and Métis seniors.



Without the CSS worker I would never get to my medical appointments."

MNO COMMUNITY SERVICE SUPPORT CLIENT

#### RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

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

Increasingly, research on the Métis populations of Ontario – much of which is led by the MNO, in collaboration with its government and university partners – highlights the very real health challenges faced by Métis individuals, families and communities in this province.

Funder: Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

Number of Staff: 3

Staff located in: Ottawa



Prevalence of asthma and COPD were 30 per cent and 70 per cent higher, respectively, in the Métis compared to the general Ontario population.

#### CHRONIC DISEASE SURVEILLANCE (CDS) PROGRAM

The MNO Chronic Disease Surveillance (CDS) program conducts population-based studies to determine the prevalence of chronic disease rates among Métis. It uses various health administrative databases cross-referenced with data from the MNO citizen registry through the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences (ICES). Studies completed to date have focused on diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease and respiratory disease rates, treatment, and outcomes of care. Additional studies to assess prevalence and incidence of renal and musculoskeletal diseases were undertaken in 2013-2014

#### Research Outcomes:

In March 2014 the MNO followed up its landmark series of studies on cancer, diabetes, respiratory and cardiovascular diseases with a new study that like previous studies linked the MNO Citizenship Registry to provincial health administrative databases. The news study measured and compared the burden of asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) between the Métis and non-Métis populations of Ontario between 2009 and 2012. The study found:

- Prevalence of asthma and COPD were 30 per cent and 70 per cent higher, respectively, in the Métis compared to the general Ontario population.
- · General physician and specialist ambulatory care visits were significantly lower in Métis with asthma. Specialist visits for COPD were also lower.
- Emergency department visits and hospitalizations were generally higher for Métis compared to non-Métis with either disease.
- All-cause mortality in Metis with COPD was 1.3 times higher compared to non-Metis with COPD.

#### Other research initiatives

#### Métis Cancer Journey Project

On December 4 and 5, 2013, eight Métis Citizens from across the province who have experienced cancer gathered together in Ottawa to share their experiences in navigating the Ontario cancer care system; what they encountered, what it felt like for them and their families; and to identify ways in which health care providers might improve the cancer journey for Métis families in Ontario.

Hosted by the MNO with financial support of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, the project is part of a broader Canada wide initiative that aims to better understand issues for Métis cancer patients, in order to bring about to improvements to the design and planning of effective cancer control programs.

Barriers to access identified by participants included:

- Insufficient information about treatment options.
- Lack of access to treatment and services locally.
- Frequent and often lengthy travel required to access essential care and services.
- Prohibitive costs of drugs and treatments for those who do not have private health insurance.
- · Lack of Métis-cultural supports within the provincial health care system.



The results of this study are disturbing and highlight some of the key health challenges facing the Métis people of Ontario. They also provide important direction for much needed policy and programming interventions to reduce the unacceptably high rates of asthma and COPD among our Métis citizens."

MNO PRESIDENT GARY LIPINSKI



### Healthy Weights Connection has been identified as a valuable community resource; an important leader in the health sector."

FOOD PARTNERS ALLIANCE OF SIMCOE COUNTY.

#### Healthy Weights Connection

The MNO is a partner in the Healthy Weights Connection, which is a Western University led project funded through the Public Health Agency of Canada. The project is innovative due to its focus on local health and wellness systems, rather than individual programs. It aims to improve how the local health and wellness systems serve Aboriginal children and youth by facilitating collaborations among agencies acting at multiple levels within the system who provide programming to families and children; affecting neighborhoods, schools and communities.

Through the project, the MNO will facilitate panels of parents and caregivers in order to understand the services and facilities that are available to Métis in Midland, and the barriers and supports for access, from the perspective of community members themselves. By maintaining community panels over the length of the project (to 2016), it will assist with understanding how they may perceive changed in the services available in the community. The data collection will be mixed-method, making use of surveys to collect baseline and follow-up data, and in-depth facilitated focus groups to understand perceptions and processes.

#### MNO research on mental health

A study has been completed with research partners from the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) under the auspices of the Chronic Disease Surveillance project. It assesses the feasibility of linking the MNO Registry with administrative data for assessing prevalence and incidence of different mental health and addictions conditions among the Métis on Ontario. This initial research used a subsample of the Registry data potentially available for this surveillance work.

Results from this initial study showed that this approach is both feasible and useful for a more comprehensive analysis using the full Registry data set. The MNO subsequently entered into an agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to undertake a study on Métis Mental Health in 2014-2015. The specific project objectives are aligned with the broader Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Strategy. The project recognizes the lack of data on the mental health status of the Métis population in Ontario and will address those gaps, thereby providing the much-needed foundation of knowledge and evidence upon which to build more effective policy and programming.

This collaborative project is being carried out by a team of researchers from the MNO and from the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) with assistance from partners at the University of Toronto, Cancer Care Ontario and Queen's University.

#### Relevant Presentations in 2013-2014

Innovative Approaches to Mapping Local Public Health Systems Serving Aboriginal Peoples, has been accepted for presentation at Canadian Public Health Association Conference - 2014 in Population Health Assessment on May 29, 2014.

#### Publications / Articles in 2013-2014

The MNO and ICES research partners have actively disseminated the research findings in peer-reviewed publications in fiscal year 2013-2014:

- · Allard, Y. et al. (2013) Burden of chronic respiratory disease in the Métis population of Ontario. Published Abstracts and Conference Proceedings. CPHA Conference 2013.
- Klein-Gelnick, J. (2013) Cancer incidence and screening in the Métis population of Ontario. Published Abstracts and Conference Proceedings. CPHA 2013 Conference.
- Pigeau, L. (2013) Mental illness and addictions in the Métis population of Ontario. Published Abstracts and Conference Proceedings. CPHA 2013 Conference.
- Russell, S.J. et al. (2013) Understanding and Enhancing Métis Public Health Using Participatory Action Research Approaches. Published Abstracts and Conference Proceedings. CPHA 2013 Conference.









- 01: Nick Allard is in a Métis success story. He is one example of one young MNO citizen who has experienced firsthand the benefits of MNO's education and training programs.
- 02: MNO President Gary Lipinksi (left) and MNO Director of Education and Training Jennifer St. Germain (right) met with Honourable Brad Duguid, who was at the time Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities on May 30.
- 03: Participants of the 2013 MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program.
- **04:** Participants of a moccasin workshop hosted by MNO Infinite Reach Facilitors for the University of Ottawa and Carleton University.

### **MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO**

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING

he Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Education and Training Branch is driven by the priorities of the MNO's *Statement of Prime Purpose* and is committed to the strategic goal of healthy, thriving individuals, families and communities. It offers a full range of skills development, employment and educational initiatives to Métis people across Ontario. The MNO has been delivering employment and training services and supports through the branch since 1996 when it first created its ongoing 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 has implemented a number of new programs and services to support Métis on their path to education and employment. Programs and services are accessible through a community-based province wide one stop delivery network. A large percentage of operations focus on direct employment and training client service delivery, however, the scope and delivery parameters vary depending on funding mandates.

MNO's employment and training services are funded by 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 its program policies, reporting systems and assessment procedures. While the MNO was one of the only ASETS funded agencies across Canada to witness an increase in its yearly funding amount, 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

The MNO provides a range of culturally appropriate programs and services that include career counselling, employment readiness training, wage subsidies, apprenticeship support and mobility assistance in nine regions throughout the province. In this way, the MNO helps Métis acquire the skills they need 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:

- A March break camp was held in Mattawa, Ontario to bring together high school students with MNO Infinite Reach post-secondary role models to identify pathways to education and employment.
- The MNO has hired employment developers in Hamilton, Thunder Bay, Owen Sound and Bancroft. These positions will focus on linking training to meaningful employment opportunities.
- The MNO received additional funding through Canada Summer Jobs to hire Métis students in Toronto, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay and Midland and leveraged ASETS youth program dollars to enhance the staff compliment. This funding allowed MNO to deliver a Métis cultural summer student program in several locations across Ontario and actively participate in displaying cultural activities during the Annual General Assembly (AGA).

# FROM THE MNO STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE

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

#### **BRANCH DETAILS**

Number of Staff: 40

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

Funder: Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) Government of Canada

Number of Staff: 24

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

**Eligible Clientele:** Selfidentified Métis in Ontario who are unemployed or underemployed

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



MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator orientation session held at the University of Ottawa from Septermber 13 - 15, 2013.

MNO President Gary Lipinski participating in the opening of the new Faculty of Law at Lakehead University. (Left to right) Minister Michael Gravelle, President Lipinski, Premier Kathleen Wynne, Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy, and Minister Bill Mauro.



- An inter-branch collaboration training session was held near Barrie, Ontario to facilitate connectivity between MNO branches and improve service delivery to Métis people.
- MNO accessed funding through Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) to hold three Métis "Youth Ready to Work" sessions. These allowed youth to explore and address barriers to employment and provide recommendations on engaging youth.
- A series of youth and client success story videos were produced to illustrate the successes being achieved by the programs and more importantly by the hard work of Métis people across Ontario.
- A comprehensive program evaluation was conducted that highlighted the strengths of MNO's delivery and identified recommendations for further growth and enhancement.



MNO ASETS clients increased from 962 to 1531.



Our organization partnered with MNO for labour market initiatives because they are experts in their field...they also bring a unique knowledge about Métis history, culture and perspectives - that quite simply doesn't exist anywhere else."

ASETS EMPLOYER









While the number of clients the MNO has served through ASETS has increased significantly ever year – funding has remained the same ever year. MNO has established a relationship of trust, respect, professionalism and dependability. I've often commented and have also heard this from others that regardless of the demands of everyone's busy work schedules - you can always count on MNO staff."

ASETS EMPLOYER









- 01: MNO Chair France Picotte and Northern College President Fredd Gibbons after signing the Memorandum of Understanding on December 6.
- **02:** Some of the Algoma University students who received the MNO Bursary on January 15.
- 03: Participants of the MNO Métis Ready to Work workshop held on Novermber 16 in Toronto.
- 04: To highlight the success of some of the Métis who have taken advantage of the MNO's offerings, the MNO produced a series of videos highlighting these individuals in such fields of trades, health care, aviation, tourism, post-secondary education and administration.

Métis youth who attended the 2013 MNO AGA.



The 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) marked a significant milestone for the MNO as it celebrated its' 20th Anniversary and the 10th anniversary of the historic Powley decision. From August 23 to 26, over 300 MNO citizens from across Ontario gathered in Ottawa to acknowledge two decades of achievement. The 2013 AGA brought together 29 youth from across the province; this was the largest youth representation ever at a MNO AGA. The MNO had placed a high priority on children and youth and called upon all citizens to explore strategies to assist youth to be the best they can be. These youth ranging in ages (18-29) were encouraged to be positive role models to their peers and to play an important role in the lives of younger Métis youth. In addition to the youth engagement session, AGA youth participants took part in a "Learn from our Elders" initiative which aimed at strengthening the knowledge and self-confidence of Métis youth to speak out and create change within themselves and in their communities. The gathering encouraged young people and Elders to pursue the great task of maintaining traditional Métis history, culture, values and practices. Métis youth learned the political and cultural values of the Métis Nation through formal and informal activities. Youth inclusion in these activities is imperative to promote a transfer of knowledge and wisdom and encourage youth to move forward with confidence and a sense of pride.

#### MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AGREEMENT

The MNO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Education in 2008, which established the basis for cooperation between the MNO and the Ministry. The MOU provides for ongoing meetings between MNO and Ministry officials that identifies 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 school district boards and MNO community councils.

#### Recent notable achievements:

- MNO increased outreach to Métis students, parents, teachers, and district school boards including French school boards.
- Métis language speakers came together to explore opportunities to expand language retention and a Michif booklet was produced. Videos were also posted to the MNO website.
- Further improvements were made to the Métis Education Kits, with new resources and additional supports added. The new timeline banners are being distributed to MNO offices.

**Funder:** Ministry of Education, Government of Ontario

#### Number of Staff: 4

(responsibilities shared with staff hired under Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Agreement)

**Staff located in:** Fort Frances, Thunder Bay, Ottawa, and Timmins

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

- Métis representatives from school board and College and University Aboriginal Education Councils were gathered in Toronto in February 2013.
- In March 2013, the third MNO Reach March break camp was held at the Canadian Ecology Center, Mattawa. The camp attracted 18 students from 10 different communities along with Infinite Reach facilitators
- MNO and the Ministry of Education are working on renewing the MOU and have embarked on a three year work plan agreement.



The MNO helped with [my] barriers – [as a] mother of five, options [the MNO provided] with children [were] vital."

MNO EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING CLIENT

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

Number of Staff: 2 (shared with Ministry of Education Agreement)

Staff located in: Ottawa

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



MNO Infinite Reach facilitators have now been trained to engage incoming Métis students at the college or university and provide support by connecting new Métis students to available student services, Métis cultural events, and MNO Community Councils.

#### MINISTRY OF TRAINING, **COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AGREEMENT**

The MNO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities in 2010, which established the basis for cooperation between the MNO and the Ministry. The MOU provides for ongoing meetings between MNO and Ministry officials that will identify areas for future cooperation. The Ministry provides funding for the MNO to enhance its educational capacity, advance several initiatives including: the MNO Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network; establishing MOUs and similar agreements with Ontario postsecondary institutions, developing resources and engaging students and educational partners and for research and development.

#### Recent notable achievements:

- The MNO Infinite Reach student program continues to grow. Specific projects have included Infinite Reach resource materials such as posters, email distribution lists, manuals and a section on the MNO's website.
- A total of 27 MNO Infinite Reach facilitators have now been trained to engage incoming Métis students at the college or university and provide support by connecting new Métis students to available student services, Métis cultural events, and MNO Community Councils.
- An evaluation of the MNO Infinite Reach program was undertaken providing key feedback and recommendations for program growth and enhancement.
- An MNO Infinite Reach facilitator session was held in Ottawa in September 2013.
- Sharing circles were held with Conestoga College, Wilfred Laurier University, and follow up with Lakehead University, Confederation College and Algoma University.
- Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Northern College.
- · Additional bursary investments were created at McMaster, Wilfred Laurier, Waterloo and Guelph Universities as well as at Durham College.
- MNO and the Ministry of Education are working on renewing the MOU and have embarked on a three year work plan agreement.

The 2013 Summer Youth Cultural Program Interpreters during training at Old Fort William.



The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Métis Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) is a community based initiative comprised of Métis students from across Ontario. This experiential learning opportunity provides youth with invaluable employability skills and offers them opportunities to share Métis culture and history programs to community groups throughout the summer. This past summer the focus of the summer project was creating greater awareness of the contributions of Métis in the War of 1812 by participating in War of 1812 events throughout the province.

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

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

#### Recent notable achievements:

- MNO developed a resource highlighting the history and contributions of Métis involvement in the War of 1812.
- Project funding assisted in acquiring resource materials and cultural displays and route information for the summer student cultural project.
- Project contributed to the War of 1812 focus of the summer student project and their participation at War of 1812 re-enactment events.

**Funder:** Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada

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

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

**Target Market:** Métis youth, Senators and the community

# MÉTIS YOUTH READY TO WORK – MÉTIS LABOUR MARKET PREPAREDNESS TRAINING IN ONTARIO COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FOR ABORIGINAL YOUTH (CCAY)

- CCAY funding provided MNO with support for the MNO Youth Council to come together for planning and priority setting sessions.
- Project involved holding three Métis youth ready to work sessions to explore employment barriers and examine strategies for greater youth engagement.
- Project equipped youth with knowledge and resources needed to remove barriers and participate in the Canadian economy.

**Funder:** Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Ontario Government

**Target Market:** Métis community across Ontario

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

MNO was invited to participate on the Urban Aboriginal Policy Table along with the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC) and Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA). The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) provided funding to support ongoing participation, policy development and research on issues impacting Urban Aboriginal peoples. The focus involved reviewing successful and socially innovative delivery models and engagement on current provincial policy issues.

#### Recent notable achievements:

- · MNO developed case studies on the MNO Infinite Reach Student Network and Employment Delivery model.
- MNO produced an inventory on education to employment policies and programs offered by the provincial government.
- MNO worked with OFIFC and ONWA to identify key policy issues for further research and engagement.
- Project contributed to the War of 1812 focus of the summer student project and their participation at War of 1812 re-enactment events.



The MNO helped me keep confident throughout [the time I was] unemployed. I was constantly being rejected [while] taking a [education] program. MNO would touch base, they would provide support to help me, and help me not to take it so personally. MNO helped me be confident to keep trying and keep applying."

MNO EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING CLIENT

Living with a physical disability, I was worried about taking time off due to disability; working with the MNO they gave me the support and encouragement all the time."

MNO EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING CLIENT



Jonathon Dean was featured in a MNO success story video about the MNO Navigating Employment Pathways (NEP) program. After graduating from NEP Dean went on to a successful career in the hotel industry.

#### **NAVIGATING EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS (NEP)**

Building on the success of the Ready to Work Tourism and Hospitality Program, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) launched the Navigating Employment Pathways Program (NEP), funded in part by the Government of Canada. The program is a partnership between the MNO and the Ontario Tourism Education Corporation (OTEC) and focuses on development employer partnerships at a local level.

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

The program is comprised of two training components. The first is 10 weeks of classroom training where participants may gain certifications in Workplace Essentials, Service Excellence, Food Safety, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) and Smart Serve. Participants utilize the skills from the in class training then apply them on the job during a paid work placement. During the work placement, participants will begin to accumulate hours towards the second step of the Emerit National Professional Certification Process, moving them toward becoming a Tourism Certified Professional.

#### Recent notable achievements:

- · As of March 31, there were 230 participants registered in the project and 111 participants were employed.
- Participants completed the following certifications:
  - o 167 Tourism Essentials
  - o 194 Service Excellence
  - o 176 Food Safety
  - o 187 WHMIS
  - o 127 Smart Serve
  - o 79 Emerit (session 5 statistics not yet available)

Funder: Service Canada -Strategic Partnership Fund, Government of Canada

Number of Staff: 7

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

Eligible Clientele: Selfidentified Métis and other Aboriginal people



There were 230 participants registered in NEP and 111 participants (48%) had found employment.



- 01: Participants and MNO staff at MNO Métis Ready to Work workshop in January 2014.
- 02: MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program students and MNO Community Council members carry the torch for the Sprint World Canoe Championships.
- 03: MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program students teaching traditional Métis dancing.
- 04: MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators Sahra MacLean and Tegan Mandeville at a moccasin making workshop at Carleton University.









MNO helped with juggling barriers and the stress that comes with it."

**ASETS CLIENT** 

#### **MÉTIS MINING STRATEGY (MMS)**

The mining sector is providing growing opportunities in Ontario to Métis and other Aboriginal peoples who have historically been underrepresented in the labour force. The Métis Mining Strategy (MMS) is focused on providing skills development and placement opportunities for Métis to become employed in the mining sector. MNO is building partnerships with industry partners, mining companies, and post-secondary institutions to offer guidance and support to project implementation. The project offers assistance through direct funding opportunities as long as the skills development leads towards a career in mining and meets program criteria. Partners seeking qualified candidate receive clients' resumes to fill open positions. Funding will be available for the project until March 2015.

Funder: Service Canada -Strategic Partnership Fund, Government of Canada

Number of Staff: 3

Diamond Driller's Helper

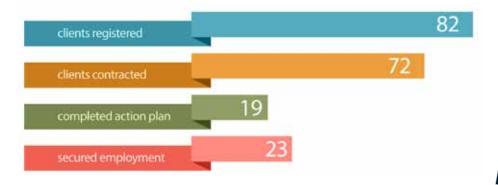
Canada

Staff located in: Toronto, Thunder Bay and Sudbury

Eligible Clientele: Selfidentified Métis and other Aboriginal people

#### Recent notable achievements:

- · As of March 31, there were: 82 clients registered, 72 clients contracted, 19 completed their action plan and 23 secured employment.
- Clients are received employment in high competitive careers such as heavy equipment operator.
- A client received a co-op position with Goldcorp as an environmental technician.



As of March 31, 2014, there were: 82 clients registered in the MNO Métis Mining Strategy, 72 clients contracted, 19 completed their action plan and 23 had secured employment.



The MNO's first television commercial featured MNO Métis Mining Strategy participant Denis St. Pierre. received training to become a heavy equipment operator.



If it wasn't for the MNO, I wouldn't be where I am today."

MNO EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING CLIENT

### MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# LANDS, RESOURCES AND CONSULTATIONS

FROM THE
MNO STATEMENT OF
PRIME PURPOSE

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

#### **BRANCH DETAILS**

Number of Staff: 16

Staff located in: Fort Frances, Guelph, Midland, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Toronto and Welland he Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch serves as a centre of excellence for the provision of technical expertise related to Métis rights, the Métis Way of Life (WOLF), environmental impacts, policies and regulations, and resource-related developments. MNO's LRC staff provides critical capacity support to Métis communities across Ontario with a view to ensuring that the Crown's legal Duty to Consult and Accommodate is met.

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

- Serve as the centre of excellence and expertise for the MNO with respect to all matters concerning the Duty to Consult.
- Be a "one-window" contact for MNO consultation.
- Triage, review, assess and prioritize incoming requests for consultation and technical documents to identify
  an acceptable level of MNO involvement and engagement in project development, municipal planning,
  mining, forestry, energy and government policy development.
- Effectively manage MNO involvement in major project assessments.
- Convene regional workshops and/or provincial conferences to educate and train MNO citizens on consultation, assessment and accommodation issues.
- Initiate and carry-out MNO Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Studies.

The MNO Lakehead / Nipigon / Michipicoten Consultation Commitee touring the Ontario Power Generation proposed site for Little Jackfish River
Hydro Electric project.



## NEW RELATIONSHIP FUND (NRF) CORE AND ENHANCED CAPACITY FUNDING

The main 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 they can better engage with governments and the private sector on lands and resource related issues. Through NRF funding, the MNO has developed multi-year consultation plans, trained staff, conducted Traditional Knowledge and Métis Way of Life studies, gatherings, interviews and related activities and also developed a large number of communications related resources.

#### Recent notable achievements:

- As the charts indicate, the number of consultation notices processed this year by the MNO remained consistent with the number processed during the previous year.
- In 2013-14, over \$1.3 million was leveraged for consultation support through the establishment of new funding agreements; eight of which were negotiated with industry proponents and four with the federal government (see "Additional funding" and "WOLF" sections which follow). Above and beyond this, an additional \$70,000 was leveraged for general consultation meetings between Regional Consultation Committees and proponents without any formal funding agreements.
- During 2013-14, the MNO placed particular emphasis on the implementation of MOU deliverables going back to 2009.
- Approximately, 3,000 project notices were processed and disseminated to their respective Regional Consultation Committees.
- The MNO submitted over 170 comments, reports, letters and/or briefings pertaining to active projects within the province.
- The MNO held over 160 meetings with various resource sector proponents and government agencies.
- The MNO delivered training on the following subject matters:
  - o Inter-branch collaboration, effective communications and consultations, valued ecosystem components, community events planning and project prioritization for the nine Regional Consultation Committees.
- Traditional knowledge collection training sessions were conducted.
- The LRC Branch has developed regionally based project priority lists that will be updated quarterly so as
  to ensure that the Regional Consultation Committees and the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO)
  may monitor the level of activity, achievements and priorities that face the MNO on a regular and timely
  basis.

**Funder:** Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Government of Ontario

Number of Staff: 12

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

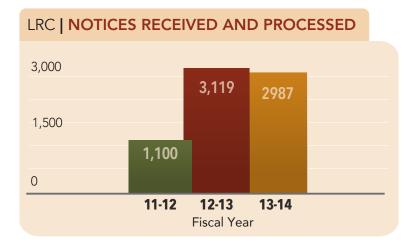
Eligible Clientele: MNO Community Councils and PCMNO Regional Councillors

3,000

Approximately, 3,000 project notices were processed and disseminated to their respective Regional Consultation Committees.

160

The MNO held over 160 meetings with various resource sector proponents and government agencies.





Note on (*left*) graph: The spike in 2011-2012 can be attributed to the Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) with Detour Gold. In 2013-2014, the LRC Branch delivered on commitments via implementation on previously established agreements. Project backlogs dating back as far as 2009 was cleared up during 2013-2014.

Funder: Government of Canada (various departments including, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency [CEAA]); Nuclear Waste Management Organization (Aboriginal Resource Relations Program); Ontario Power Authority, Prodigy, New Gold, NextEra, NextBridge and TransCanada)

**Number of Staff:** See NRF funding (previous section)

**Staff located in:** See NRF funding (previous section)

**Eligible Clientele:** MNO Community Councils and PCMNO Regional Councillors

## ADDITIONAL FUNDING OBTAINED TO SUPPORT CORE CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES:

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

This funding can be divided broadly into three (3) categories:

- 1. Federal government support to engage in consultative processes.
- 2. Proponent support to engage in consultation processes through agreements such as Memoranda of Understanding [MOUs], Letters of Agreement[LOAs] and other similar instruments:
  - Aforementioned agreements have been established with some proponents to provide support to the potentially impacted regional, rights-bearing Métis communities, such that the community can be properly consulted in order to determine the potential impacts of the project to the community's Métis rights, Métis Way of Life and interests.
  - These agreements are specific to projects that are located throughout the province and therefore different communities are involved in different MOU and related activities. These arrangements include:
    - o Nuclear Waste Management Aboriginal Resource Relations Program
    - o NextBridge Infrastructure LP.
    - o TransCanada (East Energy Pipeline Ltd)
    - o Penn Energy
    - o NextEra
    - o Prodigy Gold Inc. & Golden Goose Resources Inc.
    - o Ontario Power Authority
    - o Rainy River Resources/New Gold
- 3. Proponent support to engage in consultative processes (through direct meeting support).
  - Regardless of the proponent, direct meeting support is utilized in the same fashion: to cover the expenses
    of a Regional Consultation Committee to attend meetings with the proponent.
  - Support of this type was leveraged for over 50 meetings across the province in 2013-14.

- A MNO citizen was appointed to the Water Quality Board of the International Joint Commission.
- Opportunities were presented to the MNO to sit on various Forestry Planning Boards.
- Multiple Community Benefit Agreements are currently under negotiation with mining sector proponents located throughout the province of Ontario.
- Métis rights and interests were recognized under the Forest Stewardship Council.
- Extensive consultation plans are being developed with the TransCanada Pipeline Energy East Project, NextBridge East West Tie, and numerous other resource sector proponents.
- General Relationship Agreements are being developed with Forestry sector proponents and municipalities within the province.
- In 2013, the MNO engaged in formal international hearing concerning the storage of low to intermediate levels of radioactive waste.
- In 2013, MNO LRC staff placed emphasis on working concurrently on multiple project deliverables to deliver speedier and more effective results.
  - Delivered technical review reports for five major projects including Osikso Hammond Reef Gold Mine, Rubicon Phoenix Gold Mine, New Gold Rainy River Project, and Stillwater Marathon Mine.
     MNO is working towards establishing a long term relationship in the form of Community Benefit Agreements for each of the aforementioned projects.
  - o Historical reports are being developed for MNO Regions across the province based on existing literature and feedback received during community gatherings.
- The MNO LRC Branch underwent restructuring intended to increase efficiency in overall branch operations.
- Agreements between Regional Consultation Committees have been developed to address the allocation of Committee responsibilities where there is a shared interest in projects between particular committees.

WAY OF LIFE EDAMEWORK (WOLE)

#### WAY OF LIFE FRAMEWORK (WOLF)

The objectives of the Way of Life Framework (WOLF) are to gather Métis traditional knowledge and land use information, conduct historical research, and provide training to Métis communities on Métis rights and Way of Life. To accomplish these goals, WOLF conducts Traditional Knowledge and Land Use (TKLU) studies, conducts an annual survey of MNO harvesters, and conducts outreach and training sessions, and participates in the MNO/ Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Policy Dialogue Table.

#### Recent notable achievements:

- WOLF has carried out consultation-driven Traditional Knowledge and Land Use (TKLU) studies. Studies
  included interviews with knowledge holders, drafting reports and archiving study data. Studies continued
  and/or undertaken in 2013-14 were:
  - o Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Traditional Territories: Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Little Jackfish TKLU Study (21 knowledge holders) Completed.
  - o Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Traditional Territories: Stillwater Canada TKLU Study (21 knowledge holders) Completed.
  - o Treaty #3/Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul/Rainy River/Rainy Lake Traditional Territories: Osisko/Rubicon Minerals TKLU Study (30 knowledge holders) Completed.
  - o Georgian Bay Traditional Territory: OPG Deep Geological Repository TKLU Study (18 knowledge holders, additional focus group, community presentation) Completed.
  - o James Bay / Abitibi-Temiskamingue Traditional Territories: OPG Lower Mattagami / New Post Creek TKLU Study (20 knowledge holders). In progress, but fieldwork completed.
  - Historic Sault Ste. Marie: Bow Lake TKLU Study (17 knowledge holders) In progress, but fieldwork completed.
  - o Treaty #3/Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul/Rainy River/Rainy Lake Traditional Territories: New Gold TKLUS (21 knowledge holders) Completed.
  - o Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten and Historic Sault Ste. Marie Traditional Territories: East West Tie TKLUS. In progress.
  - o Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten, James Bay / Abitibi-Temiskamingue, and Historic Sault Ste. Marie Traditional Territories: Prodigy Gold TKLUS. In progress.
  - o Additional studies are being planned as per upcoming proponent agreements are finalized.
- The 2013 MNO Harvesters survey was completed.
- Traditional Knowledge Collection Training on Traditional Knowledge and Land Use studies (TKLUS) was delivered to a group of youth (20 participants) in March 2014.
- A Métis Way of Life presentation was provided to Métis youth at the Infinite Reach Camp in Mattawa in March.
- Working with Education and Training Branch, delivered a Métis Cultural Awareness session to the Ontario Public Service (approximately 30 participants) on September 16, 2013.
- Delivered to a Métis Governance and Way of Life presentation to Environment Canada on (approximately 20 participants) March 20, 2014.
- Delivered a Métis Governance and Way of Life presentation to the Ministry of Natural Resources (approximately 40 participants) on March 28, 2014.
- A Métis Way of Life presentation was provided to Métis youth at the Infinite Reach Facilitator Orientation Session.
- Two (2) meetings of the MNO/MNR Policy Dialogue Table were held.
- Two (2) joint MNO/MNR Captains of the Hunt (COTH)/Knowledge Holder Workshops were held.

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

**Number of Staff:** 4 of the 12 full-time staff identified under NRF

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

Eligible Clientele: MNO Community Councils and PCMNO Regional Councillors

#### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Councils operate in accordance with written Charter Agreements which play a direct role in determining the progress towards the MNO's values and will set the stage for effective self-government and economic development. Central to all of these efforts will be respecting the principles that we all agree are crucial: accountability, transparency and good governance.

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

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

- Training materials were re-drafted.
- Assisted in drafting the election notice and nomination forms and acted as Returning Officer in 12 Community Council elections.
- Facilitated Governance and Finance training for 10 Community Councils.
- Facilitated Meeting and Negotiation training for three Community Councils.
- Facilitated MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council joining the Region 8 Protocol Agreement.
- Worked with the Region 3 Community Councils to adopt a Community Council template for governance documents assisted all Community Councils in revising their documents according to that template.
- Acted in the capacity as mediator in a number of council conflicts and have successfully been able to bring the parties in dispute to resolution.
- Worked with the Registry Branch to process approximately 223 MNO citizenship verification requests.

















Some of the MNO Governance and Finance Training participants during 2013-14: 01. MNO Toronto and York Métis Council. 02. MNO Great Lakes Métis Council. 03. MNO Sunset Country Métis Council. 04. MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council 05. MNO Niagara Region Métis Council. 06. MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council. 07. MNO Oshawa and Durham Métis Council. 08. MNO Sudbury Métis Council.

#### **MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO AGENCY**

# INFINITY PROPERTY SERVICES

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

Infinity Property Services continued to pursue new contract opportunities in 2013-14 in the property management and program administration sectors by developing business proposals and maintaining good relationships with all levels of government. Furthermore, Infinity Property Services pursues housing related funding, such as capital, to build or acquire social housing units, and operating funding, for rent subsidies, for building Métis specific housing.

During 2013-14, Infinity Property Services has secured four new property management contracts with corporations in Greenstone to manage 87 social housing units. Infinity Property Services certified three staff members as Energy Auditors and commenced work delivering the Housing Assistance and Aboriginal Conservation Programs. These two new partnerships with Greensavers and The Abor Group through First Nations Engineering launched Infinity Property Services' new energy auditing business line.

3

Infinity Property Services certified three staff members as Energy Auditors and commenced work delivering the Housing Assistance and Aboriginal Conservation Programs. These two new partnerships with Greensavers and The Abor Group through First Nations Engineering launched Infinity Property Services' new energy auditing business line.

# FROM THE MNO STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE

and economic selfand economic selfsufficiency within the Métis Nation "

#### **BRANCH DETAILS**

Number of Staff: 9

**Staff located in:** Innisfil, Thunder Bay

#### **RURAL AND NATIVE HOUSING PROGRAM (RNHP)**

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

Funder: Service Canada – Administration and fee-forservice contract with Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services Corporation (OAHSC)

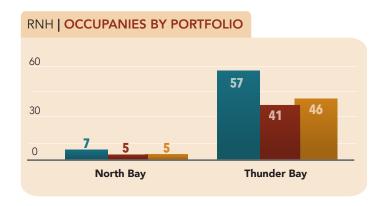
Number of Staff: 9

**Staff located in:** Innisfil, Thunder Bay

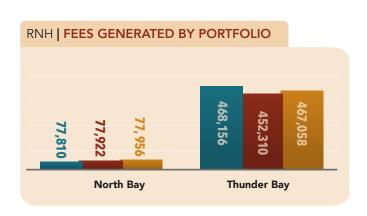
Eligible Clientele: Low income Métis, other Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal families



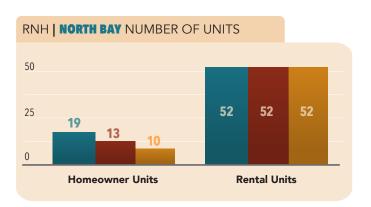
In 2012, distinct branding was developed for Infinity Property Services.

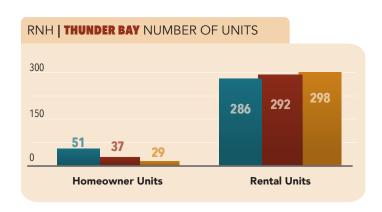


2011-12 Year



2013-14 Year





Funder: Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board – Administration and fee-for-service contract with Geraldton Native Housing Corporation (GNHC)

Number of Staff: 2

**Staff located in:** Thunder Bay

**Eligible Clientele:** Low income Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal families

#### **URBAN AND NATIVE HOUSING PROGRAM (UNHP)**

2012-13 Year

Infinity Property Services provides property management and administration for the Urban and Native Housing Program (UNHP) under a fee-for-service contract with Geraldton Native Housing Corporation (GNHC). The UNHP provides decent affordable rental housing to low-income families living in urban communities. Infinity Property Services is responsible for the Geraldton area, known as the Greenstone Portfolio.

#### ONTARIO NON-PROFIT HOUSING PROGRAM: MUNICIPAL NON-PROFIT (MNP) AND PRIVATE NON-PROFIT (PNP)

Infinity Property Services provides property management and administration for the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Program (MNP) under a fee-for-service contract with Geraldton Municipal Housing Corporation (GMHC). The MNP provides decent affordable rental housing to low-income families and singles. Infinity Property Services is responsible for the Geraldton area, known as the Greenstone Portfolio.

Infinity Property Services provides property management and administration for the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Program (PNP) under a fee-for-service contract with Chateaulac Housing Incorporated (CHI). The PNP provides decent affordable rental housing to low-income seniors and market rent tenants. Infinity Property Services is responsible for the Longlac area, which is part of the Greenstone Portfolio.

Infinity Property Services provides property management and administration for the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Program (PNP) under a fee-for-service contract with Kenogamisis Non-Profit Housing Corporation (KNPHC). The PNP provides dedicated supportive rental housing to low-income singles with developmental and physical challenges. In order to facilitate the assistance with the tenant's special needs, a third party agreement is in place with Superior Greenstone Association for Community Living. Infinity Property Services is responsible for the Geraldton area, which is part of the Greenstone Portfolio.

Funder: Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board – Administration and fee-for-service contract with Geraldton Municipal Housing Corporation (GMHC)

Number of Staff: 2

**Staff located in:** Thunder Bay

**Eligible Clientele:** Low income singles, families, Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal families

Funder: Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board – Administration and fee-for-service contract with Chateaulac Housing Incorporated (CHI)

Number of Staff: 2

Staff located in: Thunder Bay

#### Recent notable achievements:

As of April 1, 2014 the MNO through its agent, Infinity Property Services manages 517 rental units and 34 homeowner unit subsidies. Infinity Property Services' successes include:

- Generation of \$771,686 of income for the MNO in 2013-14.
- Provision of affordable housing for 551 families, single and seniors.

Provision of affordable housing for 551 families, single and seniors.

Funder: Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board – Administration and fee-for-service contract with Chateaulac Housing Incorporated (CHI)

Number of Staff: 2

**Staff located in:** Thunder Bay

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

Number of Staff: 4

**Staff located in:**Innisfil, Thunder Bay

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



Infinity Property Services delivered the second full 12-month funding allocation of \$750,000 in 2013-14 on time and commited the entire allocation of \$1.5 million for repairs to remote homes in Northern Ontario in less than two years.

#### **ONTARIO RENOVATES - REMOTE (ORR)**

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

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

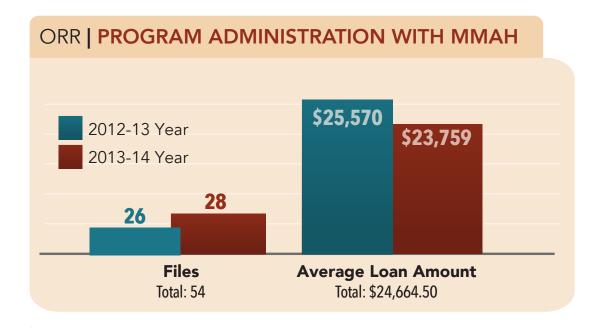
Infinity Property Services approved and funded repairs and accessible upgrades in the following areas:

- Thunder Bay
- Muskoka
- Rainy River
- Parry Sound
- Kenora

- Nipissing
- Algoma
- Haliburton County
- Cochrane
- Simcoe

#### Recent notable achievements:

- Infinity Property Services delivered the second full 12-month funding allocation of \$750,000 in 2013-14 on time and committed the entire allocation of \$1.5 million for repairs to remote homes in Northern Ontario in less than two years.
- Infinity Property Services received \$74,750 from Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) for administration of the program on behalf of MMAH and the province of Ontario.
- Since the execution of the agreement with MMAH, Infinity Property Services has assisted applicants in repairing and modifying their homes.



The reason for the reduction in the average size of individual loans is because the effort was made to provide support for a larger number of applicants and thus fund more repair projects. As the number of projects increased the average amount of each loan decreased.

#### **HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HAP)**

The Housing Assistance Program (HAP) is a home assistance program aimed at improving energy efficiency promoted through participating local utilities. This involves a detailed in-home energy audit performed by an Infinity Property Services certified inspector. Our experts will also provide energy saving tips to the tenant/homeowner as well as installing new energy saving upgrades.

#### Recent notable achievements:

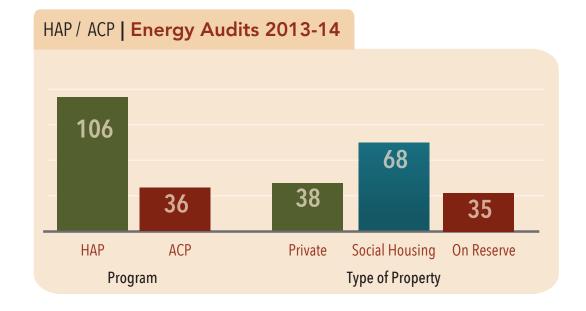
- From August 2013 to March 2014, there were 106 Energy Audits completed.
- Units inspected included social housing rentals and private market homes.
- Communities serviced included Marathon, Schreiber, Nipigon, Terrace Bay, Longlac, Nakina, Red Rock, Beardmore, Crozier, Emo, Rainy River, Keewation, Oxdrift, Barclay, Kenora, Minaki, Red Lake, Sioux Lookout, Sioux Narrows, Armstrong, Dryden, Wabigoon and Fort Frances.

#### **ABORIGINAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ACP)**

The Aboriginal Conservation Program (ACP) is a home assistance program aimed at improving energy efficiency in on-reserve homes promoted through an Aboriginal Service agent. This involves a detailed in-home energy audit performed by an Infinity Property Services certified inspector. Our experts will also provide energy saving tips to the tenant/homeowner as well as installing new energy saving upgrades.

#### Recent notable achievements:

- From November 2013 to March 2014, there were 35 Energy Audits completed.
- Units inspected included social housing rentals and private market homes.
- · Communities serviced included Michipicoten and Heron Bay.



Funder: Ontario Power Authority (OPA), Greensavers

Number of Staff: 3

Staff located in: Thunder Bay

Eligible Clientele: Métis, other Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people with low incomes and homes requiring basic energy efficiency upgrades



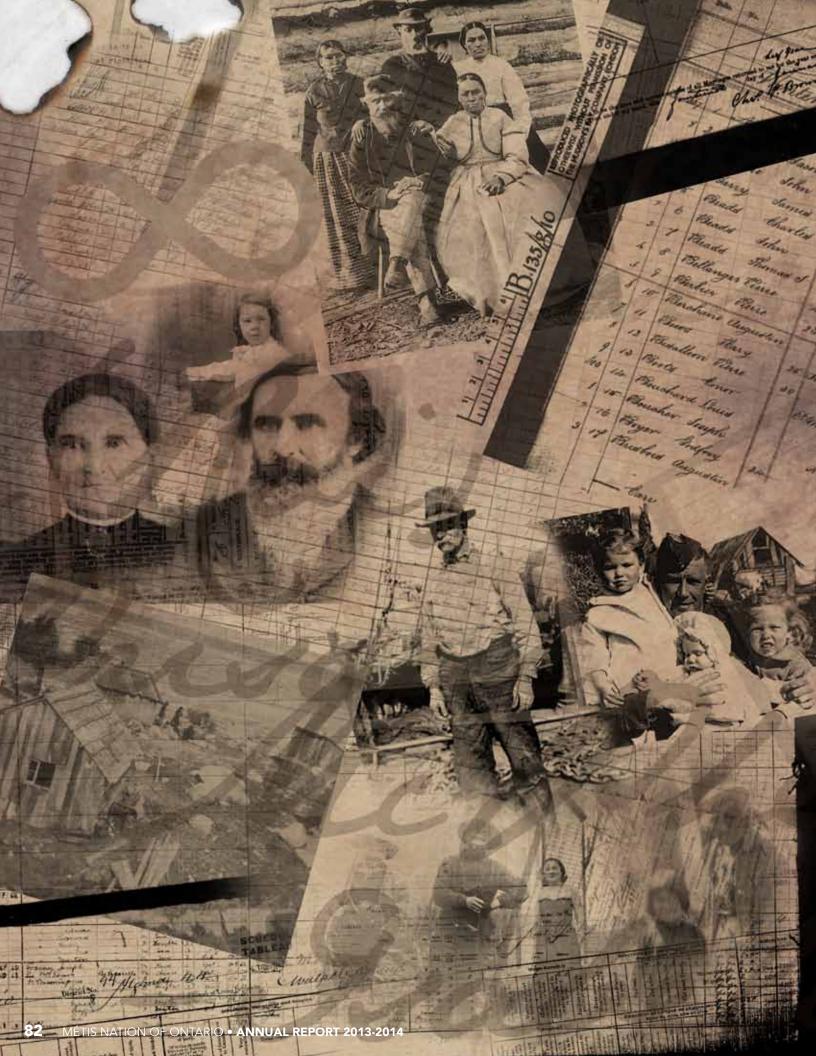
From August 2013 to March 2014, there were 106 Energy Audits completed.

**Funder:** Ontario Power Authority (OPA), First Nations Engineering, The Arbor Group

Number of Staff: 3

**Staff located in:** Thunder Bay

**Eligible Clientele:** Aboriginal people with low incomes and homes requiring basic energy efficiency upgrades



#### **MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO**

## **REGISTRY**

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

The Registry Branch is responsible to provide:

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

#### Recent notable achievements:

- In 2013/2014, the Registry Branch made further inroads in Root Families research. This research can
  assist MNO citizenship applicants identify their Métis ancestry. As an ongoing project the research and
  compilation of these family genealogies continues and more will be added as work is completed.
- Improved processes and procedures has allowed the Registry to reach a level never before achieved in that 1,306 citizenship cards were issued in the past year. In addition the Registry has reduced the wait time for assessment to approximately five months.
- While pushing forward with new citizenship approvals, the Registry Branch has simultaneously made significant progress in processing the backlog of applications that resulted from understaffing during 2010-2011. Given that research has advanced significantly, all of the old citizenship applications were reassessed in conjunction with more current information. This resulted in some individuals receiving citizenship immediately, while others were mailed letters with details as to what documentation is missing in their files.

# FROM THE MNO STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE

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

#### **BRANCH DETAILS**

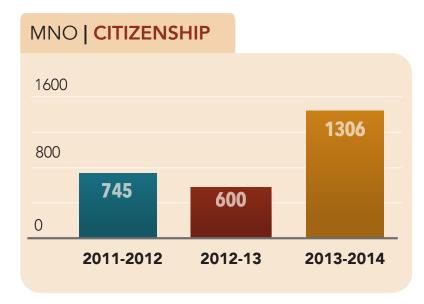
**Funder:** Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Affairs Canada (AANAC)

Number of Staff: 8

Staff located in: Ottawa

**Eligible Clientele:** MNO citizens and citizenship

applicants



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Improved processes and procedures has allowed the Registry to reach a level never before achieved in that 1,306 citizenship cards were issued in the past year.









- 01: 2013 MNO Louis Riel Day ceremony at Queen's Park in Toronto.
- 02: MNO representatives at the Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games two year count down event. (Left to right) The Honourable Bal Gosal, Minister of State (Sport); MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President Derrick Pont; Glen Lipinski, MNO Community Relations Coordinator; and Paul Grenier, Welland City Councillor.
- 03: MNO President Lipinski with Barry Sharpe, Mayor of the City of Welland at the 2013 Canoe Federation Junior and Under-23 Sprint World Championships opening ceremonies in Welland.
- 04: Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Zimmer speaking at the Queen's Park Louis Riel Day ceremony. MNO Chair France Picotte in the background.
- 05: MNO President Lipinski speaks at the MNO/Law Society of Upper Canada joint Louis Riel Day 2013 event in Toronto.



#### **MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO AGENCY**

# INTERGOVENMENTAL RELATIONS

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

MNO Intergovernmental Relations Branch staff liaises between the MNO and government ministries, departments, agencies and stakeholders. The MNO Intergovernmental Relations Branch supports many initiatives including the Tripartite, MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement and Mattawa/Nipissing Research processes. In 2012-13, Intergovernmental Relations developed successful funding proposals for the following:

- Core Bilateral
- · Basic Organizational Capacity
- Tripartite funding
- Mineral Development Coordinators
- Multi-Project Funding (Powley workshop, Boundary workshop, Registry upgrades and recruitment of Infinity Investments CEO)
- Ministry of Transportation capacity support

- Mineral Capacity Advisor
- Research capacity
- Powley A funding (Registry)
- The New Relationship Fund core consultation capacity and enhanced capacity
- MNO website cultural portal and MNO mobile application

The MNO Intergovernmental Relations Branch 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.

#### Number of Staff: 1

MNO Branches.

Staff located in: Toronto

**BRANCH DETAILS** 

primarily secures funding

Funder: This Branch

to carry out the core operations of the Métis

Nation of Ontario and

capacity funding for other

FROM THE

MNO STATEMENT OF

PRIME PURPOSE

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#### **CORE BILATERAL FUNDING AGREEMENT**

The Core Bilateral Funding Agreement provides basic core capacity to the MNO. It also provides the funding to conduct bilateral relations with Ontario, produce the MNO Annual Report, partially stages the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) and partially funds the MNO audit.

#### Recent notable achievements:

- The 2012-13 MNO Annual Report was completed and distributed to all MNO citizens via the Métis Voyageur newspaper and MNO website.
- The 2013 MNO AGA was held in Ottawa in August, 2013.
- The 2012-13 MNO annual audit was completed and approved at the 2013 AGA.

## **Funder:** Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Government of Ontario

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

#### **BASIC ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY AGREEMENT**

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

#### Recent notable achievements:

- The 2013 MNO AGA was held in Ottawa in August, 2013.
- PCMNO, executive and finance meetings were held throughout the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Funder: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), Government of Canada

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



Participants of the MNO collaborative forum and Modernization of the Mining Act Phase 3 meetings held February 26-27, 2014 in Toronto.

MNO leadership and dignitaries at the Louis Riel ceremony on November 15 at Queen's Park in Toronto. (Left to right) Assistant Deputy Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Hillary Thatcher, Minister Eric Hoskins, Métis lawyer Jean Tillet, MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, MNO Chair France Picotte, Minister David Zimmer, MNO President Gary Lipinski, and David DeLaunay, Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.



#### TRIPARTITE FUNDING

The Tripartite funding agreement is a jointly funded project by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC). For the last four years, Tripartite funding has been dedicated to economic development and the start-up of Infinity Property Services, an agency of the MNO (see section "Infinity Property Services").

Recent notable achievements:

- Transition and marketing plan for Infinity Property Services was implemented.
- Infinity Property Services secured two new contracts providing energy audits to the Housing Assistance Program (HAP) and the Aboriginal Conservation Program (ACP).

Funder: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), Government of Canada and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

Number of Staff: 3

Staff located in: Thunder Bay

**Eligible Clientele:** MNO citizens and residents of social

housing

#### MINERAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATORS

This agreement provides funding to employ two technically knowledgeable Mineral Development Coordinators to support and advise MNO Consultation Committees in their discussions with mining proponents and to provide advice regarding the *Mining Act* and its regulations.

#### Recent notable achievements:

- The MNO relationship with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines was strengthened and funding for much needed technical support came from the Ministry to support MNO Consultation Committees and communities to deal with proponent mining activities and the Duty to Consult.
- An information session was conducted on the Modernization of the Mining Act Phase III for the Regions 1-5 Consultation Committees on February 27, 2014.
- A collaborative forum was held in Toronto with mineral sector proponents, Regions 1-5 Consultation Committees, Métis mineral sector businesses and participants in the MNO Métis Mining Strategy on February 26, 2014.

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

Number of Staff: 2

**Staff located in:** Timmins and Thunder Bay

Eligible Clientele: MNO Consultation Committees and citizens

#### **MULTI-PROJECT FUNDING**

The multi-project funding agreement provided the resources to fund the tenth Anniversary of the Powley decision workshop, the Regional Boundary/Shared Territory Issues workshop; provide Registry enhancements and recruit a CEO for Infinity Investments Incorporated.

Funder: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), Government of Canada

Eligible Clientele: MNO

citizens

- The tenth Anniversary of the Powley Decision workshop was held on November 15, 2013.
- The Regional Boundary/Shared Territory Issues workshop was held on March 27 and 28, 2014.
- The recruitment process for the CEO of Infinity Investments Inc. was completed.

**Funder:** Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), Government of Canada and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

Number of Staff: 30

Staff located in: Toronto

**Eligible Clientele:** Regional Councillors – Regions 1-9 and MNO Citizens

**Funder:** Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Government of Ontario

Number of Staff: 1

Staff located in: Sudbury

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

Funder: Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Government of Ontario, Government of Canada

Number of Staff: 80

Staff located in: Toronto

Eligible Clientele: MNO citizens

#### **MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION (MTO) CAPACITY FUNDING**

The Ministry of Transportation agreement provides funding for some capacity support and relationship building engagement with the Ministry of Transportation.

#### Recent notable achievements:

- A relationship building engagement session with Regions 1-9 Regional Councillors took place January 18, 2014.
- MNO representation on the Multi-model Transportation System Committee for Northern Ontario.

#### **MINERAL SECTOR CAPACITY ADVISOR**

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

#### Recent notable achievements:

- The MNO relationship with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines continued to strengthen and funding for much needed technical support came from the Ministry to support the Mineral Development Coordinators, and MNO Consultation Committees to deal with proponent mining activities and the Duty to Consult.
- MNO President Lipinski and the PCMNO regional councillors from Regions 1-5 attended the annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada convention (PDAC).
- A Collaborative Forum was held in Toronto with mineral sector proponents, Regions 1-5 Consultation Committees, Métis mineral sector businesses and participants in the Métis Mining Strategy on March 26, 2014.

#### **RESEARCH CAPACITY**

The MNO, Ontario and Canada participated in a tripartite process to conduct research in Mattawa/Nipissing to assess the degree to which the Powley criteria are met in this region. In addition, MNO and Ontario participated in a collaborative effort to develop a common understanding about the identification of Métis individuals and the location of Métis communities throughout Ontario and the likelihood that they would satisfy the Powley criteria.

- Stone Circle/Know History was chosen as the successful contractor for Part A, Phase 3 Research which
  includes: supplementary secondary research; supplementary archival research; genealogical research up to
  1920 and a final synthesis report.
- A Memorandum of Agreement between the MNO, Ontario and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern
  Development Canada to work together on the Part A, Phase 3 research was developed and signed by all
  parties.

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

The Powley A funding agreement provides the necessary resources to maintain the MNO Registry. The funding also provided the MNO with the opportunity to hold the Métis Genealogy 101 and Métis rights presentation in North Bay on September 10, 2013. (See "Registry" section for more details.)

Recent notable achievements:

- Métis Genealogy 101 and Métis rights presentation in North Bay on September 10, 2013.
- Continued and improved support to Métis citizens and MNO citizenship applicants.

Funder: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), Government of Canada and the Ministry of Aboriginal **Affairs** 

Number of Staff: 9 and a Contract Genealogist

Staff located in: Thunder Bay

Eligible Clientele: MNO

citizen

#### NRF ENHANCED CAPACITY - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

The Economic Development Coordinator Enhanced NRF Project allowed the MNO to update MNO's Métis Business Directory, identify new Métis businesses, determine required supports for Métis businesses and create solid relationships with industry proponents.

Recent notable achievements:

- Updated Métis Business Directory on the MNO website.
- Identified supports for Métis businesses.
- Stronger proponent relationships.

**CULTURAL PORTAL** 

The Cultural Portal funding agreement crossed over into the 2013-14 fiscal year and is intended to provide the MNO with the necessary resources to integrate information about Métis history, culture, genealogy and root families in Ontario into the MNO website. The portal is meant to increase awareness of Métis people in Ontario and provide Métis people and the general public with access to resources. The genealogy and root family information will assist Métis people when applying for MNO citizenship.

Recent notable achievements:

Both the Cultural Portal and the mobile application have been completed and are ready for launch upon final approval of the content.

Funder: Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA)

Eligible Clientele: MNO

Citizens

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

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

#### **MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO**

# **CORPORATE SERVICES**

FROM THE
MNO STATEMENT OF
PRIME PURPOSE

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

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

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

#### **BRANCH DETAILS**

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

Number of Staff: 16

Staff located in: Ottawa

#### MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO FINANCE

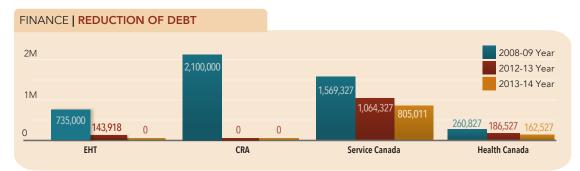
The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Finance Branch strives to implement sound financial policies and procedures throughout the organization whiling maintaining a current status on its accounts payable to vendors and collecting funds for its various programs. At the same time, the Finance Branch provides the various branches with current reports on the financial status of their programs and is also responsible for maintaining a current database of all the MNO's transfer payment agreements.

#### Services:

The Finance Branch provides all financial support to the MNO.

Due to the increase in programs, transaction processing has increased approximately 30 per cent in most areas; with improved processes and systems, we have been able to absorb this workload in our current staffing compliment.

- As of March 31, 2014, the MNO's repayable debt had decreased to \$967,000 from a debt of \$4.2 million that existed in 2008.
- The MNO has been able to completely pay off its Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) debt and Employer Health Tax Debt (EHT). The repayment of this debt took only three years and 4 years respectively rather than the original 25 years MNO had negotiated.
- The MNO has additionally significantly reduced its debts owing to Service Canada and Health Canada.
  - o The amount originally owing to Service Canada in 2008 was \$1.6 million and an estimated 24 years for repayment, but as of March 31, 2014 this has been reduced to \$805,011 with only four years left to repay.
  - o The amount owing to Health was originally \$261,000 in 2008, but as of March 2014, it has been reduced to \$162,527.
- Relationships with funders have been solidified with respect to completion of past programs, enabling the MNO to be more secure in its reporting of amounts due to and/or from funders.
- · Reporting capabilities have been improved which has been recognized by funders during field audits.
- In 2008, 52 per cent of MNO's accounts payable were over 90 days due; in 2014, there were no accounts payable over 90 days old.



#### **MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO COMMUNICATIONS**

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:

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

#### Recent notable achievements:

The Communication Branch supports the MNO through the following services:

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

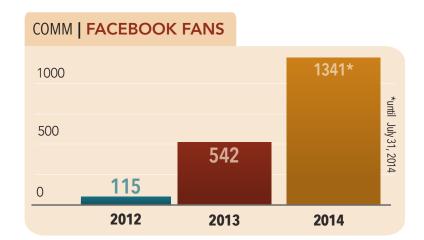
- Implemented the MNO's first comprehensive Identity Guide and Communications Protocols including the
  development of a series of document templates to building continuing and uniform branding. As part of
  the implementation process the Communications Branch converted over 200 existing MNO forms, power
  points and other documents to the new templates.
- Produced Métis Nation of Ontario: 1993-2013, a documentary film about the history of the MNO as part of the MNO's 20th anniversary commemorations.
- Produced a series of Success Story videos about clients of MNO Employment and Training programs.



# **△1,341**

The number of MNO Facebook fans increased from 508 in 2013 to 1, 250 as of July 31, 2014. This made the MNO Facebook page the fastest growing Facebook page among all Métis governments in Canada and overall the second largest despite being the most recently established.

- Produced short video news stories for use on the MNO website and Facebook page about the 2014 MNO
  Infinite Reach March Break Camp and the signing of the new MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement.
- The number of MNO Facebook fans increased from 508 in 2013 to 1341 as of July 31, 2014. This made
  the MNO Facebook page the fastest growing Facebook page among all Métis governments in Canada and
  overall the second largest despite being the most recently established.
- The number of news stories posted on the MNO website which also appears in the *Métis Voyageur* and *eVoyageur* has increased by 45 per cent to 234 articles in 2013-2014 compared to the 162 articles published in 2012-13.
- Website visitors have increased to 124,355 in the 2013-2014 fiscal year compared to 105,605 in the 2012-13.
- The total number of website visits has increased to 124,335 visits in the 2013-2014 fiscal year compared to 105,605 visits in 2012-13.
- Five editions of the *Métis Voyageur* were published.
- Fourteen editions of the eVoyageur were published.



MNO Facebook fans



MNO Website visitors



Stories posted to Website and Voyageur

## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

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

MNO information and communications technology includes: 14 servers; 25 routers; 30 switches; 175+ computers; 30 printers; and 130 cell phones.

#### nications technology includes: 14 servers; 25 routers; 30 switches; 175+ computers; 30 printers; and 130 cell phones.

MNO information and commu-













#### Services:

- Maintains the MNO network and data infrastructure through 14 servers, 25 routers and 30 switches.
- Coordinates, maintains and provides help desk assistance for 175+ computers and 30 printers (which include photocopying and fax capabilities), including upgrades, hardware and software requirements.
- Maintains specialized databases and program software such as the Registry applications and database; Great Plains Financial System; Lands, Resources and Consultations Portal; Healing and Wellness Health Activity Tracking System; and Telemedicine.
- Maintains and manages the MNO's land-based telephone services and 130 cellular phones.
- · Purchase, contract negotiations and vendor management for all information technology items.
- Responsibility for facilities at the MNO Ottawa head office.

- Healthy Activity Tracking System (HATS) to Multitenant "OHATS" deployment update: HATS is a custom software configuration created by the MNO in conjunction with its consulting partners, as a case management system used by the MNO Healing and Wellness Branch. This software, having been demonstrated to other non-MNO health service providers, created sufficient interest for the MNO to seek funding for an external service provision now designated the Online Health Activity Tracking System (OHATS). OHATS has completed User Acceptance Testing and the MNO version of HATS has been migrated and tested to this platform as well. ICT anticipates OHATS going live for MNO staff in the first quarter of 2014-15 fiscal year and available for new organization membership shortly after. This marks ICT's first venture into a fee for service deployment model that has significant potential for growth.
- *Installation of Xerox Managed Services*: This automated system queries each of the MNO's 30+ printers for toner, repair and usage statistics. Consumables are automatically ordered and deployed and service requirements automatically booked. Based on reporting and testing it is conservatively estimated that the MNO will save 24 per cent or \$8,700.00 per year in costs. This data collection also allows ICT to better analyse printing habits to address misuse and or over usage of equipment.
- Cell and smart phone upgrades and contract renegotiation: ICT has completed upgrading MNO cellphone
  users to the Samsung GS4 and Ace 2x Android devices. The end result of the contract negotiations and
  application of a \$13,500.00 loyalty credit from Bell will see the MNO saving more than \$21,000.00 over
  the three year term of the contract as compared to current costs. This will also allow ICT to redeploy the
  current BES Server Robin and promote it to the primary file server host and Domain Controller.
- *Installation of 2 x Dell 5528 switches:* representing a significant improvement in network performance and redundancy.
- Purchase of new Head Office Xerox ColorCube 9302 printer: The ColorCube's advanced efficiency combined
  with the negotiated buy out the remaining two year lease on our WorkCentre 5675 for \$1.00 resulting in a
  combined savings of close to \$400 monthly.
- Disaster recovery test: Due to unforeseen disk issues on the MNO Finance server ICT was forced into a realtime test of the MNO's disaster recovery infrastructure. ICT applied the use of Symantec's Back-Up Exec

Disaster Recovery process allowing a full server restoration in less than five hours. This is a recovery that would have taken several days at great expense prior to the MNO's investment in backup infrastructure upgrades in 2009 and 2012.

- Installation of Dell EqualLogic PS4100 Storage Area Network: This device is now installed and providing addition resources to both MNO file services and the MNO back-ups. This device will also aid in backup space required for the forthcoming OHATS multitenant deployment.
- GP Business Portal update: ICT's efforts with Finance, Corporate Renaissance Group and Convergence
  continue towards testing and developing Great Plains Business Portal. Once complete this portal will enable online automation of the MNO's purchase order system as well as adding several HR functions such as
  payroll information on demand vs. current bi-weekly mailings.
- Kingston office setup: ICT has completed Telecom and LAN provisioning as well as new asset deployment
  for eight staff in the MNO's new Kingston office. This includes a fulltime secure connection to the MNO
  server infrastructure located at the Rogers Data Centre in Ottawa.
- Thunder Bay bandwidth / router / wireless upgrade: Faced with bandwidth limitations, ICT has moved the
  Thunder Bay office from TBaytel internet access to Rogers. This connection increases connectivity speeds
  by a factor of 5. ICT also upgraded Thunder Bay's primary router and consolidated multiple wireless access
  points to one secure WLAN including a new guest segment.

#### **MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO HUMAN RESOURCES**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) upholds the principles of accountability, transparency and excellence as integral components of the operational arm of the Nation. MNO's Policies and Procedures reflect the MNO's commitment to recruit and retain the best qualified personnel with preference being given to Métis applicants, all other considerations being equal. The MNO values training and internal promotions whenever possible to enrich the Nation through the development of the highest level of qualitative and transferable skills among staff and management.

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

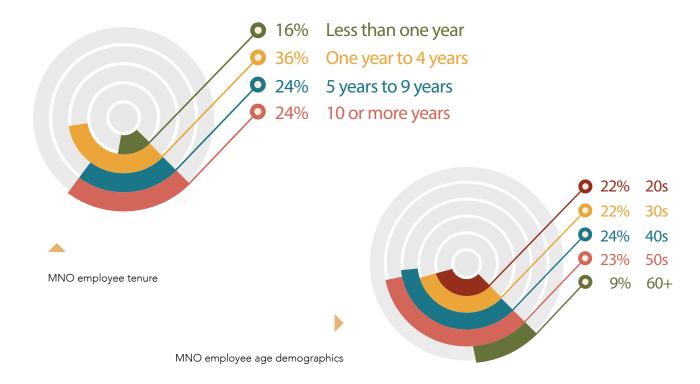
#### Services:

The MNO, through Human Resources, is committed to:

- Ensuring compliance with Ontario employment standards laws and the regulations.
- · Establishment of effective tracking systems and internal processes for recruitment and hiring.
- Providing orientation and support to all employees through effective probationary periods and ongoing performance evaluation.
- Maintaining appropriate employment information documentation and ensuring privacy of personal information.
- Effective administration of group benefits, a registered pension plan, workplace health and safety, WSIB, and insurance needs.
- Promoting education and awareness among staff and managers on workplace obligations.
- Implementing and maintaining workplace policies and procedures.
- Providing assistance with resolution of human resource related problems.

- The MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose* and the MNO Standards of Professional are emphasized at new employee orientations and throughout employment. These standards link to all daily activities and are reflected in the annual performance review process and job descriptions.
- Effective January 28, 2013, the MNO hired a Director of Strategic Policy, Law & Compliance who serves as the Senior Human Resources Advisor. This role includes:
  - o Serving as Privacy Officer for the MNO.
  - o Oversight of Human Resources staff.

- o Leading the further development of the Human Resources governance framework including ongoing review and updating of the MNO Policies and Procedures Manual.
- o Overseeing the development and delivery of a more effective training and development program for employees.
- o Evolving and overseeing the content of all orientation training.
- Developing and delivering training and mentoring to all levels of management in their performance of delegated Human Resources related responsibilities.
- o Providing advisory and support services to the management on Human Resources issues including Human Resources planning and labour relations.
- o Proposing innovative staffing, developmental and retention activities.
- o Promoting values, ethics and a productive workplace.
- o Overseeing Human Resources aspects of the Human Resources module in the Great Plains Financial System.
- The 2013-14 fiscal year proved to be an active year for recruiting. This is due to exciting initiatives in
  programming; the creation of new positions, including an increase in summer student positions; and the
  movement of MNO employees to better paying positions outside of the not-for-profit sector as a result of their
  increased skills and experience while working with the MNO.
- Other activity in the 2013/2014 fiscal year included:
  - o 64 job postings, 45 new hires, of which 24 were indeterminate (no end date) hires.
  - o Three determinate (defined end date) employees have been reclassified to indeterminate (no end date) employees.
  - o 58 Records of Employment were issued.
  - o 25 students were hired for summer 2013 positions.
- Though there has been growth and turnover, there is a strong core of long term employees with almost 50 per cent of employees having been with the MNO for five years or more.
- Human Resources continues to support strong internal partnerships through management meetings, daily workplace interactions and the development and implementation of relevant training programs for staff.
- Increased consultation with Human Resources as employment concerns first arise has led to earlier resolution of issues and more consistent application of the MNO Policies and Procedures. With the addition of the Senior Human Resources Advisor, MNO has been able to develop and deliver more training to staff at various levels, particularly on issues of professionalism, leadership and management. These Human Resources developments promote a continually increasing standard of accountability and transparency, and contribute to more productive and healthier work environments.



# MNO CORPORATIONS

# FROM THE MNO STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE

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

# MNO CULTURAL COMMISSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### **Directors:**

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

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

Bob McKay Roland St. Germain

# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO CULTURAL COMMISSION

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

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

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

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

As a registered charity, individuals and organizations can donate to the MNOCC and receive tax deductible receipts. In 2013-14, \$9,167 was received from generous donors.

# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

FROM THE
MNO STATEMENT OF
PRIME PURPOSE

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

#### MNO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION EXECUTIVE

President

Secretary

Director

Gary Lipinski

Pauline Richardson

Art Bennett

Vice-President

Treasurer

France Picotte

Cameron Burgess

# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - 2014

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