

PRESIDENT'S HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT

(see special insert)



Issue No. 82, **FALL 2014**

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR



ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014

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SPECIAL SECTION



SPECIAL SECTION



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ABORIGINAL WOMEN**



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CANADA POSTS
POSTAGE
40025265

THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

FALL 2014, NO. 82

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Publication #: Pm 40025265

Submission Policy:
The MNO encourages contributions from MNO citizens and staff. All submissions are edited to conform to the Canadian Press Style Guide as well as for structure, grammar, repetitiousness, spelling and to accurately reflect the official names and titles of individuals, organizations, bodies and agencies referenced in submissions.

With the exception of letters to the editor and submissions to the family section, all submissions should NOT be written in the first person.

The recommended length for a submission is between 400 and 600 words. Submissions longer than that may be edited for length.

**2014 / 2015
Submission Deadlines:**
November 1, 2014
January 23, 2015
March 13, 2015
May 15, 2015



Powley Day Message from President Lipinski

The following message was issued September 19, 2014.

On September 19, 2003, after ten years of litigation, the Supreme Court of Canada, in a unanimous judgement, declared that Steve and Roddy Powley as members of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community had the Métis right to harvest and that this right is protected under section 35 of *The Constitution Act*, 1982. Because the Powleys had the courage of their convictions, and the full backing and support of the Métis Nation of Ontario, Métis rights were recognized and affirmed by the Supreme Court for the first time.

Every year on September 19, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) holds Powley Day, to recognize that the ground breaking Powley decision ushered in a whole new era of Métis rights in Ontario and across the Métis Homeland. Especially important at this time of the year, are the Métis harvesting rights, which are now recognized by the Province of Ontario through our harvesting agreement. MNO citizens take time on Powley Day to reflect on the pride that each of us feels when we look at what has been accomplished.

This fall, as you participate in the harvest or in MNO community council events celebrating the harvest season, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on how the Powley decision has raised the profile of the Métis, and contributed to the recognition of our rights as a distinct Aboriginal people within

Canada. The affirmation of the right to harvest is a component critical to the already rich fabric that defines Métis culture.

It is fair to say that in spite of a tremendous amount of hard work and sacrifice of many Métis, our pursuit for full recognition of Mé-

tis rights continues. There is still much work to be done with the province and especially with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in ensuring the acceptance of those rights when they are asserted. We will continue to push forward on the priority issues that you have raised with your Captains of the Hunt, your Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) representative or myself. We will continue to report progress and movement as it occurs, however each of us must do all we can to ensure that the collective rights of Métis to harvest is

preserved through responsible management of the Métis harvest in Ontario. The work ahead of us is great and the journey will be long and hard fought. But on September 19, please take a moment to celebrate your Métis culture and heritage and to remember Steve, Roddy and the Powley family for their personal sacrifice and commitment to the ongoing struggle for Métis rights. ∞

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— MNO President Gary Lipinski

Sincerely,
Gary Lipinski, President

ACROSS THE HOMELAND



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Métis Public Health Surveillance Program

The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada and the BC Ministry of Health are trying to bridge the gap in understanding the health of Métis people with the Métis Public Health Surveillance Program.

To enhance the health of Métis people living in British Columbia, the program assists in gathering health data for MNBC citizens in an ethical and culturally appropriate way. Through an evaluation of this project, they are learning that this work helps to: raise awareness of Métis public health issues, build skills for understanding health data, and understand what culturally appropriate research is. MNBC has a goal of including 3,000 citizens in the project.

Source: Métis Nation of British Columbia



ALBERTA

Poitras re-elected as MNA president

The citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) went to the polls on September 2, 2014 to cast their votes in the MNA 2014 General Election.

Audrey Poitras was re-elected as provincial president for her seventh consecutive term. Poitras has led the MNA in this role for the past eighteen years. “The people have spoken, and I am honoured and humbled that citizens of the MNA remain confident in my ability to lead our Nation,” said President Poitras.

President Poitras also went on to say “my renewed mandate is not about making changes but continuing on the path of moving the Nation forward. A key priority over the next four years will be to continue making progress on key initiatives such as health, education and the rights of all of our citizens.”

Source: Métis Nation of Alberta



MANITOBA

MMF voices strong concerns about impending contamination

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) announced they have great concerns about the potential for devastating impacts on Métis harvesting by the Ruttan mine reclamation project currently underway near Leaf Rapids, Manitoba.

According to the MMF Minister of Environment and Mining, Edward Charrier, there is a tremendous risk of negative effects to Manitobans as well as Métis lands should the current problems with the reclamation persist and escalate.

MMF stated that the province must hold reclamation work accountable to the strict timeline to prevent further ecosystem damage, Métis rights impacts, and additional costs. The MMF called upon the province to take the necessary action to ensure this work is done properly and immediately.

Source: Manitoba Metis Federation



SASKATCHEWAN

Métis veterans' memorial monument unveiled in Batoche

From July 18-21, over 20,000 people went to celebrate Métis culture at the Back to Batoche Days Festival north of Saskatoon.

During this year's event, a historic monument was unveiled.

“We built the only Métis veterans monument that will have all of the names of the Métis veterans that fought in 1885, World War I, World War II, Korea,” said Robert Doucette, president of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan.

Lennard Morin, who comes from a proud Métis military family, made it his goal to have a monument erected to recognize all that Métis veterans have sacrificed for Canada. After years of lobbying and pushing for government funding, Morin's dream was finally realized with the monument's unveiling on July 20.

Source: Global News

ADDRESSING VIOLENCE
AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN

How the MNO is addressing the tragedy of violence against Aboriginal women

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has been working to address the issue of violence against Aboriginal women almost since its inception. In November, 1994, the MNO which was barely a year old at the time, sent representatives to the first meeting to develop the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (AHWS), a major focus of which was the prevention of violence against Aboriginal women. Now 20 years later, the MNO has developed victim services programs and is a full partner in Ontario's Joint Working Group to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women and a signatory to the Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women.

As part of its ongoing efforts to bring attention to violence against Aboriginal women, the MNO held a full-day workshop on the issue in Thunder Bay prior to the Annual General Assembly (AGA). During the workshop, its provincial leadership including the Provisional

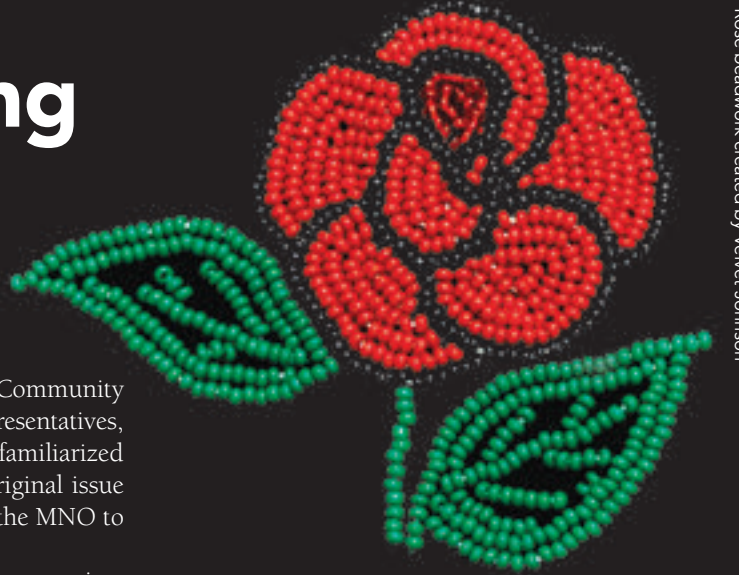
Council of the MNO (PCMNO), Chartered Community Council Presidents and other community representatives, Captains of the Hunt and MNO staff were familiarized with all aspects of the violence against Aboriginal issue as well as the efforts currently underway by the MNO to take action. (See article below.)

During the MNO AGA itself, ending violence against Aboriginal women remained fresh in everyone's mind not only because of the workshop but because of the tragic murder on Tina Fontaine in Winnipeg. As a result, MNO President Gary Lipinski brought forward a resolution, second by Sharon McBride, the Spokesperson for the Women's Secretariat of the MNO (WSMNO), calling for a national inquiry on the epidemic of murdered and missing Aboriginal women and for the adoption of a *Declaration to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women*. The resolution passed by consensus (unanimously) and as required by the resolution, President Lipinski wrote Prime Minister Harper shortly afterwards to call for the national inquiry.

The AGA then concluded with a rendition of *Amazing Grace* by Alicia Blore, Senator Verna Brunelle-Porter, Joanna Burt and Senator Cecile Wagar in honour of missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

In the following pages the *Métis Voyageur* is proud to present an editorial written by President Lipinski, first published in *Queen's Park Briefing*, explaining why a national inquiry is necessary. We are also providing the text of the resolution passed at the AGA and the *Declaration to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women* as well as several stories about MNO victim services programs and citizen efforts to address this important issue. ∞

Rose beadwork created by Velvet Johnson



A PRAYER FOR OUR SISTERS

MNO workshop on Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women

“Mothers, sisters, daughters, grand-daughters, grannies,” the words of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Reta Gordon's opening prayer set the tone for a day of heavy, emotional, yet necessary discussions on how the MNO is addressing violence against Aboriginal women. (The full prayer can be found on pg 9).

Returning to Thunder Bay, the location where the first strategic framework on Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women was created, the MNO held a workshop on August 21 prior to the MNO 2014 Annual General Assembly (AGA). Participants included the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO), Women's Secretariat of the MNO (WSMNO), Community Council Presidents, Senators, Métis youth and MNO staff.

In a long overdue report, the RCMP recently released a statistic which states that over 1,181 Aboriginal women have gone missing or have been murdered in Canada.

“This is an issue that no one government or police can address alone,” stated MNO President Gary Lipinski during his opening remarks. “It is an issue that the MNO cannot fully address; it requires our collective commitment and actions. We can and will take our responsibilities in professional and community levels and take a strong stance doing all we can as a collective Métis voice to end violence against Aboriginal women.”

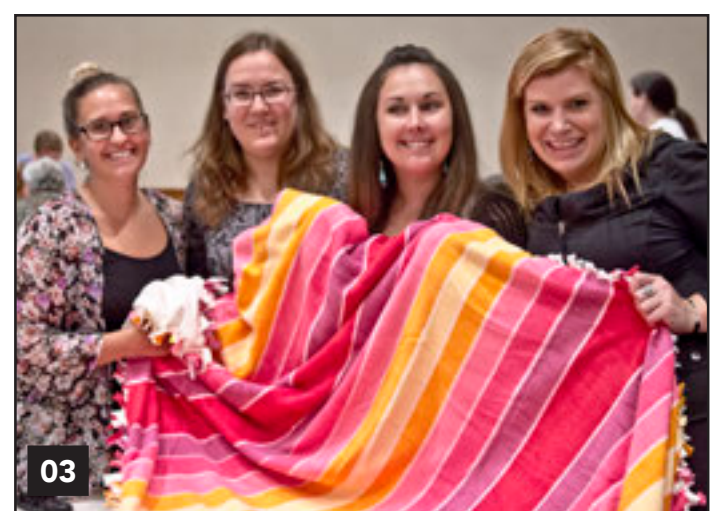
Alexander Bezzina, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Children and Youth Services attended the workshop and brought greetings on behalf of Minister Tracey McCharles. His words, reflecting on recent tragic events, moved the audience.

“An issue that affects women and children of all ages, the discovery of Tina Fontaine in Winnipeg just the other day is another tragic example of an epidemic that leaves us shocked and horrified,” he said. “Her death reminds us that behind the statistics these are individuals”

(Continued on page 4)



01. 03. MNO citizens posing with their Métis healing blanket created during the MNO Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women workshop. 02. (Left to right) MNO Senators Poitras, Gordon and St. Germain provided words of inspiration, hope and love at the MNO Ending Violence Against Women Workshop.





ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN



▲ Faceless dolls created by MNO citizens and staff during the MNO Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women workshop held on August 21.

(Continued from page 3)
who have a face... Any initiative that addresses violence against Aboriginal women is a great interest to our ministry. It is also why we are a proud partner of the Working Group Against Violence Against Aboriginal Women. This is the only group in Canada that has come together to address this issue. Violence against women is violence against the future and well-being of our communities.”

MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride who is the Spokesperson for the WSMNO provided

Bezzina with a gift made by Métis artist Jamie Koebel of fish scales to show the MNO's appreciation for the ministry's hard work.

Vice-Chair McBride also provided opening remarks where she shared stories of violence against women and men. “Together we are a united front, we can tackle this epidemic and violence in all its forms,” she stated.

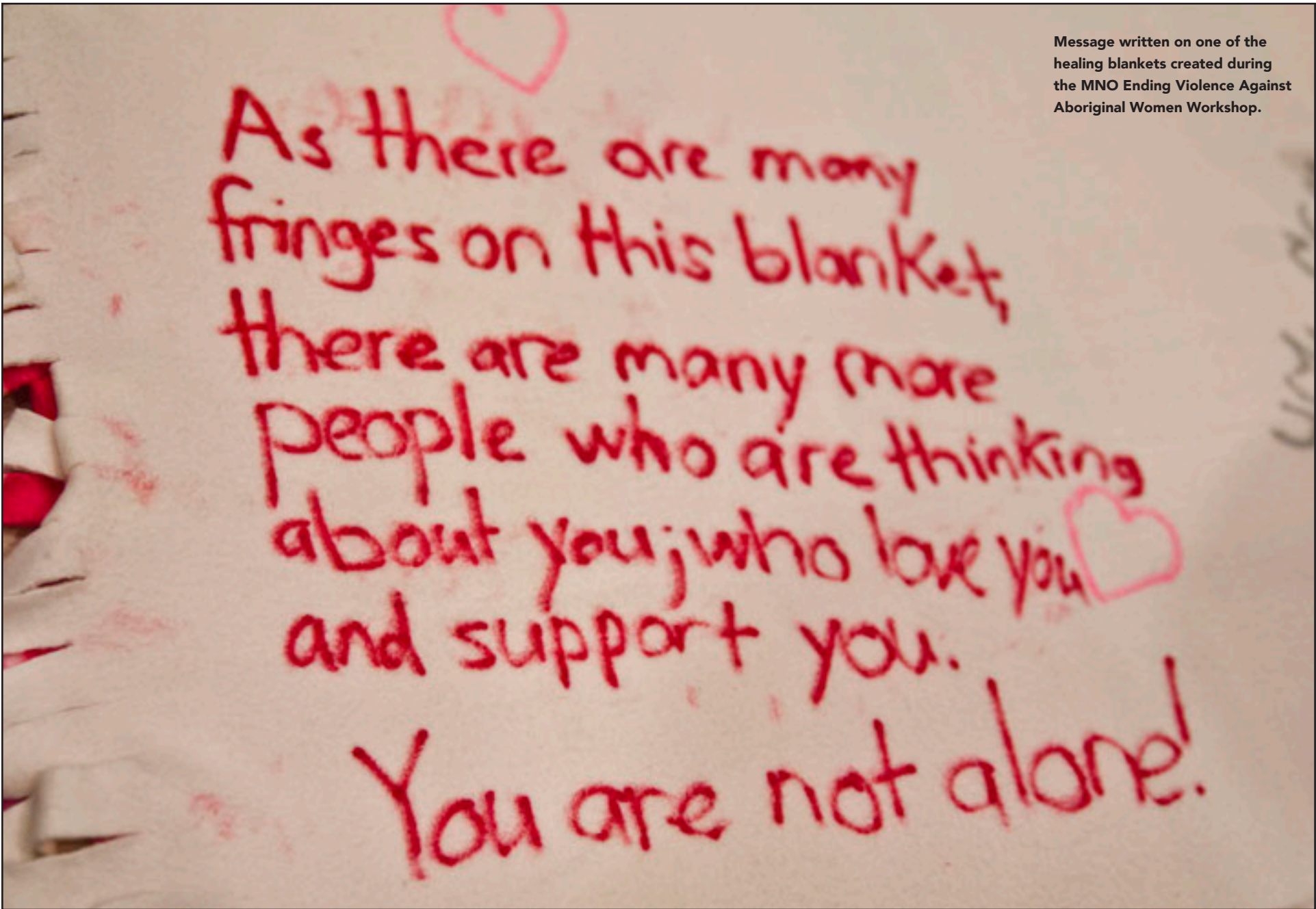
An overview on MNO's involvement in addressing violence against Aboriginal women was provided by MNO Chief Operating Officer (COO) Doug Wilson. This was followed by a

description of MNO's program development priorities by MNO Manager of Mental Health and Victim Services, Jennifer Lord.

The creation of Métis healing blankets, an interactive healing exercise, was the highlight of the morning. The exercise was facilitated by MNO Victim Services Coordinator, Marsha Depotier. Citizens, staff and friends worked together in small groups where they wrote messages of hope, strength, healing and love on the inside of the blankets. The two halves of the blankets were then tied together. The

blankets are to symbolize the healing process by wrapping strength, support and comfort around a victim. The completed blankets were presented to each MNO Community Council President to be taken back to their communities. After each blanket was presented, a ceremony was held to awaken the Métis healing blankets with assistance from PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case.

Following the blanket workshop, discussions were held on how violence is impacting
(Continued on page 5)



Message written on one of the healing blankets created during the MNO Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women Workshop.

ADDRESSING VIOLENCE
AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN



(Continued from page 4)
Métis families in Ontario communities. MNO Supervisor of Community Wellness, Jason Jamieson and MNO Community Wellness Coordinators Charmaine Langlais and Terry Lynn Longpre passionately shared their experiences working with victims of violence and how the MNO can help.

MNO Honourary Senator Roland St. Germain also provided a heartfelt presentation. “Culture is a blanket of comfort that gives meaning to life,” he said. “When you embrace your culture it gives you comfort ... We have to talk about our hurts; it is a healing process to discuss our hurt. The lack of resources is its own violence against women. When a government does not take care of their women and children, that is violence in itself ... To the young girls in the crowd, be proud of that blood that runs through your veins.”

This was followed by another interactive healing exercise called the Faceless Doll Project. Coordinated by Lord and MNO Aboriginal Sexual Violence Community Response Initiative Coordinator, Valeri Stortini, the workshop was thoroughly enjoyed by all as each person created a doll that represented themselves, a loved one or even a stranger. The goal of this community engagement workshop is to bring awareness by visually representing the known and unknown cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls through felt dolls. Each statistic tells a story and each of the dolls created represents one of those stories.

Several of the women present who had participated in faceless doll workshops before commented how gratifying it was to see so many male faceless dolls representing men who have been impacted by violence to their daughters, wives, mothers and female friends. This showed that the workshop was bringing the issue home to these men.

The workshop concluded with President Lipinski discussing the future of MNO’s involvement in ending violence in all forms.

“We need to provide every opportunity for our citizens to flourish in their lives free of discrimination and violence,” said President Lipinski. “It’s critical that we declare that all forms of violence against Aboriginal women must stop. Together we will take a united stand on these issues which are so important to our families, community and nation. I trust that each and every one of us will leave this workshop with a greater understanding and how detrimental this is to our way of life.”

The closing prayer was provided by MNO Senator Joseph Poitras who reflected on the heavy yet heartfelt day. ∞

► 01. Singers who performed *Amazing Grace* in honour of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. (Left to Right) Alicia Bloor, Senator Verna Porter -Brunelle, Joanna Burt and Senator Cecile Wagar. 02. MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride presenting a gift created by Métis artist Jamie Koebel to Alexander Bezzina, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. 03. 04. 06. 07. 08. Scenes from MNO workshop on Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women. Citizens and staff are displaying faceless dolls and Métis healing blankets. 05. MNO President Gary Lipinski providing opening remarks at the MNO Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women workshop.



"Violence against women is violence against the future and wellbeing of our communities."
- Alexander Bezzina





ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN



01



02



03

01 - 05. Scenes from MNO workshop on Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women. Citizens and staff are displaying faceless dolls and Métis healing blankets.



04



05

Why I believe a national inquiry into murdered and missing Aboriginal women is needed

By Gary Lipinski, Métis Nation of Ontario President

There has been significant public discourse and debate over the past number of days on the need for and value of a national inquiry on missing and murdered Aboriginal women. I have added my voice as a husband and father and as the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, to those calling for a national inquiry.

The polarized nature of opinions speaks to the need for broader public understanding of the issues. An inquiry would help create acknowledgement of the fact that Aboriginal women and girls face unique threats to their safety, that there are underlying systemic factors at play and that a major human tragedy is taking place in our country. Like an alcoholic addressing addiction, change will not occur until there is an acknowledgement of a problem.

While it is true that studies have been undertaken, the size and scope of the issues and the extent of any progress in system responses is uncertain. Violence against Aboriginal women crosses boundaries and extends across jurisdictions. The RCMP reported that over 1,181 Aboriginal women have gone missing or have been murdered since 1980. Two hundred and twenty five cases are reported as unsolved. What knowledge do other police forces and agencies have on missing and murdered Aboriginal women? What is being done to address the unresolved cases? How many incidents exist that are not police-recorded?

The RCMP report recommended enhanced accountability for criminal investigation. When it comes to other alleged wrongdoings where a police force is involved in potentially unsatisfactory managing or handling of a case, then another police force or agency is typically called in to investigate. Why not in this instance? No one knows how each report of missing and murdered Aboriginal women was handled. We do not know how far the RCMP has gone in advancing its goals of better community engagement and in working with police agencies to release information on unsolved cases. An all-encompassing investigation of the facts is needed as well as recommendations for action.

We need a national strategy. We need actions taken at all levels, across sectors and in all jurisdictions involving multiple partners. We need to take collective, sustained measures to prevent and end violence in our own communities and constituencies. A national inquiry would bring national focus to the issues. The complexity of the issues demand cohesive, coordinated responses from many stakeholders including the media. If any other ethnic group in Canada were suffering this tragedy, the cries for justice would know no bounds.

At its 21st Annual General Assembly in Thunder Bay on August 25, the Métis Nation of Ontario passed a resolution calling on the federal government to hold a national inquiry and adopted a Declaration to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women. This Declaration reflects a commitment that we will not accept or tolerate violence in any form in our families, in our communities or in our Nation.

The MNO is a partner in Ontario's Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women.

We need a national strategy. We need actions taken at all levels, across sectors and in all jurisdictions involving multiple partners. We need to take collective, sustained measures to prevent and end violence in our own communities and constituencies. A national inquiry would bring national focus to the issues"

— MNO President Gary Lipinski

We are committed to working with our Aboriginal sisters and brothers and anyone else in government or mainstream to end violence in all its shapes and forms against First Nations, Métis and Inuit women. Our community workers provide prevention and peer supports, breaking the stigma and shame of abuse and supporting families to heal.

The MNO plays a role in ending violence against Métis women and girls and we are taking action to

the best of our abilities. However, no one agency, institution or government can bring the needed systemic changes. A commitment from all stakeholders is needed and an inquiry will establish unknown facts, build knowledge and hopefully result in a shared public sense of responsibility.

As a parent, I can only imagine the deep pain those who have missing or murdered loved ones must go through every day. I see the humanity in this dark and tragic issue and I ask that all Canadians do the same. What would you do? How far would you go for answers? When would you be satisfied that justice is served and that our society cares enough to put effort into seeing that it does not happen to others? These are only some of the questions that the families of lost ones struggle with every day and their perspectives are essential.

Public collaboration is essential to the end result of safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal girls and women. Taking action requires dialogue and a shared understanding. I will say frankly that some of the commentary in recent media reports has been hurtful. Such commentary reinforces my sense that we need avenues to have difficult conversations and to move forward in a focused way. A national inquiry is one important avenue for this to happen. ∞

► Faceless dolls created at the MNO workshop on Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women.

RCMP reported that over
1,181
ABORIGINAL WOMEN
have gone missing
or have been murdered
since 1980



AGA RESOLUTION ON NATIONAL INQUIRY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2014-01
Title:	CALLING FOR A NATIONAL INQUIRY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN
Mover:	Gary Lipinski
Second:	Sharon McBride

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario has a mandate to protect the rights and interests of its citizens including the right to live our lives free of all forms of violence and abuse;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario recognizes that Aboriginal woman and girls suffer disproportionately high levels of violence in all its forms;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario acknowledges the negative impacts violence has on the wellbeing of our families, our communities and our nation;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario is a full partner in Ontario’s Joint Working Group to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario is a signatory to the Framework to End Violence Against Women;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario leadership is committed to preventing and addressing Violence Against Women to the best of its ability;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Métis Nation of Ontario President will write to the Prime Minister of Canada urging the federal government to implement a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED the Métis Nation of Ontario hereby proclaims the adoption of the Métis Nation Declaration to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2014-01)

Métis Nation Declaration to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women

We, the Métis Nation of Ontario, declare our full commitment to work to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women.

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

We, the Métis Nation of Ontario, are inspired by the values of our ancestors and reaffirm our commitment to democracy, freedom, generosity, justice, fairness and equality.

We, the Métis Nation of Ontario, regard Violence Against Women to include any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or spiritual harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, whether occurring in public or in private life.

We, the Métis Nation of Ontario, acknowledge the causes of violence against Aboriginal women and girls are rooted in a history of colonial policies that attempted to destroy cultures and that have traumatized generations of Indigenous people.

We, the Métis Nation of Ontario, are a distinct Aboriginal people committed to working together and with our sisters and brothers to end violence, in all of its shapes and forms, against Aboriginal women.

We, the Métis Nation of Ontario, will not accept or tolerate violence in any form in our families, in our communities or in our nation.

Guided by our spiritual values we, the Métis Nation of Ontario, aspire to attain our highest potential and live our lives with dignity and honour, free of discrimination and violence.

A PRAYER FOR *our sisters*

Creator, when we were born you gave the gift of life. Today we are gathered here to stand up and remember Métis, First Nations and Inuit sisters, mothers, daughters, grannies, aunties, nieces and friends who are impacted by all forms of violence and abuse, including those that have gone missing.

Creator, lift the veil of denial, ambivalence, ignorance and attitudes of uncaring and help us find our loved ones. We do not know where they are or if they are alive or dead. Help us to bring each of our sisters, mothers, daughters, grannies, aunties, nieces and friends home.

Creator, as we remember the women we must also remember their loved ones. Our families and communities are in pain. Give us the strength and comfort during these dark times. When we tell our stories, open the ears of the listeners so it touches their hearts and calls them to action.

Creator, give the wisdom and courage to our leaders, lawmakers, police and anyone who is called to help a woman who is suffering abuse or violence, or who has gone missing. May they see she is a woman who has loved ones, is a member of our community, and not first look to see if fault can be found on the woman.

Creator, we now turn our prayers to the men. In order for the violence against our women to stop our men need to resume the role of taking care of and protecting their mothers, sisters, daughters, grannies, aunties and spouses. Give the men who have abused the strength, clarity and courage to admit their harm, seek help and change. For the men who have harmed or killed a missing women, we pray the guilt will cause them to come forward so she may be reunited with her family and put to rest in a proper manner to allow her Spirit to be at peace.

Finally Great Spirit, we pray for all women who give us the wisdom, strength and courage to stand up for ourselves and make a commitment to end violence and abuse, in all of its forms. We pray that if there are women with us today, who are in harm's way, that you place helpers in their lives and place courage in their hearts to find safety and to know safety is their inherent right.

Marsi, Migwich, Merci, Amen

Gifted to the Métis Nation of Ontario
by Senator Reta Gordon.

Rose beadwork created by Velvet Johnson

Métis Nation
of Ontario 

ADDRESSING VIOLENCE
AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN



▲ Participants of the healing blanket workshop held in North Bay on February 11.

Métis women address violence within communities

Coming together healing blanket workshop

Submitted by: **Marsha Depotier**, MNO Victims Services Coordinator

This winter the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Victim Service and Community Wellness program staff as well as members of the Women’s Secretariat of the MNO (WSMNO) joined together to address and discuss violence against Métis women and children through a healing blanket workshop.

The workshop that was held in North Bay had a great

turnout of 26 participants. The day began with a prayer offered by Senator Marlene Greenwood before taking part in a sharing circle. Strawberry medicine water was shared after the circle and a brief teaching of the strawberry plant by Marsha Depotier, MNO Victim Services Coordinator South Region.

The participants had the unique opportunity to create their own blankets that were bound with the beautiful rich Métis

medicine. A feast was provided and Melissa Pigeau, MNO Community Wellness Coordinator for North Bay prepared traditional Métis foods which included: baked bannock, moose chili and apple crisp.

The event was a huge success and ending with the Senator sharing healing hugs with the participants. ∞

MNO Women’s Sharing Circles

Submitted by: **Marsha Depotier**, MNO Victims Services Coordinator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Victim Services Program recently concluded a series of Women’s Sharing Circles that began in the spring of 2014. Circles were held once a week for ten weeks at the MNO Community Office in Bancroft and were designed to help women address trauma from past harms as well as support and ‘walk alongside’ women on their healing journey.

The Women’s Sharing Circles were facilitated by MNO’s Victim Services Coordinator, Marsha Depotier. A local trauma therapist, Jody Raven from Sacred Path Healing Centre, was also invited to co-facilitate.

The circles began with all women becoming familiar with each other as well familiar with their own life experiences and life path. Women were invited to share as much of their story as they felt comfortable or necessary. Slowly and in a cultural safe and supportive way, participants were able to identify the trauma that sits within them as an individual, within their families and within their community. The goal of this process was and is to draw attention to the fact that trauma not only damages our spirits as Métis women but also lingers and attaches itself to our spirits. Participants learned ways to release trauma and how to nourish themselves back to health.

The circles focused on a holistic model of healing and wellness and participants were asked to embrace a greater understanding of the rich Métis culture through traditional crafts, activities, storytelling and teachings. All of the sharing, creating and skills development that took place over the ten weeks fed into a large process of creating individual Métis Healing Bundles. Each Métis Healing Bundle included:

- Métis unity strand
- Turtle rattle
- Métis healing blanket
- Métis timeline scarf
- Mindful meditation techniques
- Breathing techniques
- Medicine bundle of tobacco, sage, cedar and sweet grass

Each item in the Métis Healing Bundle was created by the women and at the final session a feast and celebration was held. At this time, the women were invited to awaken their bundles in ceremony. These bundles are now not only cherished keepsakes and a reminder of what each woman was able to achieve in a ten week period but are now medicines that will serve these women for years to come.

The MNO Victims Services Program is creating a guide on how to plan, develop and offer similar Women’s Sharing Circles throughout the province.

We thank the women of the Gathering Strength Women’s Circles for their ability to share, learn and grow. Marsii. ∞

For more information on the Women’s Sharing Circles please contact MNO Victim Service Coordinator, Marsha Depotier, at 613-332-2575 ext 23.

► TOP: MNO Bancroft Healing and Wellness staff assisted with the Women’s Sharing Circles. They are seen here awakening Métis Healing Blankets.
BOTTOM: Contents of the Métis Healing Bundle.



NATION



▲ Students during their first orientation day of the Mining Essentials Program.

A first in Ontario, a first in Canada

On July 3, 2014 in Sudbury – *Élargir l'espace francophone*, in partnership with *Destination réussite – Volet 1 Nord*, Collège Boréal, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), and in collaboration with the Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR), announced that the “Mining Essentials” program was launched for the very first time in French.

The nine week program is being delivered by Collège Boréal, Sudbury campus, to four-

teen Aboriginal participants who attended French language high schools in Northern Ontario. This training will give them greater job opportunities as well as provide practical solutions to recruitment challenges sometimes encountered in the mining sector.

This endeavour was in part due to the generous financial contribution of the MNO and *Destination réussite – Volet 1 Nord*, enabling these first fourteen participants to receive this training in French.

Angèle Piquette, coordinator for *Destination réussite – Volet 1 Nord* says: “This is a collaboration from federal, provincial and regional partners that will reach a targeted group and we are responding to the growing need of the mining industry in the entry level sector. This is a promising initiative and we are totally enthused with this partnership.” ∞

ÉLARGIR L'ESPACE FRANCOPHONE

The mission of *Élargir l'espace francophone* is to ensure sustainable development of the Francophone community by ensuring integrated participation from the community sector as well as government and private sector in collaboration with the French language education system in Ontario.



It's About Doing What's Right

TransCanada is a leading North American energy infrastructure company with one of the best safety records in the industry. Energy East will be designed and operated with safety being a top priority – that is what First Nations and Métis communities expect, and that is what TransCanada will deliver. TransCanada believes by developing positive, long-term relationships with the First Nations and Métis communities impacted by our activities, we can conduct our business while respecting the community interests.

Our proactive approach to First Nations and Métis Relations has been an integral part of our operations for over 30 years.

MNO signs agreement with Ontario Power Generation

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the MNO Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Committee signed a five year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) on July 21, 2014.

The MOU outlines the process for continued consultation that will be followed between the MNO and OPG for the Deep Geologic Repository for low and intermediate level waste and OPG's nuclear waste operations in Kincardine, Ontario.

"This agreement is very important to Métis people," explained MNO Chair France Picotte, "because it guarantees that Métis rights will be protected and the Métis Way of Life in the Georgian Bay will be respected. We are pleased to continue working with Ontario Power Generation. Agreements like this one are another benefit that we see coming from the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, which was first signed in 2008 and which was renewed this year."

Brian McGee, OPG Vice-President Nuclear Waste Management Division added: "Ontario Power Generation is committed to building long-term, mutually beneficial

"This agreement is very important to Métis people, because it guarantees that Métis rights will be protected and the Métis Way of Life in the Georgian Bay will be respected."

— MNO Chair France Picotte



▲ MNO and OPG delegates signing the MOU on July 21. (Left to right) Brian McGee, Vice President OPG Nuclear Waste Management Division; Scott Berry, OPG Manager Corporate Relations; David Dusome, President MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council; Larry Ducal, President MNO Moon River Métis Council; France Picotte, Chair Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario; Peter Coture, President MNO Great Lakes Métis Council; Pauline Richardson, Region 7 Councillor Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario; and Tim Gigliotti, OPG Director of First Nations and Métis Relations.

working relationships with the Métis Nation of Ontario. This agreement today will help us work together to strengthen this relationship even further and work towards common goals."

The MOU sets out the way in which the local Métis community, as represented by the MNO's Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Committee and the Community Councils that are part

of the committee, will be consulted regarding the development of the project and details on how the parties will work together to address any potential impacts the project may have on Métis rights, interests and way of life.

MNO Regional Councillor Pauline Richardson, Chair of the Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Committee, commented: "Our community is very proud of

the relationship that we have built with Ontario Power Generation – Deep Geologic Repository for Low to Intermediate Level Waste. We see this relationship as an opportunity to foster new collaborations while working together to protect our traditional values and way of life. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our relationship with Ontario Power Generation as their project progresses." ∞

Métis Nation of Ontario and TransCanada Sign Engagement Agreement for the Energy East Pipeline Project

On September 23, 2014, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) announced it has signed a Communications and Engagement Funding Agreement (CEFA) with TransCanada Oil Pipelines (TSX:TRP). The CEFA will guide the working relationship between MNO and TransCanada in the development and environmental assessment of the Energy East Pipeline Project (the "Project") over the next two years.

The Energy East Pipeline Project includes a 4,600 kilometre pipeline that will carry 1.1 million barrels of crude oil per day from Alberta and Saskatchewan to refineries in Eastern Canada through Ontario to delivery points in Quebec and New Brunswick. In Ontario, the Project will traverse five of the MNO's regions, which are represented through Regional Consultation Committees as a part of the MNO's consultation framework.

"The MNO is pleased with the positive and constructive relationship-building efforts TransCanada has demonstrated by signing this CEFA. Through this agreement, our communities and citizens will be able to learn about the Project as well as assess its impacts on Métis rights, interests and claims in order to ultimately make informed decisions on Energy East," said MNO President Gary Lipinski.

President Lipinski added, "This agreement is also a 'first' for the MNO because it sets out a multi-region con-

sultation process that will see rights-bearing Métis communities along the Project's route working together. I applaud the MNO's local and regional leadership for collaborating in this way and believe this collective approach will ensure the Métis Nation's overall interests in relation to the Project are addressed." ∞

"Through this agreement, our communities and citizens will be able to learn about the Project as well as assess its impacts on Métis rights, interests and claims in order to ultimately make informed decisions on Energy East."

— MNO President Gary Lipinski

CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF MNO LEADERSHIP

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New MNO Employees

THE MNO IS EXCITED TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW STAFF MEMBERS TO ITS OFFICES IN KINGSTON, MIDLAND, OTTAWA AND DRYDEN.



01: CHRISTINA HODGINS-STEWART

Christina joins the MNO Ottawa office in the position of Healing and Wellness Branch Operations Coordinator.

Christina comes to the MNO with operations and administrative experience that she garnered over five years while employed with the Canadian Association of the Deaf. She is re-entering the workplace after having been a work at home Mother for a few years while running a successful local baking business which continues to thrive.

Many of Christina's interpersonal and transferable skills come from her educational background and careers in Early Childhood Education and as a professionally trained Birth & Postpartum Doula.

Submitted by: **Wenda Watteryne**, Director of Healing and Wellness

JOIE OUDERKIRK

Joie joins the MNO Kingston office in the position of Community Action Program for Children Coordinator.

Joie previously worked as a Community Counsellor with Community Support Services providing psycho-social rehabilitation and program development for participants with developmental delays. Joie also has experience working with the Canadian Mental Health Association as the psycho-social rehabilitation worker providing one-on-one and group programs to support participants with mental illnesses.

Joie holds a diploma in Social Service Work from Sheridan College. She is looking forward to her new role with Métis Nation of Ontario, and is excited for the challenges to come!

Submitted by: **Wenda Watteryne**, Director of Healing and Wellness



02: JESSIE PENGELLY

Jessie joins the MNO Kingston office in the position of Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program Coordinator.

Jessie previously worked as an Educational Assistant with the Limestone School Board providing support to children and families struggling with ADHD, FASD, and Attachment Disorders. She has also been a Child and Youth Worker in local group homes providing case management, one on one counselling and creating therapeutic treatment plans for behaviour modification.

Jessie holds a diploma in Community and Justice Services from St. Lawrence College and is currently working towards completion of her Autism and Behavioural Science certificate. She is excited to begin this new journey with the MNO and is looking forward to providing families with the support needed to nurture their babies and provide skills for continued success in the future.

Submitted by: **Wenda Watteryne**, Director of Healing and Wellness



03: KAITLYN OUIMETTE

Kaitlyn joins the MNO Midland office in the position of Community Wellness Coordinator.

Kaitlyn comes to the MNO from a group-home agency working as a front-line support worker with highly-aggressive developmental clients. During one of her placements in college, she had an opportunity to work at the Barrie Native Friendship Center as an Aboriginal Criminal Court Worker Assistant. That opportunity sparked her interest for the Aboriginal culture and it soon became her passion.

Kaitlyn has had other experience as a women's shelter volunteer, an acquired brain injury rehabilitation worker, criminal court worker, and has had experience working with concurrent disorders.

Kaitlyn holds a diploma in Social Service Work from Georgian College. She is excited to bring her knowledge, experience and passion to the MNO to support and better the lives of families and individuals in the community.

Submitted by: **Wenda Watteryne**, Director of Healing and Wellness

TORI FINLAY

Tori joins the MNO Dryden office in the position of Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator.

Having recently graduated from the Social Service Worker Program at Confederation College in Thunder Bay, Tori opted to move back to Dryden to be closer to family and friends. Once back in Dryden, she gained employment with the MNO and is extremely happy to be offered this position as her first job in her chosen career path.

Submitted by: **Wenda Watteryne**, Director of Healing and Wellness

Métis Nation
of Ontario ∞



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MNO President Lipinski (left) and Minister Zimmer (right) presenting MNO Canoe Expedition Guide Jeremy Brown (centre) with a map of his travels across Ontario.

“We aspire to attain our highest potential”

- From the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose

The 21st MNO Annual General Assembly Highlights August 23-25, Thunder Bay

The founders of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) set out ambitious goals and objectives when they drafted the *Statement of Prime Purpose*. As MNO citizens departed from Thunder Bay following this year's Annual General Assembly (AGA), they could feel great satisfaction in the progress made and being made towards the aspiration of attaining our highest potential as so eloquently expressed in the *Statement of Prime Purpose*.

From the procession led by MNO Veterans that began the Opening Ceremonies, to the beautiful rendition of Amazing Grace that closed the AGA three days later, the Assembly was a whirl-

wind of activity filled with discussion, decisions, celebration, commemoration, laughter and tears all of which are part of the business of the Métis Nation.

State of the Nation Address

In his annual State of the Nation Address, President Lipinski covered a wide range of issues as he outlined the MNO's successes in the last year and spoke about upcoming challenges. He indicated that the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) Agreement has proven to be one of the most successful programs the federal government ever launched and that it has allowed the MNO to provide many opportunities to Métis youth to advance their education and careers. He also expressed concern, however, that the current ASETS agreement expires in March 2015 and that although the MNO has been making a solid case for renewal he still called upon MNO citizens to write their Members of Parliament and put pressure on the government to maintain this important program. “We cannot wait for the budget announcement,” stated President Lipinski, “our communities need to know what is happening so we can start planning now.”

In a similar vein, President Lipinski called on the federal government to match provincial government contributions to the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF). While in 2011, the provincial government committed \$30 million over 10 years to the MVDF, the federal government has yet to provide any support. “There is a party missing,” stated President Lipinski, “Ontario is alone in its commitment [to the MVDF]. We need to put pressure on the federal government to provide matching funds.”

Among the success stories that President Lipinski highlighted in his remarks was the recognition that all MNO volunteers, past and present, received when the MNO was nominated for, and received, the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement for Voluntarism Award. “The MNO was built by volunteers,” stated President Lipinski, “and this was certainly well-deserved recognition.”

(Continued on page 14)

“It is about the next generation!”

— President Lipinski



01



02



03



04

01: Colour party entrance during the Opening Ceremony. 02: MNO Veterans' Council Chair Guy Mandeville. 03: President Lipinski at the MNO Youth Council meeting held prior to the AGA. 04: MNO Auditor Randy Tivy.



AGA 2014 CELEBRATING WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO



▲ 01: Benny Michaud and Mitch Case. 02: Senator Verna Porter-Brunell. 03: MNO Chair France Picotte. 04: Presentation of a framed copy of the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement* to the MNO from the Government of Ontario, presented by Minister Mauro, Minister Zimmer and Minister Gravelle to President Lipinski. 05: President Lipinski and PCMNO standing ovation to the MNO Canoe Expedition. 06: (Second to the right) PCMNO Region 2 Councillor Cam Burgess with (left to right) hosting council presidents Trent Desaulnier, MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council; David Bell, MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council; and William Gordon, MNO Greenstone Métis Council. 07: MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile delivering the financial report. 08: President Lipinski with Wendy Landry and Lindsay Bayd of Union Gas.



Thank you to the
**Abitibi/Temiscamingue
& James Bay Territories
Consultation Committee**

FOR THEIR SILVER SPONSORSHIP OF THE 2014 AGA.

(Continued from page 13)

Another significant achievement with many positive implications for the future of the MNO was the acquirement, through the MNO-Bright-Roof Solar Limited Partnership, of contracts to generate solar electricity. “This will eventually put us in a position to pay dividends to the MNO that can be invested in our youth,” explained President Lipinski, “and eventually we will be in the position to produce enough energy for every Métis household in the province.”

As he has for the last several years, President Lipinski emphasized the importance of encour-

aging Métis youth “to be the best that they can be.” President Lipinski stressed that while the MNO has made many strides in providing more opportunities for young people, he also indicated that supporting youth is the duty of every MNO citizen, not just MNO leaders and staff. “All it takes is for someone to take a young person under their wing,” declared President Lipinski, “it can be a parent but also can be a grandparent, an uncle or aunt, or any older family member or friend. We all have the power to have a positive effect on the generations to come.”

Renewal of MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement

One of the major MNO successes highlighted during the AGA was the signing in April of the renewed *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*. In her video message to the Assembly, Premier Kathleen Wynne expressed pride in renewing the agreement for another five years.

“Continuing to strengthen our relationship is so important,” she explained, “together we can improve the quality of life for Métis families and individuals.” In his remarks to the Assembly, the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs indicated that

the achievements of the original *Framework Agreement*, signed in 2008, led to the new agreement being signed. “Last year we did an independent review of the original agreement,” stated Minister

Zimmer, “and it was quite clear that the agreement was really effective in reaching and meeting the shared goals and objectives [outlined in the agreement].”

Minister Zimmer signalled out in particular the work done with the New Relationship Fund (NRF),

Working closely with you, so we can build a brighter future for all of Ontario.”

— Premier Kathleen Wynne

the increased educational opportunities for Métis students, the Métis Voyageur Development Fund and the Nippissing research agreement. In his remarks, MNO President Gary Lipinski spoke about how the original *Framework Agreement*

took Métis from the era of denial into an era of reconciliation. “It is wonderful,” he said, “that we are able to speak about all our successes we have achieved by working together.”

MNO Finances

In 2008, the MNO sat with an accumulated debt of \$4.2 million. Since 2008, the MNO has buckled down, tightened its financial controls and worked on debt repayment plans. As a result, the 2013-14 MNO audited financial statements showed the MNO had reduced its overall debt to less than \$1 million (\$967,000) and for the first time in many years the audit did not include an “Emphasis of Matter.” The “Emphasis of Matter” is a qualification that auditors place on financial statement to indicate that conditions exist within an audited organization that potentially could threaten its ability to

remain “a going concern,” meaning to continue to operate. While the MNO has been steadily improving its financial picture since

It was heavy lifting and we had to make tough decisions to get here. But our youth will be the beneficiaries of our efforts.”

— President Lipinski

2008, the 2013-14 first fiscal year is the first where enough improvements have been made that the auditor was willing to provide an “unqualified” financial statement, which is a statement without an “Emphasis of Matter.”

In addition, the Assembly was informed that the MNO’s administrative costs account for only 10 per cent of all budget expenditures which

(Continued on page 15)

CELEBRATING WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

AGA 2014



(Continued from page 14)

is very good as most organizations have administrative costs in the area of 15 per cent.

The hard work and dedication of MNO citizens is paying off and will result in a stronger MNO in the future.

Region Two hosts

This year's AGA was jointly hosted by the three Chartered MNO Community Councils in Region 2 who worked with Region 2 PCMNO Councillor Cam Burgess to make the 2014 AGA one of the most memorable yet! President David Bell of the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council, Trent Desulneirs of the MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council and William Gordon of the MNO Greenstone Métis Council brought greetings to the Assembly and were joined by several

other Thunder Bay and area local politicians including, the Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources, his Worship Keith Hobbs, Mayor of Thunder Bay and Member of Parliament John Rafferty. The obvious connection between local pride and Métis pride was evident as most of these officials commented on Thunder Bay's strong Métis roots going back to the fur trade and continuing to this day.

“Thunder Bay was the great centre of the fur trade.”

— Thunder Bay Mayor Keith Hobbs

Nation to Nation

As one of the three Aboriginal peoples of Canada, the Métis are always very pleased when other Aboriginal peoples accept our invitation to attend the AGA. Grand Chief Harvey Yesno of the Nishnewabe-Aski Nation and Chief Leon Jourdain of the Lac La Croix First Nation representing Grand Chief Warren White, Grand Council Treaty #3, both brought greetings during the AGA Opening Ceremonies. In his remarks Grand Chief Yesno described his own family connections to the Métis and stressed the importance of unity among Aboriginal peoples. In his comments, Chief Jourdain addressed the issue the violence against Aboriginal people and ways to prevent it.

“It is Aboriginal youth that will bring this country together through unity and strength to all of us.”

— Grand Chief Harvey Yesno of the Nishnewabe-Aski Nation

(Continued on page 16)



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Xeneca is proud to be working with the Métis Nation of Ontario to build renewable waterpower projects in Ontario.

We wish to continue building a strong and lasting partnership, and we look forward to many more years of working together.



▲ 09: Hailey Fortier (left) and Katelyne Stenlund (right) at the AGA daycare. 10: MNO Summer Youth Cultural students and MNO Canoe Expedition participants at the MNO culture day events. 11: Tug of war at the MNO culture day events. 12: MNO Healing and Wellness staff giving a demonstration at the MNO culture day events. 13: Scott Carpenter and Region 2 Captain of the Hunt Ken Simard. 14: Grand Chief Harvey Yesno of the Nishnewabe-Aski Nation. 15: (Left to right) Rachelle Brunette-McColl, Guylaine Morin-Cleroux, Mitch Case and Kelly Duquette.



AGA 2014 CELEBRATING WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO



▲ 01: Glen and Carole Lipinski who celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary at this AGA. 02: Senator Roland St. Germain with his grand daughter Autumn. 03: (Left to right) Sharon McBride, Peter Rivers and Carol Lewis. 04: PCMNO Post-secondary Representative Jennifer Henry. 05: (Left to right) Métis lawyer Jason Madden and Josh Szajewski. 06: (Left to right) Senator Reta Gordon, Ron Gordon and Senator Lois McCallum. (On the following page) 07: President Lipinski completing the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. 08: Dalen “Elvis” James. 09: Métis Voyager Games held during the MNO culture day events.



TD celebrates the 21st MNO Annual General Assembly

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(Continued from page 15)

Métis Rights Updates

“Our rights stand and fall on the facts of history.”

— Métis Lawyer Jason Madden

Delegates at the MNO AGA were presented updates on current litigation that has had or potentially could have impacts on Métis rights by Jean Teillet and Jason Madden, the two top Métis rights lawyers in Canada.

Ms. Teillet focused on national cases and reviewed a total of 14 cases indicating that the number of Métis rights cases is constantly increasing. Mr. Madden analyzed the Ontario scene and stressed the importance of the right-assertion work being done by ordinary MNO citizens. “I am very proud of our regional leadership,” explained Mr. Madden, “[because] unless you get to the negotiation table - winning court cases is meaningless . . . it is what you guys do on the local level that really counts.”

Senators

The presence of MNO Senators throughout the AGA helps provide a deep spiritual connection that helps guide decisions during the AGA. They remind delegates of their responsibilities and provide a living link to Métis culture and heritage. The opening prayer for the AGA was provided by Senator Patsy Dryden of the MNO Greenstone Métis Council. Executive Senator Reta Gordon provided the prayer for the Dinner and Dance on the Saturday night while Sena-

“Guided by our spiritual values ...”

— MNO Statement of Prime Purpose

tor Bob McKay of the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council provided the AGA's closing prayer.

(Continued on page 17)

CELEBRATING WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO AGA 2014



(Continued from page 16)

Social and cultural celebrations

“Métis work hard but we also play hard!”

— MNO Chair France Picotte

AGAs are like family reunions as MNO citizens from all over the province, who only get to see each other once a year at the AGA, have the opportunity to come together and celebrate their culture and heritage. On the Saturday evening, AGA delegates enjoyed a scrumptious meal followed by entertainment that included a jigging and fiddling demonstration by the MNO Canoe Expedition, fiddling from Alicia Bloor, and singing from Britany Hayes and Pat Calder Cupp. Everyone then took to the dance floor to rock and roll with the Sensational Hot Rods.

On Sunday afternoon, delegates visited lovely Chippewa Park where they participated in a whole host of fun and exciting Métis cultural activities. Activities included dot art, scavenger hunts, finger weaving, jam making, bath salts making and tug of war. Métis Voyageur game competitions also took place including the hatchet throw and air rifle shooting. There was even a concert from the

King of Rock and Roll himself, Elvis (or interpreted by local Elvis and national award winning Elvis impersonator Daylin James).

The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge also made a big splash at the AGA. It started with PCMNO Councillors Peter Rivers and Tom Thompson and before long many challenges were issued. Among those who took the Ice-bucket Challenge were MNO President Gary Lipinski, MNO Chair France Picotte, MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride, MNO Secretary Treasurer Tim Pile, PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case and MNO staff members Doug Wilson, Joanne Meyer, Mike Fedyk, Hank Rowlinson, Theresa Hendricks, Mark Brunzell, James Wager and Mark Vuotari. PCMNO Regional Councillor Pauline Richardson chose to donate to ALS rather than take the challenge.

For more information about ALS, the Ice-bucket and how to donate go to: www.als.ca.



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Shayla Worm of the Kawacatoose First Nation,
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skills program graduate



AGA 2014 CELEBRATING WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Dinner & Dance

During Saturday evening, AGA delegates kicked up their heels at the 2014 AGA Dinner and Dance which included both Métis cultural performances and the dynamic music of the Sensational Hot Rods, a local Thunder Bay band. Here are some snapshots from the evening.

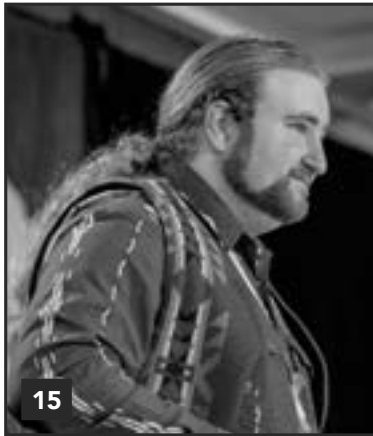


CELEBRATING WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO AGA 2014





Speakers and Guests



Among the special guests who attended the AGA and spoke at the opening ceremonies were elected officials representing areas of federal, provincial, First Nations and municipal governments as well as several representatives of MNO partners and stakeholders. Important reports were also delivered by MNO officials throughout the AGA.

01: The Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. 02: The Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines. 03: The Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. 04: Grand Chief Harvey Yesno of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. 05: Chief Leon Jourdain of the Lac La Croix First Nation representing Grand Chief Warren White, Grand Council. 06: His Worship, Mayor Keith Hobbs of Thunder Bay. 07: Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Member of Parliament. 08: John Rafferty, Member of Parliament. 09: Alexander Bezzina, Deputy Minister of Children and Youth Services. 10: Richard Ouellet, Wabnode of the Centre for Aboriginal Services of Cambrian Collage. 11: President Jim Madder of Confederation College. 12: President Clement Chartier of the Métis National Council. 13: Lindsay Boyd, Director Aboriginal and Municipal Affairs at Union Gas. 14: Joseph Paquette, MNO Veterans' Council President. 15: Mitch Case, PCMNO Youth Representative. 16: MNO Chair France Picotte. 17: PCMNO Executive Senator Reta Gordon. 18: MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride. 19: Jean Teillet, Métis lawyer. 20: Jason Madden, Métis lawyer.

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AGA 2014 CELEBRATING WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Special Moments



▲ 01. During the MNO Youth meeting, PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case presented MNO President Lipinski with a vest he had personally embroidered to recognize President Lipinski’s dedication to helping and promoting Métis youth. 02. President Lipinski and Minister Zimmer presented each member of the MNO Canoe Expedition with a copy of Jean Teillet’s *Métis Law in Canada*, a map of the expedition route and a plaque of recognition. 03. MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile presented Grand Chief Harvey Yesno with a Métis flag. 04. Presentation of carved moose antler to MNO President Lipinski by council presidents Trent Desaulnier, MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council; and William Gordon, MNO Greenstone Métis Council.

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July 2014

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The Phoenix Gold Project - Red Lake, Ontario



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Welder



Surveyor

The Phoenix Gold Project - New PEA Highlights¹

Projected gold production	2.19 million ounces
Average annual projected gold production	165,300 ounces
Diluted grade to the mill	2.1 g/t Au
Cash operating cost	US\$599/oz (C\$629/oz)
All-in sustaining cost ²	US\$870/oz (C\$913/oz)
Average LOM daily throughput	1,900 tpd
Mining method	90% long-hole stoping
Production life	13 years

¹ The New PEA was prepared by SRK Consulting (Canada) Inc. with metallurgical sections prepared by Soutex Inc., both of whom are independent of the Company as defined by NI 43-101, with an effective date of June 25, 2013. See our Forward Looking Statements and Disclaimer found on our website at www.rubiconminerals.com/investors/Cautionary-Notes/default.aspx for important disclosure of the New PEA and forward-looking comments.
² All-in sustaining cash cost include operating cost, royalties, gold streaming, and sustaining capital and does not include any pre-production capital expenditures, allocation of estimated corporate overhead costs or exploration costs.

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Thanks to MNO staff

President Lipinski, Chair Picotte and other AGA speakers consistently took time throughout the AGA to recognize and thank MNO staff for their hard work and dedication both during the AGA as well as throughout the entire year. “I am always impressed by the dedication of our staff,” declared President Lipinski during the AGA Opening Ceremonies, “they give 100 per cent of their effort and dedication.”



Tradeshow

One of the most popular places during the AGA was the trade show room. Fourteen exhibitors participated in the AGA trade show and provided information about important programs and activities that impact Métis people. Thanks to all the exhibitors who participated.



Thank You

TO THE VENDORS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE 2014 MNO AGA

ÉTCHIBOY

HAVEN GLOBAL

WEQUEDONG LODGE OF THUNDER BAY

NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY

GYPSY’S GEMS AND GIFTS/MÉTIS SASH GALLERY

STATISTICS CANADA

WALKING WITH OUR SISTERS – THUNDER BAY

MNO INFINITY PROPERTY SERVICES

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR DEVELOPMENT FUND

MNO MOON RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL

MNO HEALING AND WELLNESS BRANCH

TRANSCANADA



Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen volunteers are the heart and soul of the MNO. These hard-working individuals spend thousands of hours annually building and strengthening Métis communities and it is through their continuous efforts that the MNO is able to perform its important work. To recognize the individuals who contribute as a volunteer to the MNO year round and have done so for a number of years, the MNO presents the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award annually to a deserving MNO citizen. This year, the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Senator Robert “Bob” McKay, known fondly by many as the Métis “Brad Pitt”.

A truly worthy candidate, Senator McKay has been an active MNO Senator for the past 15 years and member of the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council for 17 years. Senator McKay sits on many committees and provides a Métis Traditional Knowledge Holder presence at many events for organizations such as the Northern School of Medicine, Lakehead University, the City of Thunder Bay, Lakehead School Board, Saving Lighthouses on Lake Superior and the Labour Council for Aboriginal Youth to name a few. He is also the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal acknowledging his long-term dedication to the cause of achieving Métis rights and self-government.

Senator McKay is actively involved with youth and this year alone was presented with two awards from the Ontario

Public School Board Association for his outstanding contribution to the education community (*see story on page 40*).

The Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Senator McKay by MNO President Gary Lipinski at the MNO’s 21st Annual General Assembly Dinner and Dance in Thunder Bay. Senator McKay was thrilled to receive the award.

“Your commitment to Métis youth and the Métis community is unprecedented. Senators are so very important to Métis culture, the MNO and its governance structure. You actively keep Métis culture alive by sharing our culture and passing on our traditions through the many events that you attend,” stated MNO President Gary Lipinski. “Through your volunteerism you also educate our youth and the general public on what it means to be Métis. I personally would like to thank you for your many years of dedication to the betterment of the Métis Nation.”

Nominations for the Volunteer of the Year Award required a written letter, limited to 1,000 words, describing why the nominee should be selected. Each year a volunteer meeting the criteria is named as the recipient of the Suzanne-Rochon Volunteer of the Year by a selection committee of the MNO.

Past winners of the award have included: Suzanne Rochon-Burnett, Richard Sarrazin, Senator Reta Gordon, Louise Goulding, Pauline Richardson, Senator Gordon Calder, Senator Marlene Greenwood, Senator Olivine Tiedema and Senator Brenda Powley. ∞

Criteria

The individuals nominated must exemplify the kind of volunteer contribution demonstrated by Suzanne Rochon-Burnett. They will have given generously of their time and effort, are strong advocates of the Métis Nation and their record of selfless commitment has been firmly established. They are seen as caring, giving individuals who others look up to and admire. The candidates will have provided an extended period of service as a volunteer.

About Dr. Suzanne Rochon-Burnett

Dr. Suzanne Rochon-Burnett was a founding member of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Named to the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, Suzanne was a member of the Canada Council and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Brock University where she served on the Board of Trustees. She was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and the first woman inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. Suzanne passed away in 2006. To honour her memory and recognize her outstanding service as a volunteer, in 2006, the Métis Nation of Ontario named Suzanne as the first recipient of the inaugural *Volunteer of the Year Award* which now bears her name.

Join the MNO Facebook community!

Take part in the conversation and connect with fellow MNO community members from near and far.

The page features:

- Daily postings and updates on weekdays
- Photo galleries of pictures often not seen elsewhere
- Fun and friendly comments from the MNO community

Don't miss out.
Join the nearly 1,500 MNO fans who have already liked our page!



AGA 2014 CELEBRATING WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

MNO leaders and governing bodies

AGAs provide the opportunity for MNO citizens in leadership positions throughout Ontario to get together and discuss issues impacting their respective jurisdictions.



▲ The Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) members at the 2014 MNO Annual General Assembly. (Left to right) **BACK ROW:** Mitch Case, Theresa Stenlund, Cam Burgess, Marcel Lafrance, Ernest Gatien, Juliette Denis, Tom Thompson Jr., Pauline Richardson, Anita Tucker, Peter Rivers and Jennifer Henry. **FRONT ROW:** Senator Rene Gravelle, Senator Reta Gordon, Senator Joseph Poitras, Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle, President Gary Lipinski, France Picotte, Sharon McBride and Tim Pile.



▲ MNO Community Council Presidents at the 2014 MNO Annual General Assembly. (Left to right) **BACK ROW:** Joel Henley, Peter Couture, Nelson Montreuil, Larry Duval, Derrick Pont, Alain Lefebvre, David Hamilton and Marc Laurin. **MIDDLE ROW:** Trent Desaulniers, Richard Cuddy, Tera Beaulieu, Benny Michaud, MNO President Gary Lipinski, Cora Bunn, Valorie Pelepetz and Kim Powley. **FRONT ROW:** Deidre Thompson, Kristin Randall, Liliane Ethier, Yvonne Jensen, Richard Sarrazin, William Gordon, Suzanne Jackson (MNO Clear Waters Métis Council Chair), Marlene Davidson and Alvina Cimon.

Thank You TO THESE BRONZE SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE 2014 ANNUAL AGA



CELEBRATING WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO AGA 2014



▲ MNO Veterans' Council at the 2014 MNO AGA. (left to right) Guy Mandeville, CD (Chair); Joseph Paquette (President); Chris Plummer, CD (Treasurer); Dr. Alis Kennedy, CD, OMC (Senator); MISSING: Lisa Tessier, CD (Women's Representative) and Greg Garratt (Secretary).



▲ Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) at the 2014 MNO AGA. (Left to right) BACK ROW: Barbaranne Wright (Regions 3, 4, and 9), Pearl Gabona (Regions 5 and 8), and Shirley Lynn Pantuso (Regions 1 and 7). FRONT ROW: Roz Calder (Regions 2 and 6) and Sharon McBride (WSMNO Spokesperson).



◀ Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council at the 2014 MNO AGA. (Left to right) BACK ROW: Nicholas Delbaere-Sawchuk (Region 8), Kyle Grenier (Region 7), Alexander Young (Region 9), and Mitch Case (Youth Representative on PCMNO). FRONT ROW: Kelly Duquette (Region 1), Brianne Gosselin (Region 3), and Janine Landry (Region 2). Missing: Sylvie Forest (Region 5).



▲ MNO Senators at the 2014 Annual General Assembly. (Left to right) BACK ROW: Alis Kennedy, Eugene Contant, Terry Bloom, Roland St. Germain, Al Roussin, Gary Laframboise, Robert Loyd, Brian Gouliquer, Blair Sterling and Malcom Dixon. MIDDLE: Robert Bird, John George, Norm Prevost, Carol Levis, Romeo Sarrazin, Karen Cederwall, Brenda Powley, Doris Lanigan, Patricia Dryden and Lois McCallum. FRONT: Cecile Wagar, Bob McKay, Rene Gravelle, Verna Porter-Brunelle, Joseph Poitras, Reta Gordon, Olivine Tiedema, Audrey Vallee and Dora McInnis.

Thank You TO THESE BRONZE SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE 2014 ANNUAL AGA





AGA 2014 CELEBRATING WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO



▲ The MNO 2014 Annual General Assembly Resolution Committee.

“Métis self-government in action”

Among the most important work carried out at AGA are the resolutions that are brought up for discussion. When passed these resolutions provide direction to the MNO leadership in crucial areas of the MNO’s governance and operations. The following are the resolutions passed at the 2014 AGA:

CONFIRM CHANGES TO MNO BYLAWS

Mover: Gary Lipinski
Seconders: France Picotte

WHEREAS the PCMNO met on March 29, 2014 and approved changes to the MNO Bylaws pursuant to the authority set out in section 39 of the MNO Bylaws;

AND WHEREAS the exact wording of the changes made to the MNO Bylaws since the last MNO AGA is highlighted in yellow and explained in detail in the attached document;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: that the 2014 MNO AGA approves the PCMNO’s changes to the MNO Bylaws dated March 29, 2014, which are attached to this resolution.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPECRES2014-01)

CHANGES TO THE MNO ELECTORAL CODE

Mover: Gary Lipinski
Seconders: France Picotte

WHEREAS the 2012 MNO AGA directed that a consultation process on potential changes to the MNO Electoral Code be undertaken with MNO citizens prior to the next MNO election;

AND WHEREAS the 2012 MNO AGA appointed an independent Committee consisting of MNO citizens to review the MNO Electoral Code, the Chief Electoral Officer’s report from the last MNO election as well as receive feedback and input from MNO citizens on the last MNO election;

AND WHEREAS the Committee provided a written report to the 2013

MNO AGA based on the reviews conducted and the input received on the MNO Electoral Code, which was approved by the 2013 MNO AGA;

AND WHEREAS the Committee then worked with MNO’s Legal Counsel to proposed drafting changes to the MNO Electoral Code consistent with input and feedback received;

AND WHEREAS the PCMNO met on March 29, 2014 and approved the proposed changes to the MNO Electoral Code;

AND WHEREAS the exact wording of the proposed changes to the MNO Electoral Code are highlighted in yellow and explained in detail in the attached document;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: that the 2014 MNO AGA approves the proposed changes to the MNO Electoral that are attached to this resolution.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPECRES2014-02)

CHANGES TO THE MNO POLICY #2011-002

Mover: Gary Lipinski
Seconders: France Picotte

WHEREAS the PCMNO has recently amended the MNO Bylaws in order to bring them into compliance with new Ontario legislation dealing with not-for-profit corporations that will come into effect at a future date;

AND WHEREAS MNO Policy #2011-002 requires amendments in order to be consistent with the changes made to the MNO Bylaws;

AND WHEREAS the PCMNO met on March 29, 2014 and discussed

proposed changes to MNO Policy #2011-002;

AND WHEREAS the exact wording of the proposed changes to MNO Policy #2011-002 are outlined and explained in detail in the attached document;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: that the 2014 MNO AGA approves the proposed changes to MNO Policy #2011-002 that are attached to this resolution.

CARRIED (AGA-SPECRES2014-03)

127 – IN FAVOUR; 25 - AGAINST

ADOPTION OF MNO REGISTRY POLICY

Mover: Gary Lipinski
Seconders: France Picotte

WHEREAS the MNO AGA adopted the National Definition for citizenship within the Métis Nation in 2004, which is now a part of the MNO Bylaws;

AND WHEREAS the PCMNO adopted an Interim Registry Policy in 2009 in order to provide direction to the MNO Registry for the granting of citizenship within the MNO;

AND WHEREAS the MNO undertook a series of consultations with MNO citizens between 2009 to 2011 in order to more fully explain the Interim Registry Policy and receive input and feedback from the consultations;

AND WHEREAS “What We Heard” reports with recommendations were prepared based on those consultations and circulated throughout the MNO;

AND WHEREAS previous MNO AGAs have provided direction to the MNO in relation to specific recommendations coming out of those consultations,

which have been implemented by the MNO Registry;

AND WHEREAS the MNO Interim Registry Policy has now been in place for over 5 years and is relied upon by the MNO Registry for the issuance of MNO citizenship;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: that the 2014 MNO AGA adopts the Interim Registry Policy that is attached to this resolution and that all future changes to the policy must come to the MNO AGA for consideration and approval.

CARRIED (AGA-SPECRES2014-04)

122 – IN FAVOUR; 21 – AGAINST
6- ABSTENTIONS

CALLING FOR A NATIONAL INQUIRY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN

Mover: Gary Lipinski
Seconders: France Picotte

See text for this resolution on page 7.

SHARING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE WITH MÉTIS YOUTH

Mover: Katelyn Lacroix
Seconders: Mitch Case

WHEREAS the preservation and continuation of Metis history and culture is of great importance to the Metis nation;

AND WHEREAS the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose guides the MNO to “promote the history, values, culture, language and traditions of the Metis Nation and to create an awareness of our proud heritage”;

AND WHEREAS knowledge sharing

between Metis elders and youth is an excellent way to ensure that our culture remains strong and vibrant for future generations;

AND WHEREAS senator/veteran/ youth workshops in the past were enthusiastically received by youth and elders alike;

AND WHEREAS traditional knowledge sharing with the youth of today ensures the preservation and transfer of knowledge to future generations of Metis and promotes and fosters the development of Metis identity, culture and pride in our history as an indigenous nation;

AND WHEREAS including youth in this process will ensure the continuation of our traditional knowledge for future generations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: that subject to funding being available and secured by MNO future Annual General Assemblies will include a workshop for Senators, Veterans and Youth to share and celebrate traditional knowledge and culture of the Ontario Metis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: that PCMNO and the MNOYC work to involve youth in the transfer of traditional knowledge.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2014-02)

COMMUNICATIONS WITH MÉTIS YOUTH

Mover: Kyle Grenier
Seconders: Alex Young

WHEREAS youth engagement and involvement in the Metis Nation of Ontario is a current priority of the MNO;



CELEBRATING WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO AGA 2014

AND WHEREAS appropriate communication is of the utmost importance in engaging and communicating with youth;

AND WHEREAS effective communications with Métis youth sometimes limits their participation in the MNO;

AND WHEREAS the MNO wants to encourage both current and new Métis youth involvement in the MNO;

AND WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Annual General Assembly to create policy that reinforces the priorities set forward in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: RESOLVED that the MNO investigate novel social media strategies, technologies, and employment opportunities to improve communication with Métis youth and students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: that any branches of the MNO who engage with youth and/or students have active access to social media to communicate these events and programs to Métis youth and students.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2014-03)

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO ACT

Mover: Mitch Case
Seconder: Tom Thompson

WHEREAS advancing Métis self-government agenda is a priority of the Métis Nation of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS in order to advance nation-building the MNO only established one legal and administrative arm - the MNO Secretariat Inc. - under the Ontario Corporations Act;

AND WHEREAS as the MNO and its various governance structures at the local, regional and provincial levels continue to grow and evolve it is recognized that the Ontario Corporations Act does not adequately address the needs of the MNO and creates potential liabilities for the MNO;

AND WHEREAS there is a recognition that the passage of a Métis Nation of Ontario Act, which recognizes the MNO and its various governance structures at the local, regional and provincial levels, will create a solid legal foundation for the MNO's future growth and development;

AND WHEREAS other provincial governments have passed legislation that recognizes the unique governance structures of Métis governments;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: the 2014 MNO AGA once again direct the MNO's leadership to work with the provincial government to develop and secure the passage of a Métis Nation of Ontario Act by the Ontario legislature.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2014-04)

A FEDERAL MÉTIS CLAIMS POLICY AND DANIELS CASE

Mover: Mitch Case
Seconder: Tom Thompson

WHEREAS advancing Métis rights and self-government is a priority for the MNO;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Métis communities have outstanding claims related to Métis rights, title and lands that continue to go unaddressed;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government has established specific and comprehensive claims policies for the negotiation and resolution of First Nation and Inuit claims that currently exclude Métis;

AND WHEREAS in Daniels v. Canada the Federal Court of Appeal confirmed that the Federal Government has constitutional jurisdiction and responsibility for Métis;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: that the 2014 MNO AGA provides the following direction to the MNO's leadership:

1. The MNO aggressively pursue that the Federal Government establish a Métis Claims Policy in order to begin to address and resolve outstanding Métis claims;

2. The MNO work collaboratively with other willing provincial Métis governments to draw attention to the need for a Federal Métis Claims Policy; and

3. If the Supreme Court agrees to hear the Federal Government's appeal in the Daniels case that the MNO retain the law firm of Pape Salter Teillet LLP to seek intervenor status on behalf of the MNO in the appeal, subject to available funding being identified by the MNO's administration and MNO's Chief Operating Officer negotiating a mutually agreeable budget for said intervention.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2014-05)

MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL

Mover: Mitch Case
Seconder: Tom Thompson

WHEREAS Ontario Métis communities are a fundamental and indivisible part of the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS the MNO strongly supports the principle of provincial Métis governments working together - through the Métis National Council ("MNC") - to advance the interests of the Métis Nation at the national and international levels;

AND WHEREAS the MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose clearly states that one of its guiding principles is to maintain its affiliation with the Métis National Council as one of its five Governing Members;

AND WHEREAS the MNO has ever-increasing concerns about the financial management and operations of the MNC as well as the current national leadership's ability to respectfully and fairly represent the rights and interests of all parts of the

Métis Nation, including the Métis Nation within Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the current situation at the MNC has a negative impact on the perception of provincial Métis governments in the eyes of Métis citizens as well as other governments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the 2014 MNO AGA provides the following direction and mandate to the MNO's leadership:

1. That the MNO President attempt to work with other Presidents of the MNC's Governing Members in an attempt to improve and reform the MNC's operations and structures for the benefit of the Métis Nation as a whole, with an annual progress report provided to the Assembly at the AGA;

2. If progress cannot be made in improving the current situation or in reforming the MNC that the PCMNO have the mandate to suspend the MNO's participation in the MNC until these issues are adequately addressed in order to ensure the MNO and the MNO President are not exposed to potential liabilities or positions are not taken that compromise Métis rights, interests and claims in Ontario.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2014-046)

(Left to right) MNO Chair Picotte and the MNO 2014 Annual General Assembly Resolution Committee: Jason Madden, Pauline Richardson, Ray Bergie, Mitch Case and Josh Szajewski. ▼



**Thank you to the Friends of the MNO
for their Generous support of the 2014 Annual AGA**

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Rainy River Project



TREASURY METALS
INCORPORATED





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

PRESIDENT’S HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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

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

—from the Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose

“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.”



GARY LIPINSKI
MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
PRESIDENT

In the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) *Statement of Prime Purpose* we declare that “we aspire to attain our highest potential.” Building towards that ideal, in 2013-14 we continued to work together for Métis rights, improve social conditions for our people and promote Métis culture and heritage. I am pleased to report that in the last year, the MNO has continued to move forward on the objectives of the *Statement of Prime Purpose* and that we will see even more success in the years to come.

Our ongoing success has been the product of our dedicated citizens and the representative government that our founders put in place. The Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) takes direction from citizens at our Annual General Assemblies (AGA) and works closely with its 29 chartered community councils and their democratically elected leadership. At the AGA, you the citizens review the work of our 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 Highlights and all the work done for the last 20 years; everything done in the past is ultimately to build for a stronger future.

■ 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. 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 - Bright-Roof 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.

■ 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



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

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.

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.



1. MNO Kenora Métis Council
2. MNO Northwest Métis Council
3. MNO Sunset Country Métis Council
4. MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council
5. MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council
6. MNO Greenstone Métis Council
7. MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council
8. Métis Nation of Ontario Timmins
9. MNO Northern Lights Métis Council
10. MNO Chapleau Métis Council

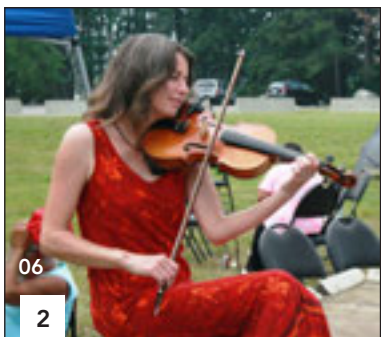
11. MNO Temiskaming Métis Council
12. MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council
13. MNO North Channel Métis Council
14. MNO Sudbury Métis Council
15. MNO North Bay Métis Council
16. MNO Mattawa Métis Council
17. MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council
18. MNO Moon River Métis Council
19. MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council
20. MNO High Land Waters Métis Council

21. MNO Great Lakes Métis Council
22. MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council
23. MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council
24. MNO Credit River Métis Council
25. MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council
26. MNO Grand River Métis Council
27. MNO Clear Waters Métis Council
28. MNO Niagara Region Métis Council
29. MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council

01: MNO Community Council Presidents at the 2013 MNO AGA. (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 Lefebvre, Marc Laurin, Peter Couture and Trent Desulniers.



02: Métis fidler Lillian Penner at the MNO Family Fun Day held in Kenora.



03: MNO Grand River Métis Council capote coat workshop.



04: MNO Oshawa and Durham Métis Council members making pancakes at a Maple Syrup Festival.



05: MNO Healing and Wellness staff during a Family Fun Day held in Bancroft.



06 :MNO Peterborough Wapiti Métis Council, President Lipinski, and Chair Picotte signing the Region 6 Protocol during the 2013 MNO AGA.



07: Marsha Depotier, (far left) and Senator Brenda Powley (far right) present local Walking with Our Sisters exhibit organizers with a Métis healing blanket.



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 grandchil-

dren that completing high school and going onto post-secondary 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.

01: 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.

02: 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.

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

04: 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.

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

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.

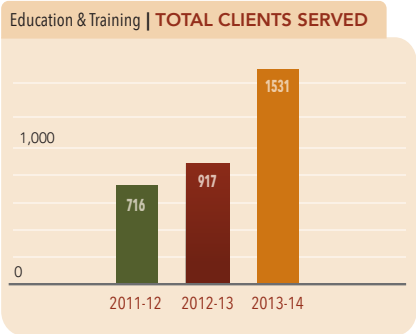
07: MNO President Gary Lipinski (left) and MNO Director of Education and Training Jennifer St. Germain (right) met with Honourable Brad Duguid, who was at the time Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities on May 30.

08: MNO citizens and staff at the Bancroft National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women vigil.

09: 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.

Education and Training Total Clients Served

The chart illustrates that the total number of clients served through education and training programs significantly increased in the last fiscal year.



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 "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), Nijikiwendidaa Anishinabe-kewwag Services Circle, the Native Women's Resource Centre (NWRCC), 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 (OARGP). 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.

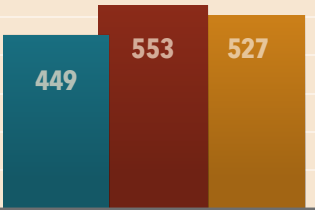
The MNO also continues to show leadership in the area of ending vio-

Mental Health Program - Growth in support services provided

The chart illustrates the total number of clients supported by the MNO Mental Health Program during the indicated fiscal years.



MHP | CLIENT SUPPORT



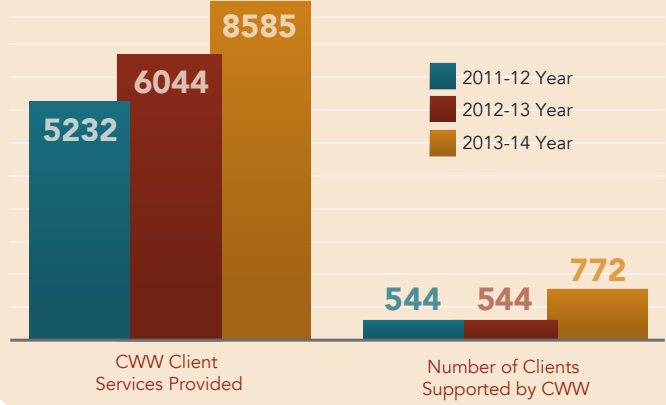
Métis Healthy Babies/ Healthy Children Client Service Growth

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

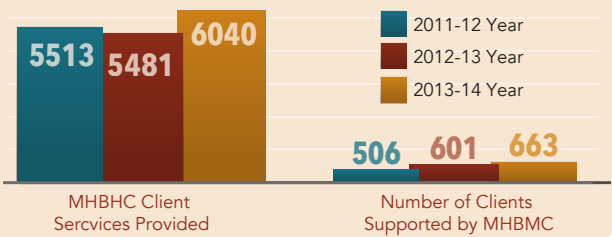
Community Wellness Worker Client Service Growth

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

CWW | CLIENT SERVICE GROWTH



MHBHC | CLIENT SERVICE GROWTH

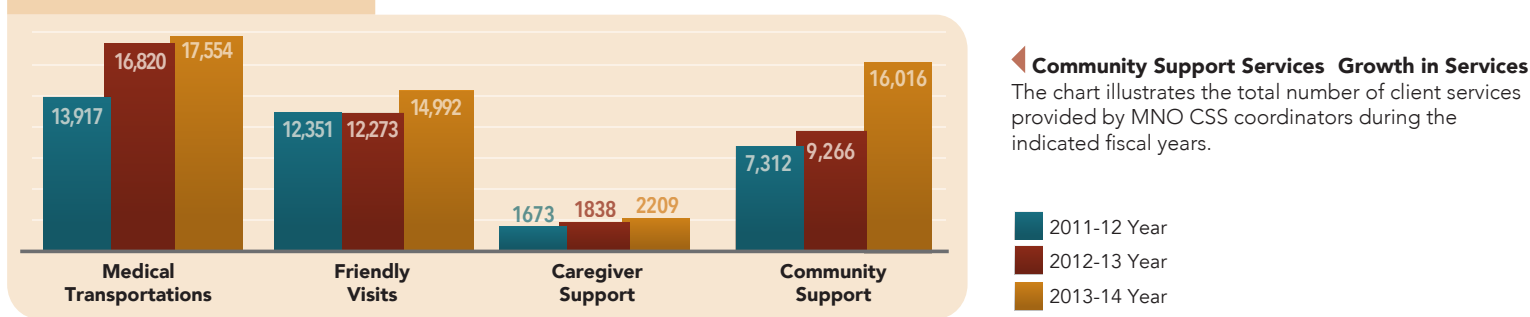


01: The MNO Lakehead / Nipigon / Michipicoten Consultation Committee touring the Ontario Power Generation proposed site for Little Jackfish River Hydro Electric project.

02: MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette with MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council President Tera Beaulieu at the Minaake Awards.



CSS | GROWTH IN SERVICES



lence 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



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

02: 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.

03: 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.

04: MNO Chair France Picotte and Northern College President Fredd Gibbons after signing the Memorandum of Understanding on December 6.

05: MNO President Lipinski speaks at the MNO/Law Society of Upper Canada joint Louis Riel Day 2013 event in Toronto.

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

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

Métis are a proud people who have contributed to the building of this province and Canada. ASETS funding will have a lasting inter-generational impact as it will help our citizens develop skills sets and qualifications that will have ripple effects 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.

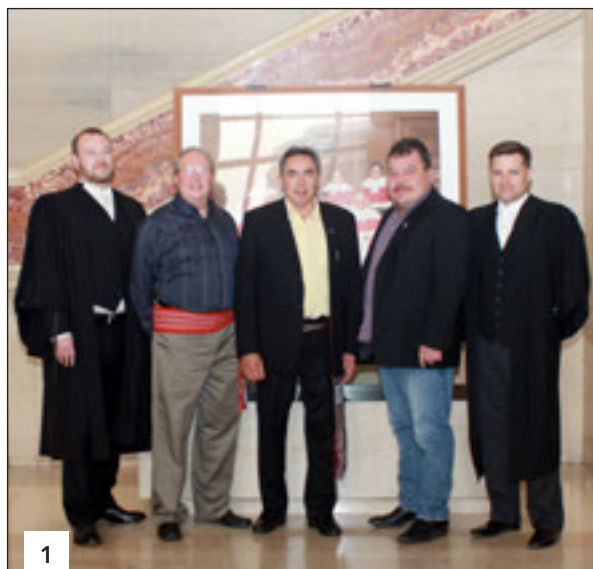
Improved processes and procedures have allowed the Registry to reach a level never before achieved. In 2013-14 an impressive 1,306 citizenship cards were administered in the wait time for assessment was reduced to approximately five months. This increase clearly shows that more and more people want to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



01: 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.



02: 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. General Johnston at a ceremony in Rideau Hall on October 25, 2012.

03: MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program students and MNO Community Council members carry the torch for the Sprint World Canoe Championships.



04: MNO Captains 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).



01: 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.

02: The 2013 MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program students during training at Fort William in Thunder Bay.

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

04: 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.

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.

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

Governance

THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO 2012-16



Gary LIPINSKI
President



France PICOTTE
Chair



Sharon MCBRIDE
Vice-Chair



Tim PILE
Secretary-Treasurer



Reta GORDON
Executive Senator



Theresa STENLUND
Region 1 Councillor



Cameron BURGESS
Region 2 Councillor



Marcel LAFRANCE
Region 3 Councillor



Ernest GATIEN
Region 4 Councillor



Juliette DENIS
Region 5 Councillor



Tom THOMPSON JR.
Region 6 Councillor



Pauline SAULNIER
Region 7 Councillor



Anita TUCKER
Region 8 Councillor



Peter RIVERS
Region 9 Councillor



Mitch CASE
Youth Representative



Jennifer HENRY
Post-secondary Representative



Rene GRAVELLE
Senator



Verna BRUNELLE
Senator



Joseph POITRAS
Senator

Challenges Ahead

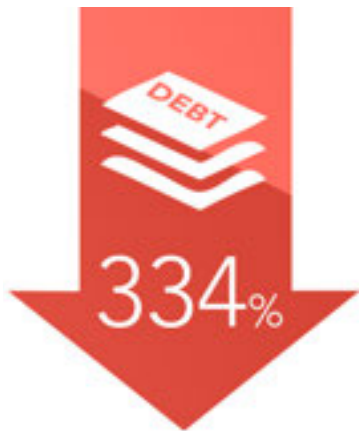
The list of highlights I have provided can leave no doubt that the MNO had a busy and successful year. These successes are in no small way owed to the contributions of our citizens. We take every opportunity to remind all levels of government and other funders of the contributions of our volunteers. 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 in all areas of activity. Future generations owe a tremendous debt to all these amazing women and men.

Following in the footsteps of our founders and early leaders, we 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.

Thank you, Marsi, Megwetch!

Gary Lipinski
President, Métis Nation of Ontario



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

01: 2012-16 Women's Secretariat of the MNO
(Current to June 28, 2014)

WSMNO Spokesperson

Sharon McBride

WSMNO Regional Representative

Barbaranne Wright

WSMNO Regional Representative

Pearl Gabona

WSMNO Regional Representative

Shirley Lynn Pantuso

WSMNO Regional Representative

Rosalyn Calder

Picture 01 includes Candace Lloyd who resigned in 2013. Missing Shirley Lynn Pantuso and Rosalyn Calder.



02: MNO Veterans' Council
(Current to June 30, 2014)

President

Joseph Paquette

Chair

Guy Mandeville

Treasurer

Christopher Plummer

Secretary

Greg Garratt

Senator for Veterans

Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy

Women's Representative

Lisa Tessier



03: 2012-16 MNO Youth Council Representatives
(Current to June 30, 2014)

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



04: MNO Chartered Community Council Senators (Current to June 30, 2014)

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 Timmins - 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 Senator - Senator Gordon Calder

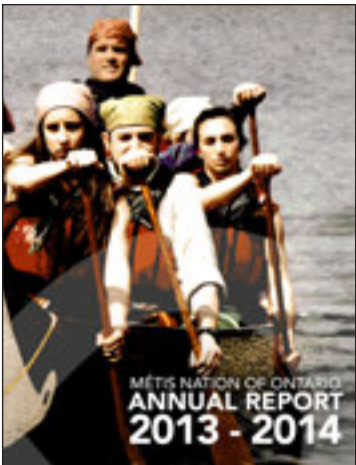
Honourary Senator - Senator Audrey Vallee

Honourary Senator - Senator Roland St.Germain

Honourary Senator - Senator Olivine Tiedema

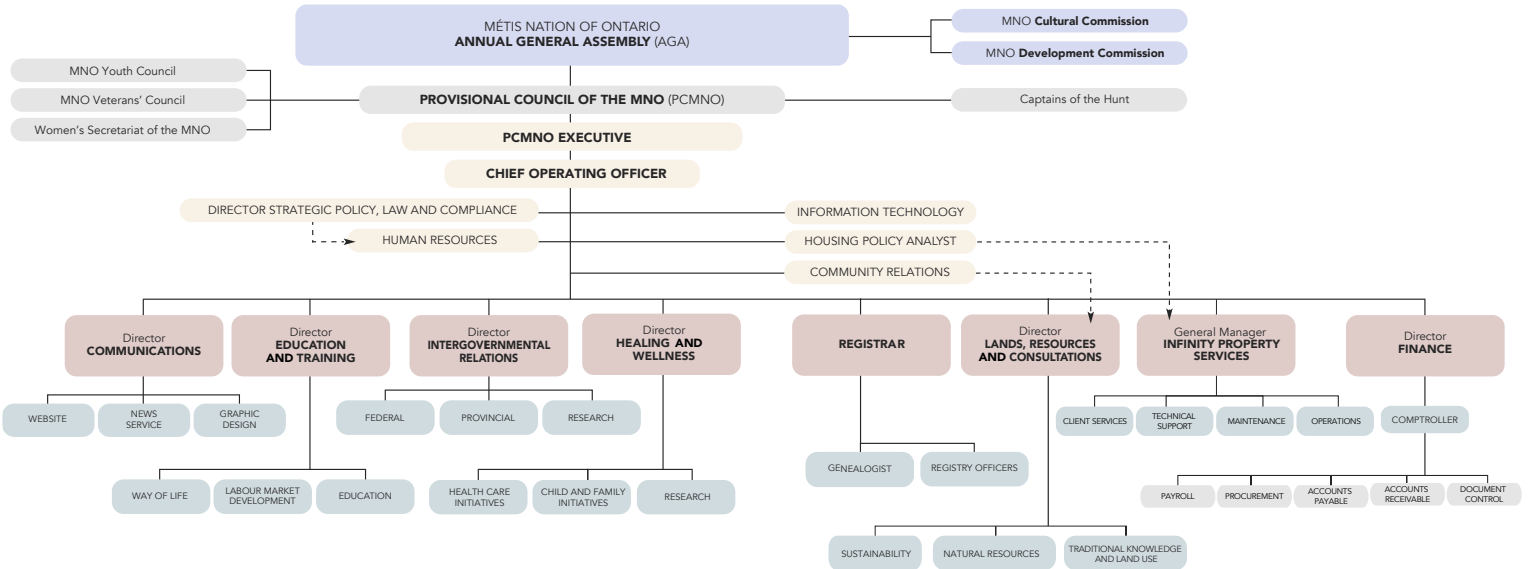
Honourary Senator - Senator Ruth Wagner

Honourary Senator - Senator Gerry Bedford



A complete version of the 2013-2014 MNO Annual Report is available on the MNO website at www.metisnation.org or call the MNO at 1-800-263-4889 to request a hard copy.

Métis Nation of Ontario Organizational Structure



Crowd cheering in the MNO Canoe Expedition final arrival in Thunder Bay on August 22.



UNITING THE NATION ONE PADDLE STROKE AT A TIME

THE 2014 MNO CANOE EXPEDITION

On May 26, from the shores of the Rideau River in Ottawa, 10 Métis youth embarked on a journey of a lifetime, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Canoe Expedition. Throughout this 90 day trek, these young Métis followed the historic fur trade routes of their Voyageur ancestors, covering over 2,000 kilometres by canoe and portage all the way to Thunder Bay. Eight paddled in a large Voyageur canoe, while two provided ground support. They started the journey as strangers, but they arrived to Thunder Bay on August 22 as close as family. Facing many challenges and rewards, these young Voyageurs were forever changed by their journey. Experiencing many situations for the first time, they spent the summer discovering Ontario's wilderness

and their Métis culture to a level they never thought possible. They united the nation as MNO ambassadors spreading Métis culture and history every stop on the way. "Being on this journey sparked a flame not only in myself, but in my dad who never really opened up about being Métis," explained Geneviève Routhier. "Through my experience on the expedition he felt more connected to the culture and so did I. When paddling the paths our ancestors had, all I could think was, they paddled here, 'did they see what I am seeing now?'" An experiential learning experience, the paddlers gained important skills including everything from logistics to team building to problem solving and all arrived to the shore of Chippewa Park as leaders of the Métis Nation. "Before departing on the journey

"Being on this journey sparked a flame not only in myself, but in my dad who never really opened up about being Métis...through my experience on the expedition he felt more connected to the culture and so did I. When paddling the paths our ancestors had, all I could think was, they paddled here, 'did they see what I am seeing now?'"

— Geneviève Routhier

I thought the physical challenges would have been the most difficult to overcome," said Gerald Lavalée, "but it was mostly mental. We learned how to work strongly as a team and that each one of our differences was a strength in its own way." For the first leg of the journey their route took them through the Rideau Canal to Kingston. They then followed the Lake Ontario shoreline to Toronto. From there, they took the Humber River north, and after a series of portages and rivers they entered Georgian Bay at Wasaga beach, and followed the north shore of Lake Huron and Lake Superior all the way to Thunder Bay where they made a grand arrival at the 2014 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA). These young Voyageurs visited many communities where they

(Continued on page 29)



(Continued from page 28)

delivered presentations about Métis culture and heritage, shared stories and sometimes were interviewed by the media. Some communities even held events in honour of the expedition's arrival. Cultural events were held in Kingston, Toronto, Cambridge, Windsor, Owen Sound, Midland, Welland, Blind River, Killarney, Parry Sound, Sault Ste. Marie and Michipicoten to name a few.

Meeting all the communities and people throughout the journey are Heather Bunn's most treasured memories. "It was amazing to see so many people so enthusiastic and interested in us and what we were doing," she said.

"It felt like the whole nation was cheering us on."

— Gerald Lavellee

Amilia DiChiara echoed the same sentiment when she shared a memorable meeting with a First Nation community. "We attended a Sunrise Ceremony where they called for an eagle to guide the rest of our journey," she explained. "Sure enough, every day after we saw an eagle fly past us and the weather was beautiful. Then one day, it flew the opposite direction, shortly after we entered the fog."

While travelling to each destination, the Voyageurs provided journal entries to keep the public in touch with their journey and shared their favourite moments that only they were able to witness. Josh Szajewski's was paddling past the Sleeping Giant in Thunder Bay.

"As a Thunder Bay student I see it every day," he said, "and having seen it from so up close was the coolest experience I had on this journey. It was the mark where we all realized, we made it, we're here."

Amillia said what she will take most from this journey is all the beauty and culture she witnessed along the way. "Paddling in the evening, you see the sunset on one side of you and the moon on the other. In moments like that, there was silence as all of us were taking in the beauty."

This was also one of Geneviève's favourite moments. "The night paddle was dreamlike," she said. "We paddled in the moonlight. All you could see were the stars and the reflection of the moon in the water, it was magical."

Kyle Grenier's most memorable moment was a difficult physical challenge. "Paddling through the swampy waters of Willow Creek was one of my favourite moments," he explained. "We paddle for a straight 20 kilometres, the river was only 6-8 feet wide and there were lots of sharp turns. It was hard for navigation but proved as a great stepping stone before we reached Superior."

Shortly after that difficult paddle, the crew officially named their canoe, Gerald shared the story. "Being the day after the Angus tornado, it gave us an interesting morning of paddling. We paddled by several downed trees, damaged boats, and even a severely damaged marina. It felt like the scene from *Forrest Gump* where he was the only boat left afloat, thus we named the canoe after the *Forrest Gump* character, Jenny."

After 90 days of paddling, the memories are endless but for many the final arrival at Chippewa Park was one for the books. Before

(Continued on page 30)

Excerpt from Voyageur Journals

"The day of our arrival has come at last. Ninety days are now behind us and the high excitement of completing our 2,000 km canoe expedition is in the air! It is definitely a bittersweet feeling that the whole crew feels. The success and achievement of not only being able to complete the trip from Ottawa to Thunder Bay, but also of being able to stay dedicated, committed, and an unbroken team of eight paddlers is reward in itself. The reality of what the end of the trip means is also very present in our group and the goodbyes that will be following in a few short days will be hard!

Although the weather during the day was not looking too promising, our original scheduled arrival was able to be kept as the team of Voyageurs are determined to arrive by 7 pm at Chippewa Park, Thunder Bay, rain or shine. For some of us, family had traveled across Ontario to watch us paddle in and to celebrate our accomplishment with pride. MNO citizens, employees, and friends also planned to come and watch the arrival.

Our guide Jeremy had become quite good at making our arrivals very punctual when it comes to timing. During the last hour of our paddle, the sun had decided to make its presence known. As we were getting closer and closer to the corner that would bring us into Chippewa Park, the crew took a few minutes to stop and share our last words together out on the water. At exactly 6:40 pm Jeremy gave us our final "En avant!" and our paddles hit the water.

With our Métis flag blowing gloriously in the wind behind us as we were paddling forward in perfect cadence, we round the bend and enter into the bay to a sight

that we won't forget. Right before our eyes, a large crowd of people, Métis people, all standing on shore displaying their pride, support and encouragement watching a canoe of eight young paddlers paddle in to complete their journey.

"Our expedition brought people together. It proved that the sense of pride within the people and the pride in our culture is very much alive."

— The MNO Canoe Expedition

The significance of this sight was far more than just the number of people who came out, but significant as it showed the strength of a community of people gathering together for something they felt was important. Hearing the cheering, whistling and screaming was so exhilarating but also so gratifying for enduring the times that sometimes it would have been easier to give up. We received a very warm welcome by President Lipinski and the Honourable David Zimmer. The tears and smiles that we could see in the crowd really made quite an impression on us! The emotion was genuine and real and it's something

that won't easily be forgotten.

Our expedition brought people together. It proved that the sense of pride within the people and the pride in our culture is very much alive. Our expedition showed that supporting the youth is pivotal and also vital as the youth are the future of the nation. It also showed that not only the need of community, but the need for passion within the community is very fragile. Landing on shore and watching that passion ignite within individuals, and also within ourselves is something that hopefully will not be easily lost.

As modern day Voyageurs, being able to experience firsthand a taste of what our ancestors faced is not an experience that we take for granted. Our expedition was a test of determination, commitment, pride, motivation, accountability, responsibility, patience and passion. All of these qualities that have been put to the test are that much stronger to bring into our everyday lives after being a Voyageur. The beauty of nature and the eeriness of paddling channels and lakes that were once a common passage of travel of many Voyageurs before us is an experience we all realize is very unique and special. Our experiences, connections, and people we met along our trip this summer are priceless. We are proud to have paddled alongside seven other remarkable young Métis youth and those friendships we are sure will last a life time. We are also proud to have been able to have the opportunity to represent a nation that has fought so hard for its people, its rights and its recognition.

We are proud to be Métis!" ∞

Journal entries can be found on the MNO website.



01: Final arrival at Chippewa Park, Thunder Bay on August 22. 02: Cultural display of Voyageur Games in Cambridge. 03: Cultural display in Owen Sound. 04: Touring the town of Wawa. 05: Paddlers with MNO Windsor Métis Council. 06: Taking a selfie at Mill Lake Lodge in Killarney. 07: MNO cultural students cheering in the Canoe Expedition during their final arrival. 08: Paddlers with the MNO Grand River Métis Council in Cambridge. 09: Paddlers with the MNO Toronto and York Métis Council. 10: Arrival at Pukaskwa National Park. Photo Credit: Denis Paradis. 11: Taking in the sights along Lake Superior. 12: Kingston arrival.

(Continued from page 29)

arriving at the park, the expedition stopped to have their own private moment where they shared heartfelt messages to one another before coming around the corner to the beach.

“At first we didn’t see anyone,” explained Geneviève. “It was very disappointing to think that no one had come out to see us, then we changed our angle to the shore and the adrenaline rushed in as we saw the largest crowd that has ever come out to meet us.”

“It felt like the whole nation was cheering us on,” added Gerald.

Emily Ingram couldn’t agree more with Gerald’s remark. “Paddling into the clearing of the beach was an ‘aw’ moment for me,” she said. “It was truly amazing.”

This moment brought feelings of nostalgia to guide Jeremy Brown, “Paddling into Chippewa Park was a surreal moment for me,” he said. “Ten years ago, it was the very spot that I departed on my first journey and now 10 years later, it is where I am ending the journey that I am not just a participant on, but the guide. It really brings things full circle for me.”

Josh also felt a special significance to the final arrival in Thunder Bay. “I am starting a major chapter of my life this fall when I begin at Lakehead University,” he said. “I feel as though I paddled my way to law school.”

After meeting the eager and excited crowd that awaited them on the shore, the canoe expedition participants took a moment for a tobacco offering. Each was provided a pouch of tobacco at the beginning of their journey and now to symbolize the end, they continued the traditions of their Voyageur ancestors and placed bits of tobacco in the water of Lake Superior.

After their arrival, the expedition joined MNO citizens and delegates at the MNO 21st AGA where they were honoured by MNO President Gary Lipinski and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, David Zimmer. The crowd stood and cheered for the modern day Voyageurs as each was presented with a poster map of their journey, a plaque of recognition from the Ontario Government, and Jean Tiellet’s book *Métis Law in Canada*.

“The standing ovation was extremely meaningful,” said Emily. “Persistence really does pay off.”

“It was so exciting to meet Jean Teillet and have her sign a copy of her book as I hope to venture into Aboriginal law,” said Josh.

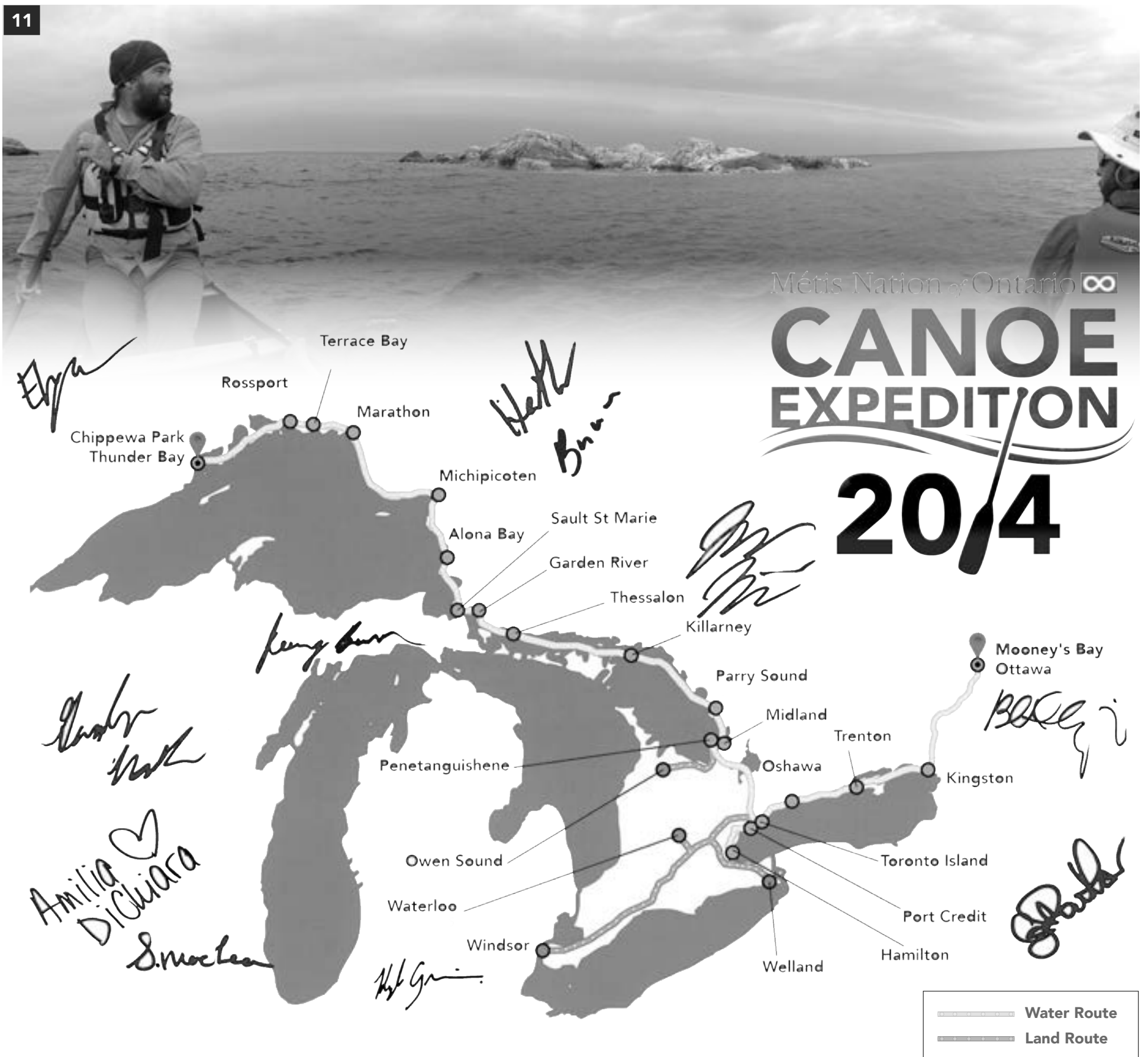
Throughout the rest of the AGA the canoe expedition took part in cultural activities while sharing their experiences on the open water with MNO citizens and friends.

Although their journey is now at a close, the lessons, friendships, memories and skills gained will last a lifetime.

“I learned so much on this journey,” said Gerald. “Jeremy was not only my guide, he was my teacher. Throughout the trek I was able to do what I love and build a network with the tourism industry along the way... It has given me a grounded vision of what I want to do for my career.” ∞



11



12



14



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(On the previous page) 01: Batchawana Bay arrival. 02: Cultural display of Métis traditional dance in Welland. 03: Leaving the Whitby marina. 04: Paddlers with the MNO North Channel Métis Council in Blind River. 05: Paddling through the narrow passage of Willow Creek. 06: Parry Sound arrival. 07: Till Creek Falls. 08: Paddling through the narrow passage of Willow Creek. 09: Terrace Bay arrival. 10: Welland arrival. (On this page) 11: Jeremy Brown guiding the Expedition through Lake Superior. 12: Arrival at Owen Sound. 13: Cultural display of Métis traditional dance at Pukaskwa National Park. Photo credit: Denis Paradis. 14: Passing by the Sleeping Giant in Thunder Bay.

FAMILY

A big heartfelt “Marsi” to the Lauzon family

Submitted by: **Joseph Paquette**, MNO Veterans’ Council President

On June 7, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council presented MNO citizen Roger Lauzon, wife Julie along with their two sets of beautiful twin boys with the MNO Veterans’ Council Appreciation Certificate for their continuous support of the Council and MNO veterans.

Roger is an MNO citizen who has supported MNO veterans since the Council elections of 2012. The Lauzon family has been instrumental in providing funding for the Council to purchase additional Louis Riel Medals in 2013. This provided the Council with the capacity to continue recognizing verified MNO veterans with the issue of the Louis Riel Commemorative Medal.

Also most noteworthy was the Lauzon family’s contribution

which provided the opportunity to have 100 year old Métis veteran Alexander Boucher and his caregiver attend the 2013 AGA in Ottawa. This was veteran Boucher’s first time in Ottawa and his presence at the AGA was an inspirational moment for all in attendance.

While presenting the Lauzon family with the Certificate of Appreciate, they once again generously provided private funding to the Council. The funds received will be applied towards the purchase of additional Louis Riel Medals, ribbons, sashes and wreaths.

The MNO Veterans’ Council is very grateful for the support and contributions that the Lauzon Family has provided to support MNO veterans and the Council. A big heartfelt “Marsi” is surely in order. ∞



▲ ▼ MNO Veterans’ Council and the Lauzon family.



▲ Celebration of life event for MNO veteran Peter Grisdale. (Left to right) FRONT ROW: Deborah MacDonald and MNO Veterans’ Council Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy C.D., O.M.C. BACK ROW: Greg Garratt, MNO Veterans’ Council Secretary and Joseph Paquette, MNO Veterans’ Council President

Celebration of Life for Pete Grisdale

Submitted by: **Joseph Paquette**, MNO Veterans’ Council President

A celebration of life for Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veteran Peter Grisdale was held in Moon River, Wood’s Bay this Aboriginal Day. The celebration was organized by his daughter, Deborah MacDonald.

Peter, “Pete” was a World War II veteran and a verified member of the MNO veterans. Pete had many accomplishments, one having received the Order

of The Sash presented to him by the Métis National Council (MNC) President at the MNO 2011 AGA.

The MNO Veterans’ Council would like to thank Deborah for allowing the Council to participate in this important event by providing a wreath with embroidered sash and acknowledging their fellow veteran.

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM. ∞

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Learning the rewards of volunteering

Submitted by: **Marlene Davidson**,
MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council President

Atikokan Métis youth, Keira Cameron held her first volunteer position this Canada Day, she handed out hot dogs at the local celebration. Keira was happy to be at the Canada Day celebration with her grandmother Marlene Davidson, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Atikokan and Area Métis Council. She was also excited to have met Member of Parliament John Rafferty. ∞

◀ (Left to right) **John Rafferty, Keira Cameron and Marlene Davidson** during the Canada Day celebration.



A unique cemetery

Submitted by: **Yvonne Jensen**, President of the MNO North Channel Métis Council

Buried on an island along the Mississagi River are the remains of several of my father Antoine McCoy's ancestors Henry, Mary, Edward & Jane Sayer. Henry Sayer's son was Robert Sayer and he had a daughter Virginia Sayer who married Edouard McCoy.

Henry was born in 1784 and according to his tombstone located in the Sayer property at the Village of Mississagi near Blind River, he was 85 years old at the time of death in 1869.

Henry is listed as the Métis son of Obemau-Un-qua and John Sayer in the Treaty of Fond du Lac of Lake Superior with the Chippewa that was signed on August 5, 1826.

Henry worked as a clerk for the North West Com-

pany from 1801 -1820 at different posts from Nipissing to Fort William. He then worked as a clerk in charge for the Hudson Bay Company from 1821 – 1862 and during those years he worked at different posts until he retired, in the employ of Andrew Mitchell in Mississagi, Lake Huron.

On one side of the highway is the Mississaugi Reserve and on the left side of the road was once the Sayer property which is now crown land. Back in the 1800's there was once a Hudson Bay Post and a cemetery, which is now overgrown with bush.

It is a shame that the tombstones are being broken from being shot at. I was told there used to be a fence all around this cemetery. People should have respect, this is an historical site. ∞

2014 a year of solemnity remembered for many

Submitted by: **Cameron O'Nanski**, Original article from Metroland



▲ **Veteran John O'Nanskie** with before-and-after photos of World War Two.

John (Jack) O'Nanskie, unclce of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Cameron O'Nanski is a World War Two veteran from Renfrew, Ontario who recently received 20 powerful before-and-after images from Carole Hol, the daughter of friend Doreen Epton in England. The images were created by Getty photographer Peter Macdiarmid and Reuters photographer Chris Helgren who gathered archive pictures from the 1944 invasion and photographed the same locations as they appear today.

June 6, marked the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Allied Invasion of

Europe in World War Two. When O'Nanskie was 16 years old he went overseas to war and stayed until he was 20. The photograph shows the French-armoured column passing through the small French town of St. Mere Eglise during the Allied invasion on May 7, 2014. On the right of the image, a family walks the same ground today. Behind is a painting of O'Nanskie as a young soldier. O'Nanskie has done significant travel over the years. Now 88 years old, his livingroom walls are adorned with service medals and awards. Upon his return home, O'Nanski worked 40 years at Haley Industries. ∞

Métis Bundle of joy

Submitted by: **The LePage Family**



▲ **LePage family** with their newest addition, **Rielle**.

With the recent arrival of his granddaughter, Rielle, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Bernie LePage is proud to say there are now four generations of his family.

Daughter of Rose LePage, Rielle Kimberly Dixon who is named after Louis Riel, was born on April 2, 2014 in Parry Sound at 9:27 am. She weighed 6lbs, 10 oz.

Congratulations to the LePage family on their new bundle of joy! ∞

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COMMUNITY

Artists unite in Harmony of Nations Music Festival

Submitted by: **Wanda Botsford**, *Original articles by The Westend Weekly and Heather Latter*, Fort Frances Times Online

The inaugural Harmony of Nations Music Festival set out to unite artists and audience members from First Nation, Métis, Canadian, and American communities in a creative, musical environment—and that’s just what it did July 18-19 in Fort Frances, Ontario.

“Our goals were to work towards bringing together the four cultures and we did do that,” said event co-ordinator Shannon Darby. “We did that from an organization point of view, in terms of getting volunteers, we did that with the musicians, and we did that from the audiences point of view, too.”

Held Friday and Saturday under the big tent at the waterfront, the festival featured a solid lineup of highly-regarded musical entertainment by award-winning singer-songwriters and up-and-coming local stars—ranging from folk and bluegrass to country and rock.

Both days also were filled with vendor displays, community performances, and interactive artist workshops.

“I am very happy with the quality of the musicians; the commitment and talent of the volunteers; and the audience response,” said Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Wanda Botsford, a member of the organizing committee. “I thought it was an awesome weekend.”

The festival kicked off with opening ceremonies that featured flags from Canada, United States, Métis Nation and First Nations, as well as children dressed to reflect their nation. Flag carriers were MNO Regional Councillor Theresa Stenlund, Deputy Mayor John

Albanese, International Falls May, Bob Andersom, and Chief of Couchiching First Nation, Sara Mainville.

Stenlund was pleased to be there. “Thank you for inviting us to participate and share our talent and culture,” she said adding that the festival represented the opportunity to “move forward together, striving for harmony”.

The headliners were Chad Brownlee, a country music singer/songwriter from Kelowna, B.C., and Canadian icon Buffy Sainte-Marie.

Then there were a number of featured artists, such as Sierra Noble, Shy-Anne Hovorka, Nick Sherman, Jean-Paul De Roover, The WoodPicks, and Cornshed (featuring three former residents).

Local performers included Alex Marusyk, Larissa Desrosiers, Percy Bird, Ben Sletmoen, Sandra Lori Allan, Jeremy Jordan, Jerome Tuesday, Mike McCaig, and the Sloughgrass Family Band.

“One of our other goals was getting local musicians involved in the performances and having youth involvement,” Darby noted, citing they had a lot of young people out at the workshops, as well as some young musicians who performed.

Workshops included Métis and Ojibway activities, as well as learning about fiddler Sierra Noble overcoming bullying, the

“Art of Looping” with Jean Paul de Roover, and song-writing with Shy-Anne Hovorka.

Members of the WoodPicks even taught local musicians how to play a bluegrass tune on the bass, fiddle, and guitar.

“I think the workshops gave insight into what their art was, what their lifestyle was like, and all the artists are great people,” Darby stressed. “They were open to meeting the public and open to sharing their stories and interacting.”

“I hope the workshops helped to motivate participants in the arts and gave them some technical knowledge that they may never have had access to,” Botsford indicated. “The performances were memorable and such high quality that they were motivating for anyone in the audience to go home and practise their instruments.”

Darby noted a decision has not yet been made as to whether the “Harmony of Nations” Music Festival will run again next year.

“I think one of our big successes this year was bringing in a great diversity of performers and types of music,” she explained. “And they were all very skillful musicians. The performances were all really great. I think we were proud of what we could offer in our first year.” ∞



► TOP: MNO Regional Councillor Theresa Stenlund, with her daughter Katelyne Stenlund and niece Chloe Dolyny represented the Métis within the opening ceremonies of the Harmony of Nations Music Festival in Fort Frances. MIDDLE: Chloe, (left) and Ava Dolyny danced around and around while participating in a Métis jigging workshop at the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre offered up in conjunction with the Harmony of Nations Music Festival. BOTTOM: Award-winning musician Sierra Noble kicked off the Harmony of Nations workshop series at the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre, showing her fiddling skills and sharing how she overcame bullying to follow her heart and create a rewarding career in music. Photo Credit: Heather Latter, Fort Frances Times.



▲ MNO Great Lakes Métis Council President Peter Coture (bottom right) helping carry the new log into the Council’s office.

Carved log moved to MNO office

Original article from the Owen Sound Sun Times

An artistic log with Aboriginal carvings has found a new home in the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Great Lakes Métis Council office.

Peter Coture, President of the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council helped to move a log, carved with traditional native animal symbols, off of a trailer at the Council’s office in downtown Owen Sound Saturday, June 14.

Artist Don Williams carved and then painted 16

images of animals, birds, insects and amphibians onto the log as it lay on the beach at Ainslie Wood. After an article in The Sun Times, in which the Council expressed an interest in meeting the artist and displaying the log in a safe location, Williams agreed to let the Council display it at their office for all to see.

Williams was there when the log was moved. He said he has started a 17th carving on the log and plans to finish it at the MNO property. ∞

MNO Veterans’ Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council is open to all MNO citizens who have served in the Canadian Forces (Regular Forces and/or Reserves, have completed the Military Occupation Course and were honorably discharged). If you fit that description or know of a family member or friend that does, the MNO Veterans’ Council wants to hear from them.

Métis veterans pledged to protect this great country and its people, and the MNO Veterans’ Council continues to help them live up to that pledge. The Council represents Métis veterans within the MNO, works with youth and community councils to encourage recognition of veteran contributions and achievements and participates in veterans

events. The Council supports veterans by helping where and when it can and works to insure that the great sacrifices made by every veteran are remembered and commemorated. For more information about the MNO Veterans’ Council and its activities contact the following:

President	Joseph Paquette	mnovc@rogers.com
Chair	Guy Mandeville	gmandeville@sympatico.ca
Senator	Alis Kennedy	alis.kennedy5@gmail.com
Treasurer	Chris Plummer	cmplummer@rogers.com
Women’s Representative	Lisa Tessier	lisa.tessier@yahoo.ca
Secretary	Greg Garratt	greggarratt63@gmail.com

Celebrating Métis culture and heritage

Submitted by: **Glen Lipinski**, MNO Community Relations Coordinator

On June 21, Métis from across the homeland celebrated National Aboriginal Day, a day to celebrate culture and heritage and to remember the contributions made by Aboriginal peoples to Canada. National Aboriginal Day is an opportunity for Métis and other Aboriginal people to remind fellow Canadians of the very important contributions made by Métis, First Nations and Inuit peoples to this country. Local Aboriginal Day celebrations are a great opportunity to showcase what it means to be Métis. Being so, Aboriginal Day events were held by many Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) communities across the province including Welland who held a Métis picnic at Memorial Park, Owen Sound who hosted the MNO

Canoe Expedition and MNO organized events in Kingston and Pembroke. Local officials also joined in on the celebrations. Welland Mayor Barry Sharpe attended the Métis Picnic event and joined the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council for food and celebrations. In Owen Sound, Mayor Deborah Haswell joined the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council in welcoming the MNO Canoe Expedition. It was a great day of celebrations surrounded by loved ones and friends. To end the event, the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council youth group hosted a barbeque for all the volunteers. The young Métis served handmade venison burgers and hot dogs at Gidley’s Restaurant, a well-known Métis hangout in the area. ∞



▲ **Aboriginal Day celebration in Welland.** (Left to right) **Paul Grenier**, Councillor City of Welland and MNO citizen; **Derrick Pont**, President of the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council; **Senator Garry Laframboise**; **Barry Sharpe**, Mayor of Welland; and **Glen Lipinski**.



▲ **MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council taking part in tree planting and Métis style barbeque.**

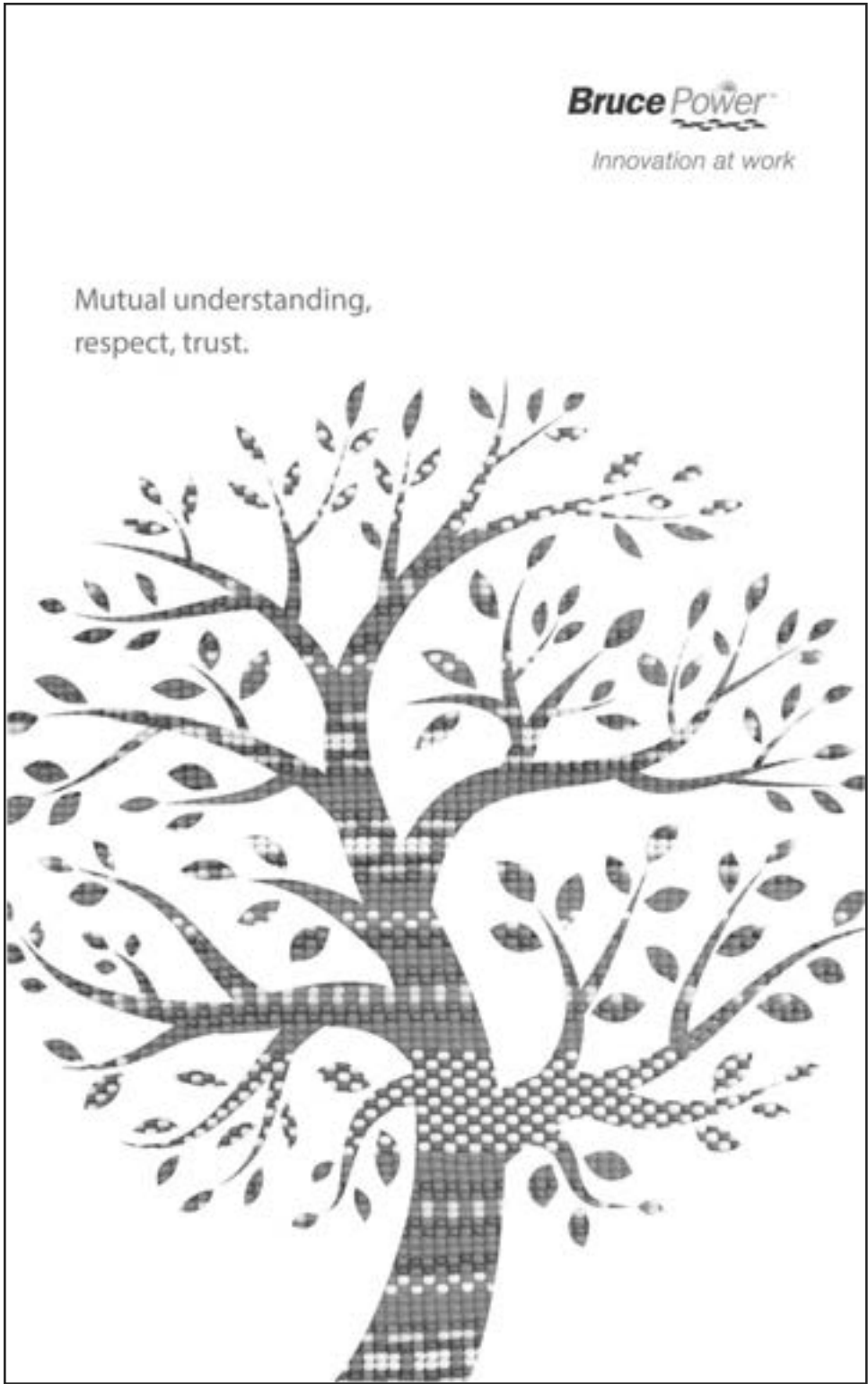
Giving back to the Georgian Bay

MNO COUNCIL HELPS PLANT 1,250 TREES

Submitted by: **Larry J. Ferris**, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chairperson

Members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council recently volunteered with tree planting efforts along the Georgian Bay. MNO citizens and Métis youth all took part in the volunteer work. The Council and other volunteers’ efforts were in hopes to replenish and repair the Georgian Bay wooded areas. This is crucial to the environment as planting the trees allow surrounding ponds to start reforming as the trees help hold moisture and provide ground cover

for the wet areas raising the water table. The tree planting would not have been possible without the generosity of the North Simcoe Anglers and Hunters who provided 1,250 trees that included 26 different species, all of which are native to the area. To end the event, the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council youth group hosted a barbeque for all the volunteers. The young Métis served handmade venison burgers and hot dogs at Gidley’s Restaurant, a well-known Métis hangout in the area. ∞



A connection of all elements: Stand-up paddle boarding

Submitted by: **Rachelle Brunelle-McColl**, MNO Employment Developer



▲ Participants of the stand-up paddle boarding lesson.

On a beautiful warm morning, slightly overcast on Georgian Bay, surrounded by the sound of the water, a landscape of trees and the smell of the sand and beach, a group of five Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff members from the MNO Midland office took on a challenge during their own personal time. That challenge was a half day of stand-up paddle boarding lessons by Scott Parent, a Métis entrepreneur from Fathom Paddle Guiding based out of Tobermory, Ontario.

The participants included Debbie Giammattola-Ferris, MNO Community Support Service Coordinator; Jo-Anne Parent, MNO Regional Education and Training Coordinator; Tracy Bald, MNO Community Wellness Coordinator; Jodi Blue, MNO Healthy Weights Connection Coordinator; and Rachelle Brunelle-McColl, MNO Employment Developer.

Immediately all five women exchanged their thoughts of what the day would include and their optimism of how well they will do at this unknown sport. As MNO staff, they also exchanged opinions of how this experience encompasses the existing programs and services offered to MNO citizens. Whether it is education and training, health and wellness or healthy weights connection, Fathom Paddle Guiding reflects the mission, vision and values within each of those, along with

a strong connection to our culture and bond to the waterways of Ontario.

Parent took time to review all safety concerns and gave great detail on each of the different paddle boards that were going to be used during the lesson. Immediately it was obvious that his passion for this sport and the outdoors was his driving force in how he instructed. Parent has always been an outdoor enthusiast and has extensive training as a lifeguard, rock climbing, and wilderness survival. He has taken his knowledge and turned it into a business to educate others and promote a healthy lifestyle.

Each participant chose a board and made their way into the water, which initially was a bit of a shock as the early morning chill hadn't yet lifted. Parent covered several beginner techniques such as stances, body positioning and paddling strokes. He also reminded everyone to not be afraid to fall in the water and to embrace it. With the slight breeze in the air, being surrounded by mild surf on the water, beautiful rock formations and view of beautiful Christian Island combined a therapeutic and spiritual experience.

Parent was very observant in each participant's physical abilities and goals for the day. He altered his teaching methods and took the needed time with each participant to discuss tech-

niques and best approaches for being successful at the sport.

As participants became more comfortable on the boards, each independently traveled along the water and took in a deep appreciation for their surroundings. They also had a lot of fun learning the techniques, "embracing" their falls into the water and being able to laugh at themselves during some awkward moments.

During a short break, the women gathered on the secluded beach and had a wonderful brunch and shared how the overall experience really was a true connection amongst each other. All agreed that as the sport can be physically demanding at times, the relaxed learning environment made it very therapeutic.

They then decided to challenge themselves with a goal to paddle across the Bay to the lighthouse located on Christian Island. Not a usual first time lesson goal as Parent said, however they felt up for the challenge. When reaching the Island the accomplished feeling they felt was surreal.

"The overall experience I had with this group of ladies was beyond wonderful," said Rachelle Brunelle-McColl. "Having time to ourselves to learn and laugh, get in touch with nature and some self-reflection of my culture is certainly something I plan to do again and again!" ∞



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CONTACT INFORMATION:
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Gold Canyon Resources Inc. is a Canadian-based company engaged in the acquisition, exploration and development of precious and rare metal properties. The Company controls a 100% interest in the Springpole Gold Project, located in the Red Lake Mining District of Ontario, Canada. The Company controls over 80,000 acres in this area.

Gold Canyon announced an updated NI43-101 compliant resource estimate for the Springpole Gold Project in 2012, followed by a positive Preliminary Economic Assessment in 2013, completed by SRK Consulting (Canada) Inc.

Additional diamond drilling and geophysical surveys were conducted in 2013. These data will allow Gold Canyon to upgrade additional resources from inferred to indicated, and provide geotechnical data to be used in optimization of mining design parameters. The Environmental Assessment for the Springpole Gold Access Corridor Project concluded in May 2014 and Gold Canyon is currently seeking the required permits before initiating construction.

Gold Canyon values its relationship with the Aboriginal communities of the Springpole Gold Project area and is committed to building collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships in support of Gold Canyon's exploration within their asserted traditional territories. The Company believes the Springpole Gold Project will provide a strong opportunity for economic and community development of the area.

Further information can be found at: www.goldcanyon.ca and www.sedar.com

Gold Canyon is very proud to support and celebrate the 21st Métis Annual General Assembly.

We appreciate the Métis Nation of Ontario's efforts to enrich the cultural heritage of our country through events such as the AGA and we look forward to continued relationship building and consultation with the citizens of Region One.

Council educates community on Métis culture

MNO Credit River Métis Council provides Métis culture competency training to Central West LHIN

Submitted by: **Richard Cuddy**, MNO Credit River Métis Council President

Late in January 2014, Patrick Boily, French Language Health Services Co-ordinator and Aboriginal Health Consultant for the Central West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), contacted the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council to see if they could “provide cultural competency training to LHIN staff and board.” The LHINs across the province are committed to engaging the Aboriginal communities to increase the Board and staff members’ cultural competency through information and training. Boily and MNO Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy exchanged several communications and the discussions resulted in the MNO Credit River Métis Council forming a LHIN Competency Committee.

The committee consisted of Senator Ray Bergie, Councillor Joyce Tolles, Credit River Council’s Traditional and Knowledge Resource Jim Tolles, MNO Community and Wellness Coordinator Simon Bain and Council President Cuddy.

The Council recognized this as an opportunity to deliver competency training regarding the Métis people from the Métis perspective. Being so, the committee contacted MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson with the proposal and requested the assistance of the MNO Secretariat.

Wilson, Wenda Watteyne, MNO Healing and Wellness Director, Storm Russell, MNO Senior Policy and Research Analyst, Brian Tucker, MNO Associate Director, Education & Way of Life and Whitney Montgomery, MNO Chronic Disease Surveillance (CDSP) Project Coordinator were brought on board to assist the committee. Both the committee and the secretariat expressed concerns that the presentation delivers information consistent with the MNO’s approach to Métis culture, traditions and healing and wellness. Russell created

the presentation regarding MNO Healing and Wellness while Tucker incorporated the Métis Way of Life Framework (WOLF) information to balance the material. Both the committee and secretariat agreed the presentation should begin with a brief Métis 101 presentation.

The committee also welcomed Tolles to add his Métis Traditional and Cultural display which consists of furs and trapping materials; fire starting techniques; clothing; gear and a new “Match the Animal to the Track” challenge to the presentation. The addition of the display enhanced the presentation by giving participants the ability to try, touch and see these traditional, cultural display items up close.

The training was originally set for April but this date changed because as promotion circulated, more and more participants became interested. LHIN then changed the date to May 28, 2014 and the training was moved from the Central West LHIN office to the Marriot Courtyard in Brampton to accommodate the larger number of participants.

By the early evening of May 28, participation had grown to an audience of 39 LHIN Board and staff members including the Honourable John McDermid, Board Vice Chair, who provided the introductions for the Competency Training. Councillor Joyce Tolles provided the opening prayer and President Cuddy supplied the opening remarks.

“On behalf of the MNO and the Council, I am pleased and encouraged that we were invited to train here with you today,” stated President Cuddy. “We are extremely eager to share information about the MNO and the MNO Healing and Wellness Branch and to deliver information about the Métis from the Métis, telling our own story. The Métis are one of Canada’s three Aboriginal Peoples with our own distinct identity, culture, language and



▲ TOP: MNO staff and MNO Credit River Métis Council members with LHIN representative at culture training. (Left to right) Council member Jim Tolles, LHIN representative Patrick Boily, Council member Joyce Tolles, Council President Richard Cuddy and MNO staff member Simon Bain. BOTTOM: Traditional Métis cultural display by Jim Tolles.

traditions with so very much to offer. Please, enjoy the presentation and displays. On nay icit-we are here.”

Bain delivered the Métis 101 and MNO Healing and Wellness Branch presentation which also incorporated Métis way of life and Métis culture and traditions. President Cuddy took the floor once more to expand on the Métis 101; specifically, who are the Métis and some brief history before answering many excellent questions.

Participants were then invited to explore Tolles’ Métis Traditional and Cultural display. Both Jim and Councillor Joyce Tolles were kept very busy for the remainder of the evening demonstrating some of the items; answering questions and socializing.

After closing remarks from Boily, President Cuddy and the Honourable John McDermid, a closing prayer was given by Councillor Joyce Tolles.

President Cuddy would like to thank and acknowledge the committee and MNO secretariat for their assistance, commitment and dedication to the promotion of the MNO,

Council and citizens. He hopes that this can be the ground work for other Councils to make connections with the LHIN organizations in their areas.

On May 29, 2014, the Council received the following message from Boily on behalf of LHIN:

Hi Richard, Joyce, Jim and Simon, I just wanted to again express my gratitude for the great work you all did yesterday. I've had nothing but great feedback. I hope this is the start of a productive relationship that will be mutually beneficial for both the Métis Community and ourselves. Thank you.

President Cuddy would also like to thank Boily and the Central West LHIN for the invitation and opportunity to deliver the Métis Cultural Competency Training. The Council will always appreciate the prospect of creating an accurate understanding of the MNO and Métis citizens; the story of the Métis told by Métis. ∞

Métis self-governance in action

Submitted by: **Yvonne Jensen**, MNO North Channel Métis Council President

Métis self-governance was in full action on June 22, 2014 at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Channel Métis Council Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Blind River.

The meeting was held at the Seniors Cultural Centre and had a great turnout with over 60 MNO citizens in attendance, including the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Council. MNO Community Relations Manager, Hank Rowlinson was also in attendance and provided a presentation on MNO programs and governance.

The meeting was not all work, community members also socialized with old friends and enjoyed a delicious lunch and cake. ∞



▲ MNO North Channel Métis Council Annual General Meeting held on June 22.

MNO citizen key contributor to creation of naval monument

Submitted by: Don Kennedy

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Don Kennedy, who is a retired Canadian Armed Forces Major and an honorary Korean War veteran, was the fundraising director and designer of the RCN Ships in Korea Memorial Monument that was unveiled on July 28 at Spencer Park in Burlington.

A year ago, Kennedy and Andy Barber, a Korean Naval veteran who served on HMCS Haida; Ron Kirk, a Korean War Naval veteran who served on HMCS Iroquois; Gerry Trudell; and Rev. Bill Thomas, formed the KVA Unit 26 ROK Memorial Project Committee to raise funds to invite Korean War veterans from Korea to Canada to participate the commemorative events of the “Year of Korea 2013” and “Year of Korean War Veterans”. The project also included the idea to erect the Royal Canadian Naval Ships monument to commemorate the Destroyers that served during the Korean War and the UN Peace Keeping duties from 1950 to 1955.

The monument is to honour the eight Canadian Destroyers (H.M.C.S. Athabaskan, H.M.C.S. Cayuga, H.M.C.S. Sioux, H.M.C.S. Crusader, H.M.C.S. Nootka, H.M.C.S. Huron, H.M.C.S. Iroquois, H.M.C.S. Haida) that served during the Korean War and UN Peace Keeping duties and the nine crew members that were either killed in action, lost at sea or died in service. The names of the sailors are: LISKA, Vince, A.B. HMCS Cayuga, GAUTHIER, Leon Armand, O.S. HMCS Nootka, LAKER,

Frank Richard, A.B. HMCS Sioux, MOORE, Robert John, A.B. HMCS Sioux, SKAVBERG, Robin Jensen, HMCS Athabaskan, A.B. BAIKIE, Elburne Alexander, A.B. HMCS Iroquois, BURDEN, Wallis McBurnie, A.B. HMCS Iroquois, QUINN, John Louis, MiD, Lt .Cdr, HMCS Iroquois, TORRAVILLE, Ian Thomas Lang, A.B. HMCS Iroquois

“Together, we preserved an important part of the Royal Canadian Naval history which was forgotten for over 60 years...”

— Don Kennedy

There were over 200 guests in attendance at the unveiling ceremony including Defence Minister Rob Nicholson, Veteran Affairs Minister Julian Fantino, Senator Yonah Martin, Mike Wallace, M.P. Burlington Mayor Rick Goldring, Rear Admiral Jennifer Bennet, R.O.K. Defence Attaché Jang Min Choi, Deputy Speaker of R.O.K. National Assembly Kap Yoon Jeong, R.O.K. Consul Sang Soo Lee, 24 students from Korea,

and Korean War veterans and their family members.

The morning rain caused worry however, as soon as Rev. Bill Thomas blessed the monument; a stream of light came from the sky and shone upon the monument stopping the rain like a miracle. The nine sailors’ spirits were with them and their names will be remembered for many generations. They now have a resting place at home.

The Korean students provided readings of poems they wrote for the occasion. There was not a single dry eye when the young Korean students read their poems, “Thank you Korean War veterans” and delivered the signed thank you banner to the Korean War veterans.

The Halton Naval Veterans Association provided invaluable financial support for the project. Without their support, the monument would still be a dream and another 60 years would have passed by. The committee members would also like to send their sincere appreciation to Veteran Affairs Canada for the monument grant and all the generous donors.

“Together, we preserved an important part of the Royal Canadian Naval history which was forgotten for over 60 years,” said Kennedy. “At the event, a Korean student whispered in my ear “God Bless you” and I would like to resend his message to all Canadian Naval veterans who served during the Korean War and UN Peace Keeping Mission and their family members. God Bless You All!” ∞

Timmins National Aboriginal Day

Submitted by: Kirk Fournier, MNO Employment Developer and Ryan Plante, MNO Community Wellness Coordinator



▲ Timmins MNO Aboriginal Day information booth.

Saturday June 21, 2014 marked a beautiful and exciting day for the several hundred Timmins and area residents who took part in sharing Métis, First Nation, and Inuit culture at Hollinger Park.

Attendees were entertained by local fiddle music as well as First Nations drum groups and singers. The event also featured information booths, children’s activities, and a wild game feast.

MNO staff members Kirk Fournier and Ryan Plante hosted an information booth where they showcased MNO program information as well as Métis trivia and “saucer toss” game that enabled attendees to throw and win more ballots towards a MNO Métis Mining Strategy jacket or a MNO health gift bag. The booth received over 200 ballots for those great prizes. ∞

Fort Frances Métis Fall Celebration

On September 7, the Métis Nation of Ontario Sunset Métis Council and MNO staff from the Fort Frances office held a Métis Fall Celebration.

Although celebrating the beginning of the harvest, it was a warm summer day. It was a successful event with close to 120 people in attendance. A variety of activities were offered throughout the day including Bannock making, tug of

war, the poison circle, scavenger hunts and the ever so popular Métis Voyageur Games.

The evening ended with a Fish Fry and MNO President Gary Lipinski congratulated the Council and MNO staff members for hosting such a successful event. He also commented on the vast number of youth who attended and participated in all that the celebration had to offer. ∞

▼ Métis youth take part in Métis Voyageur games at the Fort Frances Métis Fall Celebration held on September 7.



▲ HooJung Jones (left) and Don Kennedy (right) who are committee members of the KVA Unit 26 Memorial Project standing beside the RCN Ships in Korea Memorial Monument.

8th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration

HOSTED BY MNO OSHAWA AND DURHAM REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL

Submitted by: **Ted McNally**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council, would like to apologise to any unsuspecting motorists, traveling north on Simcoe Street, or south on Centre Street, the weekend of June 21 - 22. The Council is sure that the sight of tipis set up in a park of a major urban centre, would have caused more than a few of you to experience one of those “what the...” moments we all have from time to time. Many found a parking spot and walked back to join the hundreds of others who were helping celebrate the Council’s 8th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration.

The festivities began with MNO Veterans Guy Mandeville and Christopher Plummer, as well as Council Vice President Kevin Henry marching in and posting the colours, followed by a prayer offered by Senator Cecile Wagar. Honorary Senator Olivine Bousquet Tiedma spoke on the 10th anniversary of the Council’s conception and Senator Joseph Poirtras brought greetings on behalf of MNO President Gary Lipinski. Greetings were also offered by newly elected Ontario Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Jennifer French and Oshawa Mayor John Henry, who along with the Oshawa City Council, have constantly proved that they are true friends and partners in Council celebrations.

After smudging, Council President Kristin Randall offered a warm welcome to all the many guests. The Council has never been accused of not having good singing voices, and this was proved when Youth Representative Auriele Diotte sang Oh Canada, and Métis Youth Shadi Shabanian-Azad offered the Métis anthem.

Serge Gagnon returned as the Master of Ceremonies (MC) for the weekend, and switching back and forth between French and English, faster than many can change their minds, took control of the stage, and began to introduce the many talented entertainers. Headliners Ariko (The Lefaiwe Family) from the Penetanguishene area, Métis fiddler Alicia Bore, All Our Relations Drum Circle, The Oshawa Métis Fiddlers, Olivine Bousquet Métis dancer Auriele Diotte and Métis fiddler Rudy Couture from Owen Sound kept “toes a tappin”, all weekend long. The entertainment spilled out into the park as Virginia Barter and Claire Kearns told stories of Métis culture and heritage. Marilyn Woodbridge gave the Medicine Wheel teachings, and people who previously didn’t know which end of the fiddle got tucked under your chin, were soon, actually playing a tune. When they joined in with “Ariko’s” fiddle workshop, and Métis step dancer Auriele Diotte soon convinced visitors that they didn’t have two left feet after all.

As well as learning about the 26 foot birch bark canoe and Red River cart, guests got to see the many Métis cultural artifacts put on display by Andre and Brenda Bosse and good friends Archie and

Pierrette Martin. Métis crafts, beadwork, moccasin making, sash finger weaving were being demonstrated by MNO Veteran’s Senator Alis Kennedy and Louise Vien. The Métis veterans opened many eyes to the tremendous contributions Aboriginal peoples made, in all the conflicts in which the country found itself.

A great time was had by all, and of course none of it would have been possible, without the “more than generous” sponsorship, in grants and “in kind” donations, from Celebrate Canada (Canadian Heritage/ Patrimoine Canadien), The City of Oshawa, and Ontario Power Generation. Hats off to the Council, their hard working volunteers, and all exhibitors and vendors, both returning and new. A special thank you goes to photographer Andree Wagar. ∞



▲ 01 - 03. The Métis Heritage Celebration was held from June 12-22 by the MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council. 04. MNO Senator Joseph Poirtras brought greetings on behalf of MNO President Lipinski at the 2014 Métis Heritage Celebration.



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ACHIEVEMENTS

Gravelle presents MNO President Lipinski with Diamond Jubilee Medal

Fort Frances resident honoured for exemplary leadership

On August 23 at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA), the Honourable Michael Gravelle presented Fort Frances resident and MNO President, Gary Lipinski with the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal.

In his capacity as Member of the Provincial Parliament for Thunder Bay-Superior North, Minister Gravelle nominated President Lipinski for the medal over a year and half ago but the 2014 AGA was the Minister's first chance to present the medal to him in person.

Diamond Jubilee Medals recognize individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to their community, province and country. Minister Gravelle stated that he nominated President Lipinski to recognize his many successes and achievements both as MNO President and in his previous MNO leadership roles as Chair and as

a Councillor for the Fort Frances area on the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO).

"Your record as leader for and within the Métis community has been exemplary," Minister Gravelle told Lipinski at the AGA. The Minister also stated on a personal note that he

particularly appreciated the President's efforts to build a positive relationship between the MNO and the province of Ontario.

President Lipinski received a standing ovation from the over 400 MNO citizens and guests gathered for the AGA.

In response, President Lipinski indicated that he was very gratified to receive the medal at the AGA in front of the MNO citizens and leaders who

work with him on a daily basis to advance Métis issues and rights. "You are only as good as your team," explained President Lipinski, "and I am very fortunate to have a very good team to work with." ∞

"Your record as leader for and within the Métis community has been exemplary."

— the Honourable Michael Gravelle



► Minister Michael Gravelle presenting MNO President Gary Lipinski with the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal at the 2014 MNO AGA in Thunder Bay.



▲ TOP: Tony Belcourt being invested into the Order of Canada as an Officer by His Excellency, the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada. Photo Credit: Sgt Ronald Duchesne, Rideau Hall ©Her Majesty The Queen in Right of Canada represented by the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General (2014). BOTTOM: Officer of the Order of Canada Medal.



Tony Belcourt invested as an Officer of the Order of Canada

On September 12 former Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Tony Belcourt was invested into the Order of Canada as an Officer by His Excellency, the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada. The investiture ceremony was held at Rideau Hall in Ottawa and Mr. Belcourt was among four companions, 14 officers and 31 members who were invested into the Order.

Mr. Belcourt was recognized for his work in giving a voice to Canada's Métis community. A respected leader and advocate, he has worked tirelessly to remove barriers faced by Indigenous peoples. He was co-founder and first president of the Native Council of Canada, and contributed to the official recognition of Métis as one of Canada's Aboriginal peoples in the Constitution Act, 1982. He was the founding president of the MNO, and in that role laid the foundation for what has become a strong government for Métis in Ontario.

"It's a great honour to be named an Officer of the Order of Canada," stated Mr. Belcourt, "In accepting it, however,

I know that this recognition is because of a life's work that I shared with everyone who joined the struggle for justice and recognition of Métis rights. Together we turned the tide of 137 years of systemic discrimination by the Government of Ontario. Together we've achieved a better place and a better future for our people. I proudly share this appointment with all those I was blessed to work with along the way."

Current MNO President Gary Lipinski stated: "This is a well-deserved honour. Tony's contributions to Métis and Aboriginal causes over five decades were pivotal in improvements made in the lives of Aboriginal people across Canada and particularly for Métis in Ontario during that period. He continues to be a mentor and a role model for so many of us."

The Order of Canada was created in 1967, during Canada's centennial year, to recognize outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. Since its creation, more than 6 000 people from all sectors of society have been invested into the Order. ∞

Métis youth wins national emerging artist award

Original article from Atikokan Progress

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, artist Emlyn Cameron is following her family tradition of Aboriginal traditional storytelling through her art—and one piece has now earned her Historica Canada's Aboriginal Arts & Stories award in June.

The 12 year old (she was 11 when she submitted her piece, "We Are One") was unable to attend the tenth annual awards ceremony held in Gatineau, Quebec, but was "excited and really surprised" to discover she was one of three first place art category winners from youth across Canada.

Not only was her work a part of a June 3 exhibition at the Canadian Museum of History, she is also the very first winner in the new 'emerging artist' category (11-13) included this year.

The arts and literary competition is open to First Nations, Métis and Inuit contestants aged 11 to 29 from across the country, and six winners were chosen out of 420 submissions.

The awards are "in celebration of rich and distinct heritage through literary and visual arts," notes Historica Canada. "The stories and art pieces submitted to the contest touch upon topics of national importance, like the tragic and ongoing legacy of residential schools, or the rediscovery of traditional knowledge and practices, while other works present distinct stories from individual communities and families."

Cameron's work, depicting a loon, has his-

toric, traditional and family connection for her family, as the young artist wrote in her description which accompanied her award-winning acrylic painting.

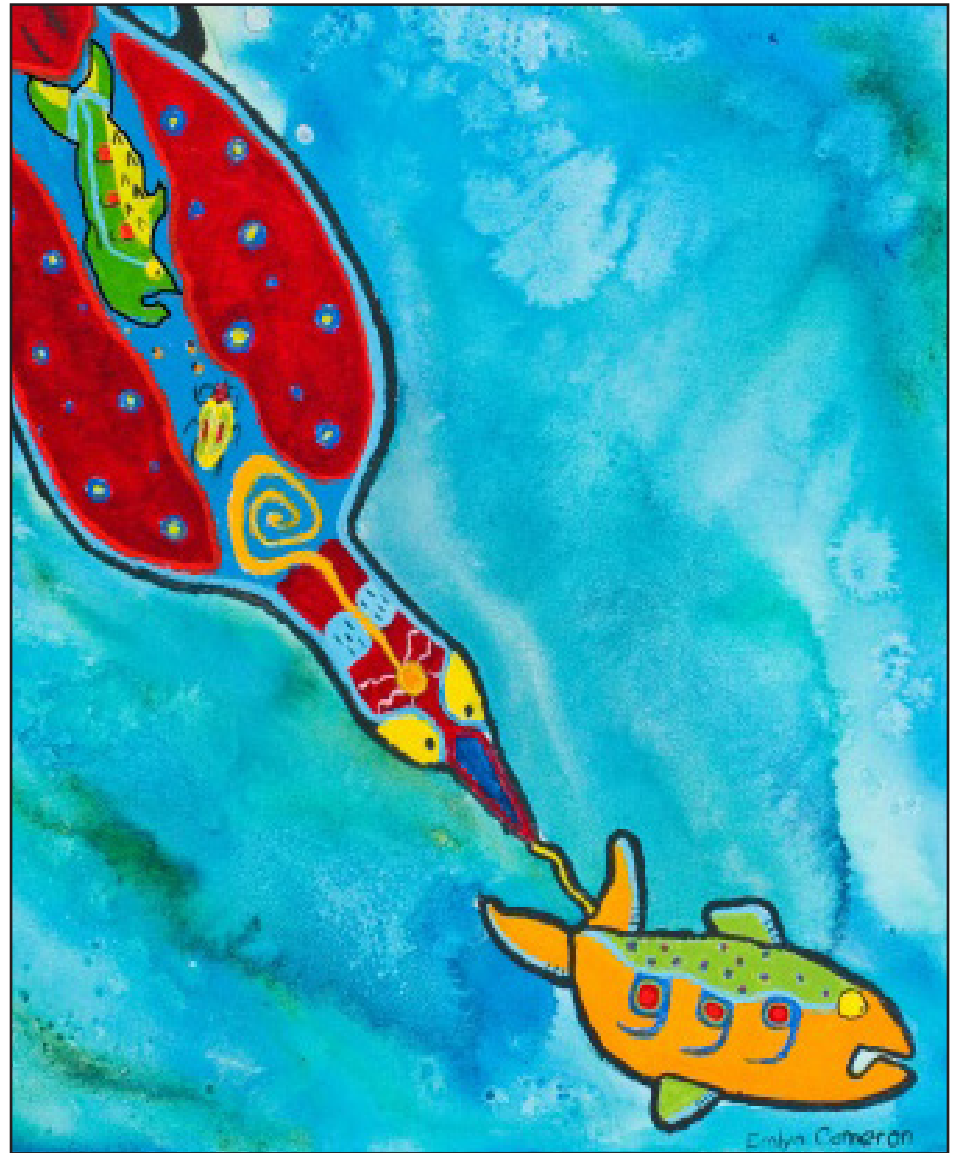
"I chose to do this painting because I feel connected to loons," she wrote. "They are a part of me and I am one of them; a part of nature. Hearing the loons in the evening makes me feel very peaceful when I am at the lake. Hearing the first call in the summer is what I look forward to."

Cameron recounts how her love of the bird has meant more since her mother's cancer diagnosis and treatments. The painting's brilliantly depicted life forces which connect the loon to the rest of nature, has been somewhat therapeutic for a young girl dealing with this stressful situation.

The loon is the bird Cameron's mother who is also a Métis artist, has adopted as her totem, a spiritual animal which has special meaning to an individual in Aboriginal culture.

"When I found out the loon was my mom's totem animal, I decided to make the loon [in the painting] represent her," explained Cameron. "She just went through cancer treatment and she said she lost touch with the loon and became sick. She forgot to live a more tranquil life and stay connected to nature and nourish herself; her mind, body, and heart."

"Now she is nourishing all of us," continued Cameron. "Going through a scary and draining series of treatments made her rethink what



▲ Emlyn Cameron's winning artwork "We Are One".

things are important in life. The loon reminds us of the importance of slowing down to enjoy life, nourishing ourselves more naturally, and communicating and enjoying the company of others."

The painting shows the loon's interconnection with other animals and the energy flow from one animal to another, and Cameron's mother agrees that the spiritual disconnect can affect physical health.

Cameron enters Grade 7 at Atikokan High School this fall and even though there isn't an arts program there anymore, she will continue the art tutelage she has received from a young age from her mother.

While Cameron generally leans toward realism as her preferred art, but she said she does enjoy dabbling in the Aboriginal style, as with the loon piece.

"I have been influenced by my mom's art and her teachings about meanings in art, colours and techniques," said Cameron.

She added that this award has been very validating for a fledgling artist.

"I always feel like my paintings wouldn't be good enough [to win an award]. This has made me feel more confident."

Congratulations! ∞



▲ MNO Senator Bob McKay and Suzanne Tardif, a member of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Council, with his OPSBA Achievement Award and Award of Excellence.

Senator McKay receives two OPSBA awards

Submitted by: Gloria McKay

Congratulations to Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Bob McKay who has been chosen as the recipient of two Ontario Public School Board's Association (OPSBA) awards, the 2014 Achievement Award and the 2014 Award of Excellence.

The OPSBA Achievement Award was created to recognize the outstanding contributions of non-teaching staff, parents, volunteers and community partners involved in public education. This award celebrates excellence and recognizes the work of all members of the education community.

Senator McKay has been a valued member of the Lakehead Public Schools Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee since 2008 and is involved in countless committees that represent the Thunder Bay Aboriginal community. Senator McKay lends his breadth of knowledge and skills to many Lakehead Public School events and activities. He is well known for his dedication to Lakehead Public Schools students and for his infectious sense of humour.

Senator Bob McKay was nominated for

the OSPBA Achievement award by Suzanne Tardi, Parent Representative on the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee for his efforts in supporting public education and the students at Lakehead Public Schools.

"When Senator McKay shares his stories, he not only helps children and youth understand an earlier way of life, he also helps to preserve the right cultural history of the Thunder Bay area," says Suzanne Tardif in her letter of nomination.

The award was presented by the Trustees at the June 24 Board Meeting where Senator McKay was formally recognized for this exceptional accomplishment.

Senator McKay was also presented with the 2014 OPSBA Award of Excellence at the meeting. The OPSBA Awards Selection Committee of the Lakehead District School Board was unanimous in their decision to submit Senator McKay for this prestigious award. This annual award is given to an outstanding Ontario public school volunteer for outstanding community service and leadership. ∞

Canoeist Mike Ranta at it again!

Paddler's home town arrival marks half-way point of 8,000 km trek

Original article from *Atikokan Progress*. With contributions from: **Darlene Davidson**, MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council President and **Ken Simard**, MNO Region 2 Captain of the Hunt

In 2011, Atikokan's own Mike Ranta (and his dog Spitzzy) embarked on a 5,200 kilometer trip which he completed in 132 days. Now, warmed-up from his previous journey, on April 1, 2014, Ranta and Spitzzy embarked on an 8,000 km+ canoe trip. An epic adventure that will take this self-identified Métis coast to coast from Vancouver to the Cape Breton Island, it is anticipate to take 180 days.

Ranta's goal is to get as many Canadians out as possible to join in on what he calls the ultimate Canadian experience. He said he hopes to see many supporters along the way, whether paddling alongside him, or even just to sharing stories and experiences of the great Canadian wilderness.

Besides aiming to set a record for the world's longest solo paddle, Ranta said he wants to inspire young people in his community.

Through his journey, he's fundraising for Atikokan Youth Initiatives, an incorporated non-profit charitable organization that is development a new youth centre for teens in the community.

Since April, Ranta has already crossed three mountain ranges which included portages of more than 100 km and the vast and windy North Saskatchewan River that spans the Prairies. Ranta has recently entered the portion of his journey that will take him through the rugged Canadian Shield that covers Northwestern Ontario, and the wild and unforgiving Lake Superior.

From there, it's the beautiful Ottawa Valley and into the fast St. Lawrence River. Following the shore of the St. Lawrence will bring him into the Maritime provinces. After several portages, he'll be into the powerful tides of the Bay of Fundy before portaging to Cape Breton Is-



▲ Mike Ranta and his paddling companion Spitzzy arriving in Atikokan, Ontario during their 8,000 km canoe trek across Canada in support of Atikokan Youth Initiatives.



▲ MNO Region 2 Captain of the Hunt Ken Simard presenting a Métis flag to Mike Ranta in Atikokan.

land and ending in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Atikokan and Area Métis Council

President, Marlene Davidson recently welcomed Ranta as he returned to his home town on July 16. Davidson presented him with a Métis sash

and an Ostrom canoe pack. MNO Region 2 Captain of the Hunt Ken Simard also joined in greeting Ranta while in Atikokan. ∞



▲ Métis youth (left to right) Bryce Johnson, Chantal Johnson, Kelly Duquette and Don Warren greet Mike Ranta (centre) at the Ottawa Rideau Canal.



▲ Mike Ranta near the Parliament buildings in Ottawa.

International youth yoga champion

Aspiring to inspire training, life lessons and new ventures

Submitted by: **Genevieve Smith**

Danton Delbaere-Sawchuk, the cellist for the award-winning Métis Fiddler Quartet and recent Honours graduate of Toronto's Collège Français, can now add International Yoga Sport Federation's 'World Youth Champion' to his impressive list of accomplishments.

Having placed third at the 2013 competition in Los Angeles, the 18 year-old travelled to London, England for this year's event, determined to improve his result. The outcome of the London competition represents a significant landmark in Danton's yoga practice. Since August 2011, he has trained with some

of the foremost yoga practitioners in the world.

Danton attributes much of his success to his mentors: Esak Garcia, the 2005 International Men's Champion and Mary Jarvis, the head coach of USA yoga, both of whom have been instrumental in strengthening and refining his practice.

Esak's training format sparked a journey into green nutrition and disciplined physical practice, leading to significant lifestyle changes. Mary Jarvis also had a great deal of influence on Danton's training, and through her teaching, helped him develop a sincere gratitude for his practice along with a deeper

appreciation for life. His Métis background was essential to him in providing the initial foundation for this personal growth.

Danton believes that yoga is a marriage between the body and the mind, requiring a great deal of mental discipline to build body-awareness. Beyond that, he has found a deeper connection to his Métis roots and feels this connection has been incredibly beneficial to his practice, spiritually and otherwise. Consistent practice improves the connection between mind and body, which enables one to develop an active awareness in the present moment. Postures should never be strained or rushed.



► Danton Delbaere-Sawchuk at the International Yoga Sports Federation's Youth Work Cup Championships held in London, England.

Instead, one must be aware of, and appreciate one's present level of success within a posture before attempting to move deeper into the pose.

As the world youth yoga champion, Danton looks forward to sharing the lessons that have helped him to succeed, particularly with youth. With his new venture into teaching, he hopes to inspire people to become more physically active and mentally aware, in order to effect positive change on both individual and global levels. He enthusiastically promotes yoga and its ability to empower people to better manage their health and their lives. ∞

Christi Belcourt receives 2014 Ontario Arts Council Aboriginal Arts Award



▲ LEFT: Christi Belcourt accepting the OAC Aboriginal Arts Award on July 30 at the Walker Court of the AGO. RIGHT: The Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) exhibition *Before and After the Horizon: Anishinaabe Artists of the Great Lakes* features new work commissioned by Belcourt. Photo credit: Muskrat Magazine.

Original article by the Ontario Arts Council

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, visual artist and author Christi Belcourt is the 2014 recipient of the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) Aboriginal Arts Award.

Created in 2012, this award celebrates the work of Aboriginal artists and arts leaders who have made significant contributions to the arts in Ontario.

The \$10,000 prize was presented at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) exhibition *Before and After the Horizon: Anishinaabe Artists of the Great Lakes* on Wednesday, July 30. The event also included the unveiling of a new work commissioned from Belcourt by the AGO.

Belcourt accepted the award and addressed the full house at the Art Gallery of Ontario's opening reception:

"I accept the nomination and the award from my peers – but I also accept this award with a great sense of responsibility...it makes me uncomfortable to receive an award for my work for the missing and murdered women. It makes me feel as though I am receiving this on the backs of my sisters".

"Christi's deep respect for the world around us is exemplified by the synergies between her art and her community work," said Peter Caldwell, Director & CEO, Ontario Arts Council. "We are proud that this year's Aboriginal Arts Award celebrates her accomplishments."

"Now is an important time to honour Christi, her leadership and the gravitas of her work," noted the jury. "Her art and activism cannot be separated. She is an inspiring and vital voice in the

community – a humble spirit and a force of nature."

Belcourt's work can be found in the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Canada, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, among other leading institutions.

Her work commemorating residential school survivors and communities, Giniigaaniimenaaning (Looking Ahead), was rendered in stained glass and installed at Centre Block on Parliament Hill. It is only the second stained glass work to be commissioned for the Parliament buildings in recent years.

Belcourt is currently leading *Walking with Our Sisters*, a community-driven project that honours murdered or missing Indigenous women. Touring to 32 locations across North America through to the year 2020, the exhibit/memorial includes over 1,700 pairs of moccasin tops – intentionally not sewn into complete moccasins – that were created by over 1,300 people of all ages and cultural backgrounds.

The OAC Aboriginal Arts Award also honours the next generation of artists: each year, the award recipient is invited to nominate an emerging Aboriginal artist to receive a \$2,500 prize. Belcourt selected visual artist and dancer Jaime Koebel as this year's emerging Aboriginal artist.

The AGO exhibition *Before and After the Horizon: Anishinaabe Artists of the Great Lakes* is happening from July 26 – November 25, 2014. ∞

“Now is an important time to honour Christi, her leadership and the gravitas of her work. Her art and activism cannot be separated. She is an inspiring and vital voice in the community – a humble spirit and a force of nature.”

— Ontario Arts Council Aboriginal Arts Award jury

Christi Belcourt receives Influential Women of Northern Ontario award



▲ The Influential Women winners for northeastern Ontario, (left to right) Sarah Hunter, Christi Belcourt, Shana Calixte, Crystal Kaufman and Nicole Saulnier posed with their new hardware at the awards ceremony in Sudbury Monday afternoon. Photo credit: Jonathan Migneault.

Original article by Jonathan Migneault - Sudbury Northern Life

The Influential Women of Northern Ontario awards recognized Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Christi Belcourt, as well as five other women for their business accomplishments and contributions to the community during the northeastern Ontario gala at Sudbury's Radisson Hotel.

"I was just totally blown away with the calibre of women who won this year," said Patricia Mills, the publisher of Northern Ontario Business, which presented the awards. "These are women from Northern Ontario and they're making a difference."

The Aboriginal leadership winner Christi Belcourt was presented with the Aboriginal leadership award. At the

awards ceremony, Belcourt called on the audience to ask for justice for the more than 800 Indigenous women in Canada who have gone missing or have been murdered.

Belcourt, a visual artist from Espanola, spearheaded the *Walking with our Sisters* memorial and art exhibit, which features 1,725 pairs of unfinished moccasins meant to represent the unfinished lives of the missing and murdered women.

Others awarded include Sarah Hunter, Debby Nicholson, Crystal Kaufman and Shana Calixte. ∞

For more information about the winners visit www.influentialwomen.ca.

Métis veteran receives highest decoration in France



World War Two veteran Donn Fowler with his new National Order of the Legion of Honour, Knight Degree which he received in France during the Battle of Normandy commemorations.

Original article by The Recorder. Photo Credit: The Recorder.

During his most recent visit to France for Battle of Normandy commemorations, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and Second World War veteran Donn Fowler received the highest distinction that can be bestowed by France.

Fowler was among 90 recipients, and nine Canadians, to receive the Legion of Honour, the highest decoration in France. Fowler received the Chevalier (Knight degree) of the Legion of Honour at a ceremony in Caen. Only those veterans who served in the Battle of Normandy from June 6 to August 31, 1944 were eligible for a Legion of Honour medal.

Fowler, who enlisted in the war effort at the age of 14 in 1940, arrived at one of the Canadian landing zones at Juno Beach with a group of reinforcements with the First Battalion of the Stormont, Dundas and

Glengarry Highlanders on June 12.

Established by Napoleon for excellent civilian or military conduct in 1802, the Legion of Honour is rarely bestowed upon foreigners. Prior to this year only 20 Canadians had received the honour, including the First World War flying ace, and Victoria Cross recipient, William 'Billy Bishop.

The new honour for Fowler compliments an array of medals to adorn his familiar Metis buckskin he wears to honour his heritage. Yet after all the recognition, Fowler still feels strongly about contributions made by others who would not receive the same considerations.

"This is a token," he said of the medal, "to me, of remembrance to all the guys who paid the supreme sacrifice." ∞

MNO lawyer recognized

Canada's 'Most Influential' for work on Métis rights



▲ Jason Madden.

On August 5, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski congratulated Métis lawyer and MNO citizen Jason Madden for being recognized as one of Canada's 25 most influential lawyers by *Canadian Lawyer Magazine*.

Jason's recognition, in the human rights category, was based on his ongoing contributions to the recognition of Métis rights and development of Métis law in Canada. Some of his litigation work has included being legal counsel in Métis harvesting rights cases in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta (Laurin & Lemieux, Goodon, Lavolette, Belhumeur, Hirsekorn) as well as being counsel for various Métis governments in all of the cases that have been decided by the Supreme Court of Canada over the last decade that involve Métis legal issues (Powley, Blais,

Cunningham, Manitoba Métis Federation).

Jason has also been legal counsel to the MNO for over a decade and has assisted the MNO in many of the successes it has achieved in advancing Métis rights in Ontario, including, the negotiation of the MNO-Ministry of Natural Resources Harvesting Agreement, the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement as well as the dulta-

tion Framework.

MNO President Lipinski said, "Jason has been involved in the MNO since its early days and his ongoing contributions to the advancement of Métis rights in Canada is beyond compare. We are very proud that one of our own Métis lawyers has been recognized in this way." ∞

Jason has been involved in the MNO since its early days and his ongoing contributions to the advancement of Métis rights in Canada is beyond compare. We are very proud that one of our own Métis lawyers has been recognized in this way."

— Gary Lipinski, MNO President

Métis youth receives Canada Top 20 under 20 award

Submitted by: **Sheila Grantham**, MNO Post-Secondary Education Officer



▲ Mélanie-Rose Frappier.

Métis youth Mélanie-Rose Frappier from Sudbury, Ontario is one of the recipients of the Youth In Motion's 2014 Canada's Top 20 under 20 Award.

Held annually, the Canada's Top 20 Under 20 Awards recognize 20 young people under the age of 20 from across the country, chosen by members of the Order of Canada for their exceptional leadership, innovation and achievement.

Celebrating the accomplishments of these 20 remarkable young Canadians, they were presented with their awards at the Top 20 Under 20 Awards Breakfast Celebration, on June 5.

A very deserving candidate, Mélanie-Rose is active in the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and has attended the past two MNO March Break Infinite Reach Camps.

Mélanie-Rose also served as a Youth Ambassador of Canada, during which she created It's Cool to be Healthy/C'est cool d'être en santé, an interactive program that has educated several hundred students on the benefits of exercise and proper nutrition.

Mélanie-Rose has given countless hours of her time volunteering in her community, and assumed a youth leadership role on a number of community organizations including the Aboriginal Advisory Education Committee and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.

A very accomplished young woman, she was also a recipient of the National Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award and the Gathering Our Voices Aboriginal Youth Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership and dedication to improving her community.

Congratulations on yet another great achievement! ∞

WWE superstar thankful for MNO programming

Anthony Carelli, better known by his ring name Santino Marella, is a Métis professional wrestler who was signed with the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) for eight years until his recent retirement.

A proud Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, Carelli has had a very successful career as a professional wrestler, a career he believes would not have been possible without the assistance of the MNO.

Born and raised in Mississauga, Ontario, Carelli began his journey to stardom in 2006 after training at Ohio Valley Wrestling, an American developmental wrestling promotion for the WWE located in Louisville, Kentucky. A renowned institution, Carelli was able to attend thanks to assistance provided through MNO's Education and Training programs. The MNO Métis Training Purchase Program provided funding which paid for Carelli's tuition and also assisted with his living expenses while

training in the United States. As the institution was outside of Ontario, Carelli was required to provide a supplemental essay explaining why this American institution provided better offerings than Canada.

"The school offered the best instruction and direct access to the WWE so I knew I would be in front of the right people," explained Carelli. "I wouldn't have been able to afford my training or at least survived the whole year without the assistance of the MNO as I was unable to work in the United States."

Shortly after training, Carelli's dream came true as he was hired by the WWE as a headlining wrestler. As a sports entertainer with the WWE, Carelli was able to showcase his talents to the world live in the ring and by being featured on the WWE Monday Night Raw television program since April 2007.

"MNO programing worked for me and I could not have achieved what I have without the jump start

they provided," said Carelli.

Not only is Carelli a professional wrestler, he is also an entrepreneur. Wanting to provide the same quality training he received in the United States, in 2013 Carelli founded his own coaching and training centre in Mississauga called Battle Arts Academy. The centre is a 15,000 square foot state of the art, multi-use facility which provides an elite level of coaching and training in mixed martial arts, professional wrestling, and strength and conditioning. Thankful for the support the MNO provided when beginning his career, Carelli is offering MNO citizens a reduced rate to attend his facility.

"The MNO was so helpful to me that I want to pay it forward and help provide young inspiring Métis athletes the same opportunity I had," explained Carelli. "I want to give the gift of fitness for a very reduced rate."

A two-time WWE Intercontinental Champion, one-time WWE



▲ Anthony Carelli also known by his ring name Santino Marella.

United States Champion and a one-time WWE Tag Team Champion, there is no doubt that Carelli has had a very successful career. After a third neck injury, Carelli declared his retirement from the WWE on

July 6 and plans to continue training youth at his Mississauga facility.

Carelli is yet another shining example of an MNO citizen achieving their highest potential. ∞

Timmins Métis youth swims to seven golds at NAIG

Original article by:
Benjamin Aubé, Timmins Press

Patrick Barrette, son of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Robert Barrette, won a gold medal at the 2014 North American Indigenous Games in Regina. Then he won another. Then another, and so on. In the end, Barrette finished with seven gold medals to his name.

Through a constant smile, the outgoing young Timmins swimmer, just 15 years old, described his experience at the Games, which were attended by close to 5,000 young athletes from across the continent.

"It was a lot of fun," said Barrette. "There were a lot of new people to meet - like, a lot of people. You get to bond with your teammates and see the different cultures there, and you get to know your culture more, and appreciate it. Not many people get this experience, right?"

Barrette, whose father Robert is of Métis heritage from the Penetanguishene area, highlighted an extremely impressive performance by Timmins athletes at the NAIG. Along with a pair of team relay gold medals, Barrette also took top honours in the 50 and 100 metre freestyle events, the 100 metre breast stroke and the 200 metre backstroke. His brightest moment came in the 200 metre individual medley, where he took 12 seconds off his personal best time on his way to yet another gold.

Robert and Jo-Anne Barrette, who accompanied Patrick to Regina for the Games, were clearly proud of their son's exploits in the water. However, Robert explained that Patrick's willingness to learn about his Métis culture and the experience he absorbed in Regina will serve him well beyond his time in the pool.

"It was just nice for him to be able to be with his brothers and sisters from across Canada and across North America," said Robert. "It was great to meet tonnes of people and get that experience. With the cultural village, all the teepees, all the things going on - it was just amazing.

"The Métis in Timmins is growing, and it's nice to be part of an Aboriginal ancestry and have something like the NAIG where you can understand and learn the cultures, and meet Elders. It's nice for me to explain it to him, but sometimes it's better for him to actually go out, meet friends, and they can do it together. That's what they did, and that's pretty cool."

With his unforgettable performance at the 2014 NAIG, Barrette qualified for next July's World Indigenous Games in Brazil. Though organizers are still working out the logistics of the event, it's possible some of the aquatic events will be held in the mighty Amazon River.

Barrette could hardly contain his excitement at the prospect, and his parents, too, admitted they were looking forward to the trip.



▲ Swimmer Patrick Barrette, 15, shows off the seven gold medals he collected at the recent 2014 North American Indigenous Games in Regina, highlighting an impressive contingent of local athletes. BENJAMIN AUBÉ/*The Daily Press*.

"We're going to end up probably going to Brazil with him," said Robert. "He'll go and enjoy himself, and the parents will definitely go and check out the different events out there. It's nice because it covers all the sports: Baseball, lacrosse, soccer, archery, shooting, badminton, kayak. It should be a lot of fun."

Barrette made sure to thank those who've made the impressive start to his swimming career possible. He explained he's had financial and personal support from organizations such as the Métis Nation of

Ontario Timmins Council, Detour Gold, Centre culturel La Ronde, J.L. Richards, as well as family friends, the Stephens, which have helped him reach many of his goals. He also credited his coaches Kelly Baker and Tracy McCartney of the Timmins Marlins Swim Club.

"I really appreciate all the support," he said.

"My parents come out, and my mom is at almost every single meet. She's the loudest screamer I've ever heard in my life. I met a family, and the swimmer was like, 'My mom is a

very loud screamer.' I just said, 'You haven't met my mom.'"

Barrette trains upwards of 30 hours a week, and pulls no punches when he talks about his long-term goals: "I want to go to the Olympics," he says.

Looking to take the next step in his career, Barrette has formed a strong bond with Canadian Olympic hero Brent Hayden, who swam to a hard-earned and memorable bronze medal in London in 2012. If all goes well, Barrette and Hayden will be in the pool together later this summer for a training camp.

"He's got some mentoring from Brent," said Robert, "and when he comes back, we've got Tracy pushing him hard now. He'll get to where wants to get if that's what he really wants."

With a few more days to bask in his experience at the NAIG, Barrette said there are many memories he'll never forget. But the story of Gerald Bunting, Barrette's teammate from Sioux Lookout, will forever stand out in his mind.

"We had one guy (Bunting) who was supposed to go down for volleyball, but he decided to go into swimming instead," explained Barrette. "This kid had never swam in his life. He learned how to swim in two hours. He came out with two bronze medals and a silver. That was just the best experience.

"He's a big guy, he's just jacked, and he had never swam in his life. I mean, he swims in lakes for fun, and he didn't think (swimming competitively) would be that hard. He came out saying it was harder than hockey, badminton, volleyball.

"We had a lot of fun with that guy. We were happy to get more people who don't do the sport that often, and help them out. We just had a great time." ∞

New graduate

Submitted by: **Lynn Barnes**



▲ April Barnes at her graduation from Conestoga College.

Congratulations to Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen April Barnes who recently graduated from the Personal Support Worker Program at Conestoga College. Mom and dad are very proud of you! The Barnes family would like to thank the MNO for all of their support. ∞



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▲ Maddy Pilon (centre with flowers) at the GetReel Film Festival with some of the GetReel Film Camp students.

Young Métis filmmaker makes headlines with summer camp

Submitted by: **Robin Pilon**

It was ‘lights, camera, action!’ in Trenton, Ontario this summer with a new youth film camp in the city run by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Maddy Pilon. A second year Ryerson University Film Production student, filmmaker, volunteer, young entrepreneur and Founder of GetReel Film Camp, Maddy set up the camp for young aspiring filmmakers as part of her Ontario Summer Company, GetReel Productions.

Backed by the Small Business Centre, it was a huge success and earned her accolades from the students, parents, and the community alike. Maddy worked on set for the Canadian Film Centre and a number of short films, feature films and a TV pilot in Toronto early in the summer and then took a break to move back to her hometown of Trenton, Ontario to run the first ever local film camp during the last two weeks of July. “I wanted to be able to run a film camp for kids and teens in my hometown because when I was growing up there was nothing like it being offered,” said the young filmmaker.

GetReel Film Camp offered two one-week film focused day camps filled with hands-on training, informative workshops, guest speakers and a whole lot of fun! It gave students real experience in the magic of movie making where they learned the basics of film making including writing, shooting, acting and editing their own short films. The camp wrapped up with its inaugural GetReel Film Festival, a premiere showcase of the students short films screened at the local cinema, the Centre Theatre in downtown Trenton. It was an impressive showcase indeed.

Jeremy Clark, Youth Entrepreneurship Program Coordinator at the Small Business Centre said “From the very beginning, Maddy’s GetReel Film Camp was viewed as a creative and ambitious business idea, but the results of her camp were even more outstanding - 17 wonderful youth from our community inspired to be their best and to showcase their budding film production skills! Seeing the short films that Maddy’s students produced at the GetReel Film Festival was a real inspiration: not to men-

tion a true testament to the skill, guidance and support that Maddy delivered in offering her camp experience.”

Maddy said the Summer Company Program gave her the opportunity to make a difference in her community that she otherwise would not have the resources to do. “I am very grateful to have been a mentor to such talented youth this summer as well as form a base for a growing business that I am passionate about,” said the young entrepreneur.

Quinte West Mayor John Williams presented Maddy with a plaque from the city extending congratulations and appreciation for her efforts in providing the community youth with a firsthand experience at film making. “This would have not been possible if not for your hard work and dedication,” said the Mayor. “We are thankful you came back to Trenton to run your film camp and we hope you’ll come back next year!”

Congratulations Maddy! ∞



▲ Mayor Williams presenting Maddy Pilon with a plaque of appreciation.

COUNCIL CORNER

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) benefits immensely from the dedicated volunteers who are members of its Chartered Community Councils. These hard-working individuals spend hundreds of hours building and strengthening their Métis communities.

MNO councils are the cornerstone of a strong foundation for the MNO in its push toward its inherent right to self-government. MNO Councils are important communication hubs who play a significant role in fostering community empowerment and development for Métis citizens living within the geographic territory of that council.

MNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to the MNO Ottawa Region and Mattawa Métis Councils on their recent elections. Here is a list of the new and returning elected officials and their appointments.

MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council

<i>President</i> Benny Michaud	<i>Women’s Representative</i> Lynn Pantuso
<i>Chair</i> Parmallia Burgie	<i>Youth Representative</i> Alexandra Dusome
<i>Senator</i> Lois McCallum	

MNO Mattawa Métis Council

<i>President</i> Nelson Montreuil	<i>Women’s Representative</i> Joyceline Rose
<i>Chair</i> Roger Rose	<i>Councillor</i> Melanie Rose
<i>Senator</i> Romeo Sarrazin	

The MNO would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected council members and thank all council members for their time and dedication to the citizens of the MNO. ∞



UPCOMING ELECTIONS

- MNO Grand River Métis Council – November 8, 2014
- MNO Sunset Country Métis Council - November 8, 2014
- MNO Northwest Métis Council - November 9, 2014
- MNO Credit River Métis Council - December 6, 2014

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▲ Members of the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council. (Left to right) Katherine Stewart-McNeil, Chair; Marilyn Hew, Secretary/Treasurer; Tera Beaulieu, President; Christine Skura, Youth Representative and Senator Robert Bird.

MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council awarded Ontario Arts Council Grant

Submitted by: **Tera Beaulieu**,
President, Toronto and York Region Métis Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council along with community artists Jennifer LaFontaine and Emmy Pantin of Community Story Collective have been awarded a grant from the Ontario Arts Council to examine Métis people's health through a Métis Digital Storytelling Project.

The project will provide an opportunity for a group of MNO Toronto and York Region citizens to make two to five minute multi-media narratives using photos, video clips, art, and sound to share a personal life story. The creative process will support Métis community members in exploring their histories and life experiences within a collective setting geared towards recognizing and affirming the strength, resiliency, and vitality of the Métis Nation. It is anticipated that the digital storytelling workshops were held from September to October 2014.

The Métis digital storytelling workshop will encourage healing and community connection as participants share their stories under the theme of health, including mental, physical, spiritual and emotional health. A key focus of this project is to explore a range of wellness

perspectives and the relationship between Métis culture and health. Cultural teachings will also be provided by a Métis knowledge keeper who will facilitate sharing circles with the participants over the course of the workshop gatherings. Participants will also have an opportunity to see each other's stories and reflect on how they evolved over the course of the workshops. While the digital story workshop is an individual process in that each participant creates her or his own story, the workshop is also a strongly collective process and will assist in building and strengthening a sense of community among the participants. It is anticipated that a screening of the completed stories will occur in late 2014. The digital stories will celebrate Métis experience and knowledge, and it is hoped that from sharing these stories, greater understanding of Métis people's health and its relationship to culture will emerge as a result of this project. ∞

For more information, please contact Tera Beaulieu, President of the Toronto and York Region Métis Council at tera_beaulieu@yahoo.ca.



▲ Tera Beaulieu.

MNO citizen recognized for academic contribution to Aboriginal community

Submitted by: **Dr. Alis Kennedy, C.D., O.M.C., Ph.D.**,
MNO Veterans' Council Senator

On June 20, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council President Tera Beaulieu was awarded the President's Award for Outstanding Native Students of the Year for the category of Graduate/Second Entry/Professional Award by the First Nations House of the University of Toronto.

The President's Award for Outstanding Native Students of the Year, is given to students of Aboriginal ancestry (status, non-status, Metis and Inuit). The recipients are chosen based on academic achievement and previous and/or intended future contributions to the Aboriginal community.

Beaulieu is a MNO citizen and resides in Toronto where she is currently completing her Doctor of Philosophy in the Counselling Psychology Program at OISE-

University of Toronto. Beaulieu's program of research examines the supports and challenges of Métis traditional knowledge in addressing the life transition needs (mental health, education and employment) of urban Métis homeless peoples.

Beaulieu is also the current Supervisor of Aboriginal Engagement and Outreach at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Before taking on her role as President of the MNO Toronto and York Métis Council, she held the position of MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator at the University of Toronto for the past three years.

Beaulieu is passionately committed to serving the Aboriginal community of Toronto and is a proud Métis scholar, clinician, and community member.

Congratulations on this great achievement! ∞



Métis Self Employment Success Story

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Métis Self Employment (MSE) program provides assistance to Métis individuals seeking to develop businesses that will allow them to be self-employed. Through this program, the MNO offers clients the skills and support necessary to develop a business plan, start a small business and sustain the activity. It assists clients with mentorship, ongoing technical advice, and financial support with coaching that is tailored to the individual's needs.

Dr. Adrian Nasager, ND, is one MNO citizen who took advantage of MNO's offering and is very glad he did. Through financial support provided by the MSE program, Dr.

Nasager was able to successful start his own naturopathic medicine practice in Toronto, Ontario.

Dr. Nasager believes the MSE program is a necessary service in supporting people in starting their own business. "Before you can help other people, a lot of the time you need help yourself so having an organization that will help you gives you confidence," he explained. "It helps you see the potential of what you can do and believe in your ability to execute that dream." ∞

Visit the MNO website to watch the video and for more information on the MSE program and other MNO Education and Training initiatives.

Thankful for "chance of a lifetime"

Submitted by: **Stéphanie and Marie-Claude Vignola**

The following is a thank you letter the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) received from Stéphanie Vignola:

I would like to thank you for giving me the chance of a lifetime: going to college! This past spring, I graduated from Canadore College with academic honours from a two-year course in Community and Justice Services. This truly gave me the opportunity to put to good use my communication and leadership skills and to follow a dream that I've always had.

I know that I am on the right path to pursuing my career of choice and to give back to the community just like the Métis Nation of Ontario did for me. I am a proud Métis and possess the necessary tools to help others in my chosen field like others have helped me in the past. It has been a great privilege for me to take this course at Canadore College and many thanks again to the Métis Nation of Ontario for making this dream a reality, and thanks to my Aboriginal roots! Without you I wouldn't have gone through this life-changing journey. Thanks again for everything and a special thank you to MNO staff member Linda Krause for her guidance and support. ∞



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