



# AGA 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

Special Annual General Assembly Insert

ISSUE NO. 87, SEPTEMBER 2015

# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR



## Métis youth experience the 2015 Pan AM & Parapan AM Games

## MNO puts Métis culture & communities on display

Photo by Nadya Kwandibens

▲ Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne visits the MNO SYCP facilitators at the 2015 Aboriginal Pavilion during the 2015 Pan AM Games. See stories on pages **A9**, **A10**, & **A11**.

### Crown-Métis Consultation Agreement

Page A3



### Representing the Métis at the Pan AM Games



Pages A10 - A11



**MNO Annual Report**





THE  
MÉTIS  
VOYAGEUR  
SEPTEMBER 2015, No. 87

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**Submission Policy:**  
MNO encourages contributions from MNO citizens and staff. All submissions are edited to conform to the Canadian Press Style Guide as well as for 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.

**2015-16 Submission deadlines:**  
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January 22, 2016  
March 13, 2016

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# Three Generations of Métis

submitted by | **Verna Porter-Brunelle**  
MNO Senator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assemblies (AGAs) are great family events and therefore it should not be too big of a surprise that they often provide opportunities for various sizes of family reunions. One such small reunion took place at the 2015 AGA in Midland where PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle was able to spend quality time with both her daughter Tammy Porter and her granddaughter Victoria Spiers. Tammy is currently on contract with the MNO and working out of the MNO office in North Bay while Victoria is entering Grade 11 where she is contemplating a future in environmental law. ∞



▲ (L-R) Victoria Spiers, Tammy Porter and Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle at the 2015 MNO AGA.

## 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.

Since the last *Métis Voyageur*, the following MNO community councils have had elections. Thanks and congratulations goes to all the candidates who participated in these elections and to the new councils.

### MNO HISTORIC SAULT STE. MARIE MÉTIS COUNCIL

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**Treasurer**  
Shari Smale

**Chair**  
John Konawalchuck

**Councillor**  
Ken Smale

**Senator**  
Brenda Powley

**Women's  
Representative**  
Shirley Loubert

**Secretary**  
Stephen Gjos

*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.*

## Letter to the editor:

*The following is a personal appeal from an individual. All opinions and information are those of the writer and do not represent the official position of the Métis Nation of Ontario:*

Dear MNO citizens:

To start off I would like to tell you about myself. My name is Dawn Archibald and I live in the small northwestern town of Dryden, Ontario. I am a single mom of an amazing 15 year old son named Seth and I myself recently turned 40! Where did the time go! I own and operate my own small business and I am a part time social media and marketing manager. In my free time I volunteer for Dryden Merchants online, a marketing and selling tool I created on Facebook.

The reason I am writing to you is because I am looking for a little help. I was diagnosed several years ago with a debilitating illness called Ataxia. Ataxia is a rare genetic disorder that is progressive. It causes muscle weakness, fatigue, poor balance, severe lack of mobility and a wide range of other symptoms. There is unfortunately

no cure, medicines or treatments available for this disorder. I have been offered the opportunity to attend the Better a Being Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand this summer for Stem Cell Treatment. The cost is enormous - \$34,000. My friends have put together a gofundme campaign and are planning a barbecue, social and an online auction to help raise money. They are amazing - I am truly blessed!

We are looking for donations of any kind - money, food, products, gift certificates - anything we can use in one of our events to help raise money. Anything and everything would be greatly appreciated! Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely, Dawn Archibald

[gofundme.com/DawnArchibald](https://www.gofundme.com/DawnArchibald)

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# NATION

## MNO and Government of Canada finalize first Crown-Métis Consultation Agreement

Historic agreement advances recognition of Métis rights in Ontario and builds on MNO's proven and successful consultation model

On July 31, 2015, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski announced that the MNO and the Government of Canada have signed a historic Crown-Métis Consultation Agreement. This agreement is the “first-of-its-kind” to be finalized between Canada and a Métis group anywhere in the country.

The agreement sets out a preferred process for Crown consultation between the parties, which relies on the MNO's Lands, Resources and Consultation (LRC) Branch as a “single window” for consultation notices. In turn, the MNO's LRC Branch works with the MNO's nine Regional Consultation Committees who

*“This agreement represents an important step in Canada's recognition of rights-bearing Métis communities.”*

— MNO President  
Gary Lipinski

ensure meaningful consultation is undertaken with MNO citizens and regional rights-bearing Métis communities. These Committees are made up of Métis leaders who are elected at the local and regional levels, as well as the regional Captain of the Hunt in an ex-officio capacity.

President Lipinski said, “This agreement

represents an important step in Canada's recognition of rights-bearing Métis communities outside of the Sault Ste. Marie region, where the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed Métis rights in the landmark *Powley* litigation in 2003. The agreement acknowledges that based on credible rights assertions and claims, the Crown's duty to consult Métis communities is triggered in locations throughout Ontario. This is a significant and positive change from past federal policies of denial.

“This agreement also demonstrates the success and credibility of the MNO's unique consultation model, which has been built by Métis for Métis over the last eight years. With the support and solidarity of MNO citizens and leaders, we have gone from having a system that was ignored by governments and industry to one that is recognized and the envy of other Aboriginal governments. I want to acknowledge the efforts of all the MNO citizens, leaders and staff

who have made this happen. It demonstrates what we can do when we work together.” added President Lipinski.

President Lipinski also acknowledged the Ontario Government's significant financial investment, through the New Relationship Fund, in assisting the MNO in developing and implementing its consultation model since 2008. The MNO-Canada Consultation Agreement now commits Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to financially contribute to the MNO's consultation model, which is largely supported by the New Relationship Fund.

President Lipinski concluded, “I am optimistic that this agreement signals that the Government of Canada is beginning to realize that

it must do more to advance reconciliation with Ontario Métis communities. From the recent Eyford report that made specific recommendations on dealing with Métis rights and claims to the appointment of a Ministerial Special Representative on Métis rights to the upcoming appeal in the *Daniels* case at the Supreme Court of Canada, it is clear that the status quo is not an option. This agreement shows progress can be made on these important issues, when there is political will.” ∞

More information on the MNO's consultation model or the agreement is available at: [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org). A copy of the MNO-Canada press release is available at: [news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1014139&tp=1](http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1014139&tp=1).

### QUICK FACTS

- The MNO's consultation model and LRC Branch were first established in 2009 following province-wide community consultations with MNO citizens led by MNO President Lipinski, which resulted in a “What We Heard” report.
- The MNO's consultation model involves 29 MNO Chartered Community Councils, regionally elected Metis leadership and the LRC Branch as a “centre of excellence” working together to ensure effective consultation with regional rights-bearing Métis communities throughout Ontario.
- Since 2008-09, the MNO has received over \$15 million from Ontario's New Relationship fund to support its consultation model. In 2014-15, the MNO LRC Branch received and processed over 5,504 consultation notices and leveraged over \$2.5 million in additional consultation capacity funding from industry.
- Since 2009, the MNO has executed over 200 consultation agreements and MOUs with industry, including impacts and benefits agreements with Hydro One, Ontario Power Generation, Detour Gold, New Gold and Canadian Malartic to name a few.

## Make Your Vote Count!

October 19, the date of the 2015 federal election, is swiftly approaching and polls suggest it will be one of the closest elections in Canadian history and the first where all three major parties are contenders to form the next federal government. In this context, the slogan “Every vote counts” packs even more punch than usual.

This is especially true for Métis. Historically, Métis vote in large numbers and with the election being so close, Métis have the potential to make a big difference in several ridings where we have significant population bases. The difference between who is in opposition and who is in government may very well ride on our Métis votes in

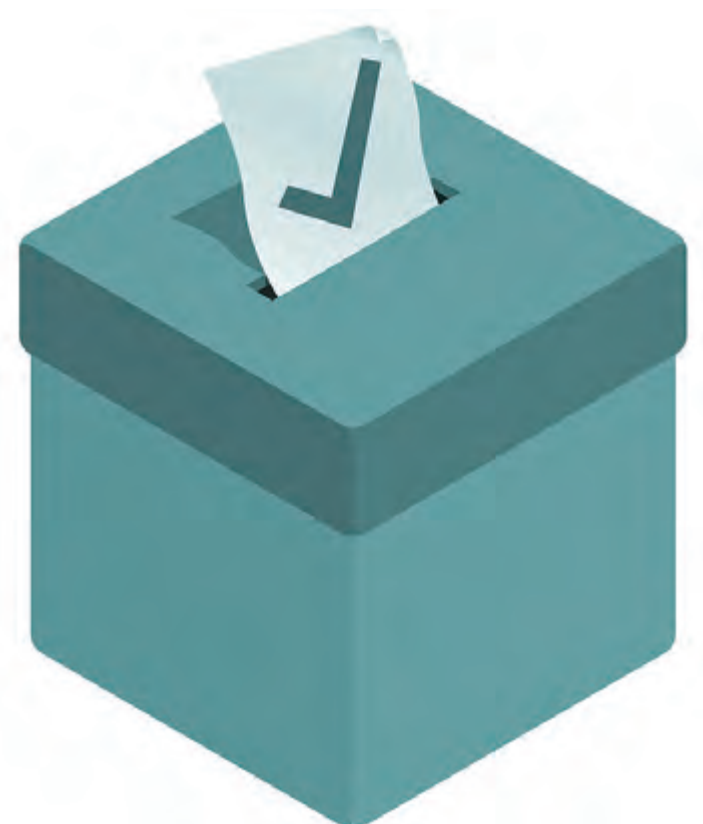
just a few of those seats.

It is important therefore that we make sure politicians of all stripes know we are Métis and that how political parties treat Métis issues impacts how we vote. Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski took an early lead in this area by writing each of the party leaders in February to bring Métis issues to their attention. The large number of representatives from each party that attended the 2015 Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Midland this August testifies to the growing awareness among political parties of the importance of the Métis vote.

At the AGA, President Lipinski encouraged MNO citizens to ask

candidates questions about parties' policies on Métis issues. He said: “Pay very close attention to what parties are saying, but even more importantly, to what they are not saying.”

The Métis National Council (MNC) distributed a questionnaire to each of the four political parties with seats in the last Parliament. The questionnaire concerned party positions on a variety of issues that impact Métis Nation citizens. To assist citizens the MNO will be posting all the responses that are received on the MNO website at [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org).







▲ Participants in the MNO-Canadian Malartic Signing Ceremony in Fort Frances. Back Row (l-r): Marlene Davidson, President of the MNO Atikokan Métis Council; Clint Calder, President of the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council; Joel Henley, President of the MNO Kenora Métis Council; Ron Robinson, President of the MNO Dryden Métis Council. Front Row: (l-r) Guy Gosselin, Vice-President, Exploration, Agnico Eagle Mines; Daniel Racine, Senior Vice-President, Northern Operations, Yamana Gold; Gary Lipinski, MNO President; and Theresa Stenlund, PCMNO Councillor for Region 1.

# Canadian Malartic Corporation and MNO sign Shared Interest Agreement on Hammond Reef Gold Project

by | MNO Staff

Canadian Malartic Corporation (“Canadian Malartic”), as represented by Vice Presidents Daniel Racine and Guy Gosselin, and the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”), as represented by MNO President Gary Lipinski and local Métis leadership, formally announced a Shared Interest Agreement (the “Agreement”) with respect to the development and operation of the Hammond Reef Gold Project near Atikokan, Ontario. The local MNO leaders participating in the signing ceremony were: Theresa Stenlund, MNO Region 1 Councillor on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO); Joel Henley, President of the MNO Kenora Métis Council; Marlene Davidson, President of the MNO Atikokan Métis Council; Clint Calder, President of the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council;

and Ron Robinson, President of the MNO Dryden Métis Council. A signing ceremony was held at the Sunset Country Métis community hall in Fort Frances followed by a fish fry and entertainment, including Métis jiggers and fiddling. The Agreement includes provisions on how the local Métis community will benefit from the development of the Hammond Reef Gold Project and throughout the life of the mine, including employment and business opportunities, training and education initiatives, community and cultural supports and financial participation in the project. The Agreement also incorporates processes that reflect the shared commitment of Canadian Malartic and MNO in protecting the environment and wildlife, and building a long term, mutually ben-

*“We are honoured to call the Métis our partners and know that our relationship will result in a stronger project overall.”*

— Daniel Racine & Guy Gosselin  
Vice-Presidents of Canadian Malartic

eficial relationship.

Vice Presidents Daniel Racine and Guy Gosselin stated, “We are very pleased that the team has been able to finalize this agreement, as a reflection of our long term work with the Métis at Hammond Reef. This is a proud day for Canadian Malartic as we honour our key principles of contributing to communi-

ties and respecting the environment. The partnership we have cultivated with the Métis Nation of Ontario has been an integral part of the Hammond Reef Gold Project. We are honoured to call the Métis our partners and know that our relationship will result in a stronger project overall.”

MNO President Gary Lipinski stated, “The MNO is proud of the positive relationship that has been built with Canadian Malartic that has led to this Agreement. We believe the Hammond Reef Gold Project will bring much needed economic opportunity to the region as a whole, while also respecting the Métis community’s rights and interests. We see this as a ‘win-win’ for everyone.”

Theresa Stenlund, the MNO Regional Councillor for the Treaty 3

territory, emphasized, “Our community is pleased that our ongoing efforts in attempting to build a meaningful and lasting relationship in relation to this project have reached this point. I want to thank our citizens for their support as well as the volunteer efforts of the local and regional Métis leadership who made this Agreement a reality.” ∞

**About the Project:** The Hammond Reef Gold Project is located 23 kilometres northeast of the Town of Atikokan and 200 kilometres west of Thunder Bay, Ontario. The project is a large deposit that has an open-pit recovery potential.

**About Canadian Malartic:** Canadian Malartic is jointly owned by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (50%) and Yamana Gold Inc. (50%).

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# Immortalizing a Métis mother's legacy

by | MNO Staff

When Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Michele-Elise Burnett, daughter of founding MNO citizen Dr. Suzanne Rochon-Burnett, heard of the Six Nations and Native allies commemorative memorial, it inspired her to reach out to the Métis community her mother had fiercely promoted.

Dr. Suzanne Rochon-Burnett passed away in 2006. She won several prestigious awards, including being named to the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario. Every year, in honour of her outstanding service as a volunteer, the MNO presents the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award to recognize individuals who contribute as volunteers to the MNO.

The memorial, called Landscape of Nations, will be built in Queenston Heights, Ontario. It commemorates when the Six Nations and their Native allies fought in the Battle of Queenston Heights in the



▲ Founding MNO citizen Dr. Suzanne Rochon-Burnett.

War of 1812.

According to the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, "The completion of Landscape of Nations is to coincide with the bicentennial commemoration of the historic Council of Peace and Reconciliation held at Niagara between the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, those of New York and the British Crown on August 31-September 1, 1815."

Burnett hopes to secure one section of the memorial, called the Longhouse, to pay homage to her late mother. So far, it's the only Aboriginal naming level at the memorial.

"This endeavor gives me the opportunity to continue the passionate legacy my late mother started, one to give our people a voice of pride and help educate people about our true history," Burnett shared in an e-mail.

To date, there has been \$25,100 raised towards securing the naming level and Burnett is confident she will achieve her goal of \$50,000. ∞

Anyone interested in making a donation may send a cheque or money order to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and include the note "In Memory of SRB" in the memo. For more information contact Michele-Elise Burnett directly at 905-933-1915.

# Jean Teillet receives honorary Doctor of Laws degree

Adapted from an article that originally appeared at [Lawsocietygazette.ca](http://Lawsocietygazette.ca)

Jean Teillet was honoured with a Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa* (LLD) by the Law Society of Upper Canada during the Call to the Bar ceremony in Toronto on June 26, 2015.

Teillet, a great-grandniece of Louis Riel, was lead counsel in the historic *R. v. Powley* case that affirmed the constitutional protection of Métis harvesting rights.

The honorary LLD is conferred upon individuals in recognition of outstanding achievements in service and benefit to the legal profession, the rule of law or the cause of justice.

In a tweet posted on May 13, Teillet announced she and a colleague will be teaching a course on Métis Law at the University of British Columbia. The course is scheduled to begin in January 2016. ∞



▲ Jean Teillet (seated) signs the Doctor of Laws (LLD) register. Left to right: Justice Katherine van Rensburg, Bencher Dianne Corbiere and Law Society Treasurer Janet E. Minor

# President Lipinski meets with Ontario's Lieutenant-Governor

by | MNO Staff

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski had the opportunity to meet with the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario when she visited Fort Frances on Wednesday, August 26.

President Lipinski, along with Fort Frances city councillors and several First Nations chiefs

met with Lieutenant-Governor Dowdeswell during a tour of the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre. President Lipinski had the opportunity to speak with her Honour about the important historic role that Métis played in Northwest Ontario as well as the MNO's growing role in helping build prosperity in the region. ∞



▲ The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell (left), Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario with MNO President Gary Lipinski in Fort Frances.

# President Lipinski meets with Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

by | MNO Staff

A meeting took place between Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski and the Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Ontario's Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, on September 1, 2015. The meeting focused on a range of health access and wellness issues and set the stage for formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU) between the Ministry and the MNO in the near future.

President Lipinski indicated: "We expect that working together with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will create the same kind of positive results for MNO citizens that we have seen when MOU agreements have been signed with other Ministries." ∞



▲ MNO President Lipinski (left) and the Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

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NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION WORKSHOP

# NWMO talks safe containment of used nuclear fuel with MNO citizens

by | MNO Staff

The Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Lands, Resources, and Consultations (LRC) Branch continues to be committed to fostering open dialogue between the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) and MNO citizens. As such, the NWMO was invited to offer a comprehensive workshop to MNO leaders, including the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), MNO chartered community council presidents, Senators, the MNO Veterans' Council, MNO Youth Council and Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario, on August 21st, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Midland. Aly Alibhai, MNO Director of the MNO LRC Branch, opened the workshop and prayers were shared by PCMNO Senators Verna Porter-Brunelle and René Gravelle.

During the workshop, the NWMO team explained the evolution of their proposed Adaptive Phased Management (APM) project, which involves the safe containment and isolation of Canada's used nuclear fuel in a Deep Geologic Repository (DGR), as well as the current status of their APM project and updates regarding the site selection process. The geographic and underlying geological characteristics of the potential host communities remaining under consideration for NWMO's project were also discussed in detail.

NWMO's Jim McLay described the various stages of geophysical drilling and mapping that might be pursued as the NWMO APM site selection process advances. Another presentation was devoted to the various considerations for

transportation packages and methods. Although transport by rail was presented as an option, NWMO has expressed that used fuel transport by road is most likely. The final NWMO presentation detailed a multiple barrier system for the proposed safe storage of used nuclear fuel. In this presentation the NWMO highlighted its Used Fuel Storage Container and a DGR design as intrinsic components to their multiple barrier system.

MNO citizens actively contributed during the intermittent question periods, as well as during the final discussion time allotted. The LRC Branch documented all questions and commentary discussed throughout the NWMO event as a manner to best direct future community engagement. Some of the general topics noted are summarized below:

### Technical Safety and Security

Questions were raised on the subjects of DGR safety in the event of natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, or rock bursts and air pressure accumulation during construction at depth. Concerns and questions were also raised with respect to the safety procedures planned for transportation, as well as storage package design and on-route emergency response.

### Long-Term Knowledge Transfer

Given the lengthy planning and knowledge-gathering process inherent with NWMO's APM, there is a need for skills and knowledge about the development of the project to be managed over time. Concerns on this topic were shared at

the workshop, notably regarding NWMO's preparedness for transfer of research and technical skills at the internal level. Moreover, the importance of MNO youth participation at NWMO Information Sessions was highlighted along with the acknowledged need for maintaining accurate records of engagements. These actions will ensure genuine knowledge and relationship transfers.

### Scheduling

Additional comments and questions arose with respect to NWMO's timelines for geophysical testing and walking the land studies. The LRC Branch recognizes that MNO citizens must receive information of any further studies planned for their respective traditional territory or harvesting lands. To this effect, any requests for proposals from drilling and geotechnical contractors should also be brought forward to the LRC Branch, who can then forward these opportunities to the applicable PCMNO regional councillors.

As the NWMO APM project unfolds, the MNO's LRC Branch expects to continue coordinating regular engagement activities in MNO Regions. The discussion points and questions highlighted from the recent workshop are not comprehensive but rather, a way to inform future engagement between MNO and NWMO. It is anticipated that upon future engagements, additional comments, questions and concerns will arise. In the meantime, any inquiries can be addressed to MNO's LRC Branch at [NWMOcomments@metisnation.org](mailto:NWMOcomments@metisnation.org). ∞



▲ MNO Senator Brenda Powley tours the NWMO Used Fuel Transportation Vehicle on display at NWMO workshop on August 21, 2015.



▲ NWMO Senior Aboriginal Engagement Advisor Ross Holden speaking at the NWMO Workshop.



▲ NWMO Used Fuel Transportation Manager Ron Ross speaking at the NWMO Workshop.



▲ MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile and Senator Gary Laframboise inspect nuclear fuel rods during the NWMO workshop.

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## TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP

# Montréal kèsé kon sé

## Sharing what we know

by | MNO Staff

On August 20, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) held a workshop for MNO leaders including members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), chartered community council presidents, Senators, the MNO Veterans' Council, the MNO Youth Council and the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO). The workshop was entitled *Montréal kèsé kon sé*. France Picotte, Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), a Michif speaker and prominent leader in the MNO's efforts to restore the use of the Michif language, explained the significance of the workshop's title.

"Montréal kèsé kon sé, it means 'sharing what we know,'" she said, "which is what we are going to do today. We are going to share and pass down our traditional Métis knowledge." Under this title, there were two workshops: one called Passing On Knowledge held in the morning and the other called Knowledge Matters held in the afternoon. During the 2014 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA), MNO youth indicated they would appreciate more opportunities to gain more knowledge and hear the stories from traditional knowledge holders. These workshops were held in part to meet this request from the Métis youth.

MNO President Gary Lipinski addressed everyone and shared that being together felt like an extended family gathering. "We've done so much together, watched each other get old," he said, humorously speaking to people he'd known for many years. "We're telling our stories—your stories—for future generations."

Due to long-standing prejudice towards Métis people, many Métis families had to maintain secrecy in order to be accepted in society. Métis culture—or Aboriginal ancestry in general—was a thing to be either hidden away or outright neglected or ignored.

Thankfully, things are improving towards a brighter future but passing on stories is still crucial. To help that process the workshops were set up so that youth sat at every table mixing with older citizens and asking questions to bring out traditional knowledge.

During a presentation, Brian Tucker, Associate Director of Education and Way of Life, said that there were two key ways to transfer knowledge: through storytelling and through experience. Tucker shared pictures of his own family. In many of the pictures, he himself

was present, either as a child with his parents and grandparents, fishing or hunting, or as an adult with his own kids, taking them fishing, hunting or gathering much as he used to do while growing up. "[My grandparents] were very keen in teaching the way of life," he shared. "It's about making sure the next generation of youth learn from us."

These days, Métis youth eagerly reach out to the traditional knowledge holders to collect as much as possible about their culture and traditions to pass on to the next generation.

Kelly Duquette, an MNO Youth Council representative and a facilitator in the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP), attended the workshops to listen and learn what it was like growing up in a society where reaching out to your elders was met with a wall of silence. "It's so important to have a connection with the elders [now]," she shared in an interview. "I learned a lot about Métis culture, their families and how they grew up... Knowledge is passed through generations."

The first activity during the workshop involved one or two youth joining the traditional knowledge holders at their table with a poster board. MNO SYCP facilitator Alicia Blore joined the table with Executive Senator Reta Gordon and Senator Lois McCallum. The two sisters shared their stories about growing up unaware of their Métis heritage.

During their childhood, people weren't allowed to talk about their Métis ancestry but the two sisters still remember occasions during their childhood where their heritage would shine through. "Saturday nights were Métis nights," they said, remembering how their relatives would come together and each family would bring a different ingredient to bake a cake for everyone. There was dancing as well, when their father would tell them to, "Jig, jig, jig!"

Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle experienced a similar childhood. "Three-quarters of this room only found out they were Métis when they were older," she shared. "Inside, you know you're Métis. It's ingrained in you."

David Dusome, President of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council, remembers that Métis communities looked out for each other. After a hunt, the first thing that was done was to parcel out meat to the elders or to families in need. "We weren't very rich, but we had lots of food," he recalled. A Métis family's door was always open and people were always welcome.

Each key word spoken was writ-



▲ Using charts provided by Shared Value Solutions, MNO citizens map the locations of harvesting areas in Ontario.



▲ Métis youth and elders participate in a mind mapping exercise.



▲ Métis youth and traditional knowledge holders created posters using word association to expand on what it means to be born Métis. The posters were then posted on the wall for everyone to review.

ten down, creating a diagram expanding on what it now means to be part of a culture where things are changing for the better and nothing is hidden.

In the afternoon, during a workshop hosted by Shared Value Solutions, the elders viewed a film called *In the Blood*, a documentary produced with the MNO Moon River Métis Council. The film includes the story of Pearl Gabona, an MNO

citizen who discovered her Métis ancestry late in life. Many viewers became emotional during the film, knowing exactly what Gabona had gone through.

Afterward, the traditional knowledge holders were asked what they do to tell their Métis story and educate others. Senator Porter-Brunelle shared a story about a Métis youth she met during a March Break Infinite Reach camp, who would wear

his sash to school once a day, every month, and who encouraged others to "Flash your Sash" as well. "It's a way to have people come up to us and say 'What is that?' or 'I know what that is.' It's a way of teaching, at the same time," she said.

Openly sharing knowledge about Métis culture is paving the way towards a brighter future for today's Métis youth. ∞



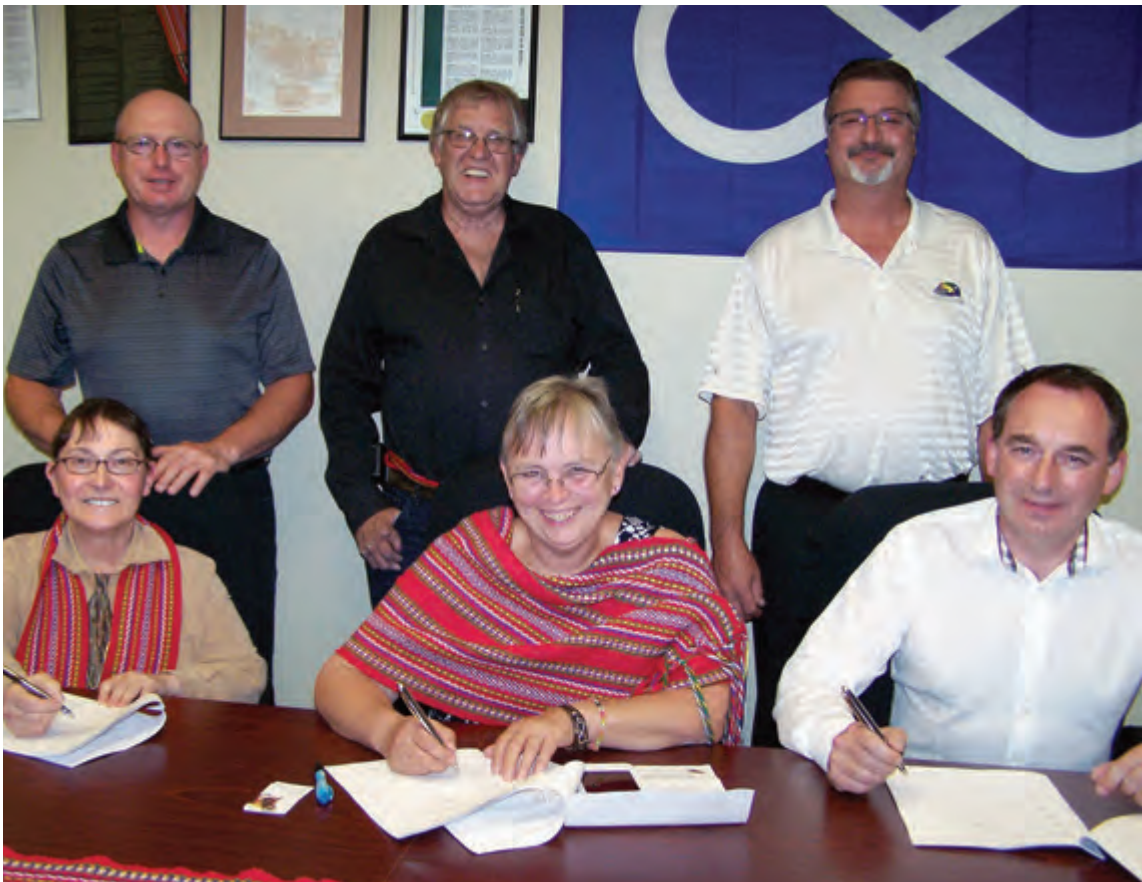
# MNO and KGHM International sign agreement on the Victoria Project

The Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) and KGHM International Ltd. (“KGHMI”) are pleased to announce that they have formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) to guide their working relationship with regards to the development of the Victoria Project (the “Project”) in Sudbury Ontario.

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

Ian Horne, Community and Permitting Manager of KGHMI added: “We have been consulting with the Métis Nation on the planning and development of the Victoria Project since 2010. One of their key goals was to undertake a Traditional Knowledge and Land Use (TKLU) study of the project area before any significant development occurred. This study is currently underway and we look forward to integrating the knowledge gained into our project plan going forward.”

The MOU sets out the way in



▲ MNO Mattawa Métis Council President Nelson Montreuil, MNO Sudbury Métis Council President Richard Sarrazin, MNO North Bay Métis Council President Marc Laurin. Front Row: PCMNO Regional Councillor Juliette Denis, MNO Chair France Picotte, Deputy Project Manager for the KGHMI Victoria Mine Project Robert Nowak.


which the local Métis community, as represented by the MNO’s Mattawa/Lake Nipissing Consultation Committee will be consulted regarding the development of the Project and details how the parties will work together to address any potential impacts the Project may have on Métis rights, interests and way of life. The MOU demonstrates KGHMI’s commitment to continue to collaborate and consult with the surrounding

community to build long-lasting positive relationships.

MNO Regional Councillor Juliette Denis, Chair of the Mattawa/Lake Nipissing Consultation Committee, commented: “Our community is very proud of the relationship that we have built with KGHM. 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 KGHM as their project progresses.”

**ABOUT KGHM:** KGHM is a global company that employees 34,000 people around the world and has been a leader in copper and silver production for more than 50 years. KGHM International Ltd., the wholly owned subsidiary of KGHM Polska Mied S.A., operates mines in Canada, the USA and Chile and is actively advancing the Victoria Project in Sudbury, Ontario, and the Ajax project in Kamloops, British Columbia. The Sierra Gorda mine located in Region II, Chile, commenced production in 2014 marking an important milestone for the company as one of the largest copper and molybdenum mines in the world. [www.kghm.com](http://www.kghm.com).

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MNO SYCP youth prepare a traditional meal as they attend training at Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay.

# An unforgettable summer

by | MNO Staff

It's a student's dream: a summer job that's fun, very different and lets you be creative while getting to learn more about yourself. This year's Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) was filled with exciting experiences for its student facilitators. They were involved in celebrations for Champlain's 400th Anniversary since his arrival in Ontario, National Aboriginal Day events, Canada Day festivities and even the 2015 Pan AM and Parapan AM Games and Aboriginal Pavilion (see pages A10 - A11). Throughout the summer, MNO SYCP programming gave facilitators the opportunity to show their creativity and skills, thanks to their training, by designing games, arts and crafts activities and educational displays about Métis culture. "The training they receive allows for [the

facilitators] to open up and be creative with their presentations," says Scott Carpenter, the MNO's Manager of Education, Way of Life and Special Projects. "One student made up a great Michif matching game," he added, saying that the word game would be something to keep for next year's program. Everything the facilitators learn becomes skills that can also turn into fun and beautiful hobbies. During her time as a MNO SYCP facilitator, Kelly Duquette learned Métis beadwork. She became so proficient that her skill earned her first place in a beading competition held among the facilitators. Before joining the program, she'd never done any beading, and now she has a beautiful beaded satchel she designed herself and a great souvenir of a fun summer. Throughout the 2015 AGA, the

facilitators taught finger-weaving, danced at the Welcome to the AGA event and played voyageur games with kids and adults alike. MNO SYCP facilitator Gerald Lavallee made a new small friend when he patiently taught young Hanna St. Germain-Calder how to play the Game of Graces. One of the many voyageur games they learn and teach, the Game of Graces involves using two sticks to toss a small hoop to an opponent. "A lot of the voyageur games are connected through our culture as traditional voyageur people. Every single game we play has a connection to that," Lavallee shared, adding that the Sash Game—a sort of tug-of-war using a Métis sash—was actually played with the lines used to hold the packs in the voyageur canoes. During the Cultural Events at the

*"A lot of the voyageur games are connected through our culture as traditional voyageur people. Every single game we play has a connection to that."*  
— Gerald Lavallee

AGA, the MNO SYCP facilitators played music, danced and challenged each other to other voyageur games at a fur trade era camp in Little Lake Park. The program ends right around when school starts, it was a chance for many of them to see each other before going home. For Abby Denning, the MNO SYCP program was about more than just gaining job experience. "I came into this not knowing anything about Métis culture," she shared, adding that the program taught her about

her heritage. At the end of the summer, the facilitators leave the program with their lives enriched by unforgettable experiences, great new friends and traditional skills integrated into a modern world. This year, the MNO SYCP program was located in eight different communities: Midland, Ot-tawa, Welland, North Bay, Toronto, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins and Thun-der Bay. ∞

## Aspire & Honour

by | MNO Staff

During the 2015 AGA, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski and Chief Operating Officer (COO) Doug Wilson were presented with two special Métis dot art paintings primarily created by MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) facilitators Alexis Chapman, Karly Chapman and Melissa St. Amant. Each painting included a written description provided by the MNO SYCP members. **Aspire:** We would like to dedicate this dot art painting we designed, titled "Aspire," to thank President Gary Lipinski for always encouraging the youth to be all they can be. The "Aspire" flower tree resembles the growth and prosperity of youth, their potential in life and their



▲ Aspire

role in the Métis Nation of Ontario. All of the flowers are different, yet all are beautiful and unique in their own way, like every youth in the nation. Every tree has strength that comes



▲ Honour

from its roots just as the Métis gain wisdom and strength from our elders and ancestors because together we are strong. The flowers, the tree and the roots are symbolic of youth, el- ders and ancestors and our Métis way of life. This dot art painting celebrates our Métis culture and demonstrates its everlasting beauty. **Honour:** We would like to dedi-

cate this painting, titled "Honour," to Chief Operating Officer, Doug Wilson. The "Honour" painting represents the Métis veterans and their sacrifices that they made to defend Canada as well as Métis identity. This dot art painting symbolizes our connection to our ancestors and represents the strength they have demonstrated within our Nation. Our ancestors, elders and veterans have shown the youth how important it is to fight for our rights as Métis people which will ensure that our culture will endure forever. Because of all that our ancestors, elders and veterans have done and all that they stand for, we are proud to be Métis and will continue to honour, share and love our culture. ∞





▲ MNO Citizen Shawn Harvey and his wife Andrea at the Parapan AM Torch Run in Hamilton.



▲ MNO Citizen Bryce Johnson carrying the Pan AM Torch in Ottawa on June 30, 2015.



▲ MNO Citizen Jennifer St. Germain waves as she carries the Pan AM Torch in Ottawa.



▲ Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy carries the Pan AM Torch wearing her sash to display her pride as a Métis veteran.

# MNO citizens and communities take part in Pan AM and Parapan AM Torch Runs

## Carrying the torch

by | MNO Staff

Leading up to the Pan AM and Parapan AM Games there were two separate torch runs—one for each games. As it made its way towards Toronto, they brought all Canadians together and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) actively participated in both relays.

In Windsor, the local MNO community council played a big part in a Pan AM Torch ceremony while in Ottawa and Brampton, MNO citizens actually carried the flame. In Hamilton, an MNO citizen participated in the Parapan AM Torch relay. The Pan AM Torch Relay arrived in Brampton on June 24, where MNO Veterans' Council Senator Alis Kennedy wore her sash as she carried the torch along its route. Senator Kennedy was given special permission to represent Métis veterans, wearing her military undress ribbons in addition to her sash.

Kennedy was nominated to carry the torch by the Ministry of Veterans Affairs.

On June 30, MNO citizens Jennifer St. Germain and Bryce Johnson took part in carrying the torch through Ottawa.

St. Germain carried the torch

through a part of the city that holds a special meaning to the Aboriginal population.

"I was honoured to be asked to participate in the Torch Run in Ottawa and humbled to have the opportunity to raise the torch past the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument," St. Germain shared. "It was a joy to have my family there and to see many Métis sashes along the route."

The Pan AM Torch arrived in Windsor on June 16, greeted by a traditional drumming ceremony organized by the MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council and other local Aboriginal groups.

MNO citizen Donna Grayer, the former Women's Representative for the MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council, played a huge part in helping to organize the event. Sienna Rochon, 8, and Matt Bombardier, 18, represented the local Council's youth at the ceremony, wearing their Métis sashes.

When Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Fern Tremblay learned that his grandson, Shawn Harvey, had been chosen to take part in the Parapan AM Games Torch Relay, he felt very proud.

Harvey, also an MNO citizen, was



▲ Sienna Rochon (centre-left) and Matt Bombardier (centre-right) represent the Métis community at Pan AM Torch Run festivities in Windsor in June.

born in Timmins but now resides in Hamilton. He was chosen to carry the torch during its journey through Hamilton, on its way to Toronto for the 2015 Parapan AM Games.

In a letter to his grandson, Tremblay shared his pride, stating that Harvey found himself "in this well-deserved opportunity to let people

know that you all believe in participants who have handicaps of sorts but have the will to try and achieve some of their dreams by competing in games such as the Parapan AM Games."

The 2015 Parapan AM Torch Relay ran from August 3 to August 7. Two separate torches were lit,

one in Ottawa and the other in Niagara Falls, before being united in Toronto to light the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony.

With 250 torchbearers for its five day journey, this torch relay was the largest ever held for the Parapan AM Games. ∞





▲ MNO Citizens Joanne Burt, Liam Blore, Alicia Blore, Christine Skura, and Kyle Burton pose with costumed dancers as they prepare backstage for the PanAM Games Opening Ceremony.



▲ MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride (left) and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer (right).



▲ MNO SYCP facilitators at the MNO's fur trade camp at the Aboriginal Pavilion.

# Métis culture and communities highlighted at Pan AM Games

by | MNO Staff

As reported in the past several editions of the *Métis Voyageur*, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has been very involved in the Pan AM and Parapan AM games since signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Games Organizing Committee in September 2013. The MNO has been an active member of the Games Aboriginal Leadership Partners that participated in planning Aboriginal involvement in the Games and in the Aboriginal Pavilion that was a major Pan AM and Parapan AM venue.

After years of preparation, on July 10, in front of a sold out audience of 45,000 people and an international television audience in the millions, the 2015 Pan AM Games got off to a spectacular start with Opening Ceremonies at the Rogers Centre in Toronto.

In recognition of Métis traditional territories in Ontario, MNO President Gary Lipinski was a member of the official party of dignitaries at the ceremony. Other members of the party included Governor General David Johnston, several First Nations chiefs and representatives of the 41 countries participating in the games.

President Lipinski commented, "The Métis people of Ontario are excited to welcome athletes and other visitors from the Americas and the Caribbean to the Games and share with them our unique history and culture. The 2015 Pan AM/Parapan AM Games are a once-in-lifetime opportunity

*"The Métis people of Ontario are excited to welcome athletes and other visitors from the Americas and the Caribbean to the games and share with them our unique history and culture."*

- MNO President Gary Lipinski

nity for all of us here in Ontario to come together, celebrate and share our diversity, culture and dreams."

Five MNO citizens were among the international cast of 625 performers in the incredible Opening Ceremony show produced by Cirque du soleil. Dressed in traditional Métis clothing and using historic Métis artifacts including a canoe, Joanne Burt, Liam Blore, Alicia Blore, Christine Skura and Kyle Burton were featured in a sequence portraying the important role of the Métis in the fur trade era.

After that impressive start, MNO citizens and communities continued to enthusiastically be involved throughout the Pan AM Games from July 10 to July 26 and the Parapan AM Games from August 7 to Au-

gust 15. MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride represented the MNO at several major ceremonies including the Closing the Pan AM Games, and the Opening of the Parapan AM Games. Vice-Chair McBride was joined by MNO Toronto and York Métis Council President Tera Beaulieu at the Opening of the Parapan AM Games. President Beaulieu also attended the Closing of the Parapan AM Games.

The Aboriginal Pavilion, located at Fort York National Historic Site, was a hive of Métis activity throughout both Games. At the Pavilion MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) students, dressed in traditional Métis clothing, recreated a traditional Métis encampment from the fur trade era, with a canoe and even a campfire. The MNO SYCP students interacted with visitors, teaching them about Métis culture, finger weaving, dot art and Métis beadwork. The Métis camp had several prominent visitors including Lieutenant-Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Premier Kathleen Wynne, provincial cabinet ministers Brad Duguid, Glen Murray and David Zimmer and Toronto Mayor John Tory.

In addition to the encampment, the Aboriginal Pavilion was also a performance venue that featured a number of Métis artists including Jamie Dupuis, Sienna Rider and Amanda Rheame, who also performed in the closing ceremony of the Parapan AM Games. ∞

## In their own words

Many MNO citizens participated in different aspects of the Pan AM and Parapan AM Games. Below are some thoughts from a few of them:

### Alicia Blore

Performer in the Opening Ceremonies



"The rehearsals were long and intensive but, the reward of representing our nation in an international event was an extreme honour! It was especially important to us to represent various aspects of our

culture such as jigging, fiddling, the birch bark canoe, spoons, guitar, our traditional clothing and way of life. I am incredibly grateful to have been given this once in a lifetime opportunity."

### Simone Blais

Aboriginal Pavilion Métis encampment facilitator



"I am incredibly honoured to be doing this work because I understand the paramount importance of education. We're creating new narratives that most people have never heard before.

Versions of Canadian history which include the First Nations, include the Inuit and of course, includes the Métis."

### Brianne Gosselin

Aboriginal Pavilion Métis encampment facilitator



"The most memorable moments were spending great time with my Métis friends, interacting with people from everywhere in the world and sharing knowledge on my culture. I also enjoyed learning

dances and listening to elders from the Six Nations of the Grand River! I felt proud of representing my Métis culture at such a large event! It was an honour."

### Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy

Volunteer with National Olympic Committee (which oversees the Pan AM Games) due to ability in Spanish language, works with teams from several Spanish speaking nations.



"On July 9, 2015 at the Pan Am Games dress rehearsal opening, I had the great honour to participate in the athletes' grand entree. It was quite an experience to walk as a Cuban 'athlete'; of course I was wearing my MNO Veterans' Council veteran sash, but over my right leg for the crowd to see that the Métis are volunteering at the Games."



# COMMUNITY

## Métis Heritage Celebration a success in rain and sunshine

submitted by | **Cecile Wagar**  
Senator, MNO and Durham Region Métis Council

For months, excitement ran high among the members of the committee for the Ninth Annual Métis Heritage Celebration. For many of the committee members, it was their second time organizing the event so they knew what to expect and could save themselves some last minute scrambling.

Once again, the celebration was situated in the center of Oshawa's business district in beautiful Memorial Park with its amazing band-shell and majestic trees and hosted by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council (ODRMC).

Everyone was so pleased with the list of Métis entertainers. The day began in a good way with the MNO ODRMC's All Our Relations Métis Drum Circle, followed by new and amazing local young Métis fiddler Amy Pinkis, returning youth fiddler Rajan Anderson and a lively Red River Jig lesson from MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) facilitators Alicia Blore and Simone Blais.

The Métis Grand Entry was an impressive sight as attending MNO citizens followed the MNO Veterans' Council Colour Party to the front of the stage. The keynote speaker during Opening Ceremonies was Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy who spoke of the MNO Veterans' Council fundraiser to send MNO veterans and Métis youth to the 2017 Pilgrimage to Vimy Ridge, France.

Ariko, the musical group hailing from beautiful Penetanguishene, returned to the celebration this year, fiddling and singing with such



▲ Festival-goers enjoy a jig during the Ninth Annual Métis Heritage Celebration in Oshawa.

lovely harmonies. Heather Bunn of the 2014 MNO Canoe Expedition delighted the crowd with stories of her amazing experience on Ontario's waterways last summer. Heather was followed by Owen Sound Métis fiddler Rudy Couture.

Then it started to rain and it didn't stop until Sunday afternoon but not even that hindered the festivities.

A variety of interactive activities for all ages were well planned and set up: spoons and jigging workshops taught by the MNO SYCP performers Alicia Blore and Simone Blais, fiddle workshops under the trees facilitated by the fiddlers of Ariko, the youth tent crafts, the "passport" incentive, and

the return of the Voyageur Games.

Teepees and canopies were set up for returning presenters Archie Martin and Andre Bosse. Storyteller and local Women's Representative Claire Kearns and medicinal plant expert and enactor MNO ODRMC Councillor Ted McNally also shared their knowledge.

Many of the exhibitors returned from last year, including MNO staff with the MNO Healthy Babies Healthy Children and the MNO Education and Training Branch, and representatives from the MNO Veterans' Council, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Trent University, Durham College, Canadian Forces Recruitment, Oshawa Community Health Centre

Aboriginal Initiatives, Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiatives, a new addition of the TO2015 Pan Am Games Oshawa Cruiser, numerous Aboriginal vendors and two food vendors.

The MNO ODRMC's 25-foot birch bark canoe, Grandmother Canoe (*Kokomis Tchiman*) and a silent auction were featured in the Welcome Tent with an enthusiastic group of volunteers who were poised for action as it occurred.

The Grand Prize in the silent auction was won by Carolyn Adams. The prize, a Via Rail trip to Ottawa, was donated by Vial Rail.

All was set for an exciting weekend of Métis experiences, renewing friendships and making

new ones for MNO citizens and the public at large but the threat of a major storm and its arrival five hours into the event drove the crowds away. There was nothing left to do on Sunday but help tear down damaged canopies, pack up the teepees, Red River cart, voyageur canoe, sound system...and dance!

With Alicia playing her fiddle and Simone leading everyone through the steps of many Métis group dances, quite a time was had. The few people who ventured through the park looking at the celebration joined in on the fun.

So ended the Ninth Annual Métis Heritage Celebration with spirits lifted by joyous Métis fiddling, dancing, laughing and cheering. Despite the rain, all that mattered was that the best committee ever came together for a Métis cultural event and worked so well together. Everyone helped each other reach the goal from start to finish. And now the MNO ODRMC is pumped to do it all over again for the 10th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration on June 25-26, 2016.

Un gran marsi goes to the following sponsors: Celebrate Canada, the City of Oshawa, Ontario Power Generation, Via Rail (donor of the silent auction Grand Prize), La Quinta Inn & Suites and all the exhibitors, vendors, volunteers, entertainers, presenters and especially to Co-Chair Amy Nault and the amazing committee who, year after year, have made it possible to offer a taste of Métis culture to MNO citizens and the general public of southern Ontario. ∞

## A Volunteer's Story

submitted by | **Terri Head**

The MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council is very thankful that Terri Head decided to step up and volunteer. It is a great way to see a community in action. And for us, the Métis community, it was delightful to have a person with fresh new ideas and resources to work with. I encourage MNO citizens to get involved with their community. Offer your talents and ideas for the betterment of all. Your community and your council, will be very appreciative. And you will become an active participant of a wonderful family.

MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council Senator Cecile Wagar.

Once upon a time, there was a woman who wanted to give back to her Métis heritage because of the generous support her son received quite a few years ago.

Here was a struggling young man who didn't really know what to do in life when he was given an opportunity to receive a grant from the Métis Nation of Ontario for a training program. What guy doesn't like digging in the dirt—yes, he is now a Heavy Equipment Operator



▲ Ninth Annual Métis Heritage Celebration committee members Anna Maria Muller-Cheng, volunteer; Kokomis Tchiman, Grandmother Canoe

and has been employed with the same company for over seven years. As a mother, there is nothing more that you want than for your child to be happy. He is.

When I saw an ad in our local paper calling for volunteers to help out with the Ninth Annual Métis Heritage Celebration I thought—great—I can do that. Members of the Committee welcomed me at the first meeting and we hit the ground running after that. Having a behind the scenes perspective really makes you appreciate the suc-

cess of such a fantastic community event. I helped obtain donations for a Silent Auction, printed posters, pitched tents, and "manned" the Silent Auction table during the event. Tear down, silent auction item pick-up etc. were all part of the volunteer experience as well.

Yes, it is a lot of work but as they say "many hands make light work". The end result was well worth it and I look forward to helping again next year.



# Local MNO council celebrates National Aboriginal Day in Ottawa

by | MNO Staff

On June 21, Métis across the homeland celebrated National Aboriginal Day. In Ottawa, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Ottawa Region Métis Council joined other Aboriginal people at Vincent Massey Park in a weekend festival to celebrate both National Aboriginal Day and the summer solstice, the official arrival of summer.

The Council set up a tent where children excitedly joined in at the arts and crafts workshops where MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) facilitators helped the kids with Métis dot art, beadwork and pouch making. The MNO SYCP facilitators had participated in similar activities throughout the festival.

Benny Michaud, President of the MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council, warmly greeted Senator Reta Gordon, Executive on the Provisional Council of the MNO, as she stopped by on Sunday afternoon. The two women discussed a beaded vest Michaud was working on.

Facilitators helped the children

with their activities. Dot art paintings were then posted to the tent wall for everyone to admire. The facilitators dressed in traditional Métis garments and their sashes were proudly displayed.

"I am grateful for all of the support we have had from the MNO, particularly all the enthusiasm the summer youth students have brought," Michaud stated.

Throughout the weekend, strawberries were given out to visitors who stopped by. A small pamphlet contained a quote stating, "The strawberry teaches forgiveness and peace. The strawberry is shaped like a heart, and strawberries are known to our people as heart berries."

Despite rain and muggy weather on Sunday, many curious visitors stopped by to ask questions about Métis culture, admire the kids' artwork, purchase sashes or listen to Quenten Lundie as he played Métis fiddle music.

Lundie also brought bags of wild rice and some wild rice pudding he'd made himself. It was a hit! ∞



▲ A young participant shows off her handiwork after participating in a dot art workshop facilitated by the MNO Healing & Wellness branch for National Aboriginal Day.



▲ Joseph Paquette and Elder/Veteran Gary Sault.

## National Aboriginal Day at Fort York

submitted by | **Joseph Paquette**  
MNO Veterans' Council President

On Sunday, June 21, National Aboriginal Day and the summer solstice were both celebrated across Canada.

Na-Me-Res (Native Men's Residence) sponsored the celebration at Fort York in Toronto. Several Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens from the MNO Toronto York Region Métis Council were

represented.

Joe Paquette, President of the MNO Veterans' Council participated in the grand entry by proudly carrying the Métis flag which was provided by the First Nations organizers.

It was a great day to celebrate Métis culture and rekindle old friendships. ∞



▲ Students from East Northumberland Secondary School's Native Studies class and their instructor, Guy Mandeville (front row, left).

## Students take part in National Aboriginal Day

submitted by | **Guy Mandeville, CD**  
MNO Veterans' Council Chair

On June 21, students from East Northumberland Secondary School (ENSS) in Brighton went to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Trenton to participate in National Aboriginal Day celebrations.

Many of the students attended the Native Studies course available at the school. The course is taught by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council Chair Guy Mandeville.

The ENSS students took part in the opening and closing ceremonies by using the six-person ceremonial drum to accompany Mohawk singer and drummer Dustin Brant from the Tyendinaga reserve.

ENSS drummers also led the Round Dance.

Some of the activities at the celebration included drum making and leatherworking workshops and the students created poster boards of the Eastern Woodland Clans that were put on display at the celebration.

The ENSS Native Studies course began in 2009 and Mandeville teaches the class once a week for both semesters of the school year. The students have attended National Aboriginal Day activities at CFB Trenton since the course was first introduced.

The course itself teaches students about First Nation, Métis and Inuit

cultures. The students make Medicine Wheels, dreamcatchers, moc-casins, medicine pouches and hear stories about Aboriginal culture.

"It has been a pleasure to see young people appreciate the Aboriginal culture that has benefitted Canada greatly," Mandeville wrote.

"Aboriginal awareness is a major focus in the Native Studies class and the students are like sponges, they want more every week."

Students from the Grade 10 Civics class and Grade 11 Sociology class also attended the National Aboriginal Day celebrations with the Native Studies students. ∞





▲ MNO Citizen Marg Raynor (L) and MNO Region 7 Councillor Pauline Richardson (R) pose with an actor portraying Samuel de Champlain.



▲ MNO Veterans' Council Members Greg Garratt (L) and Dr. Alis Kennedy attended the unveiling.

# Ontario marks 400 years since Champlain's arrival

submitted by  
**Pauline Richardson**  
MNO Region 7 Councillor  
**Dr. Alis Kennedy, O. Ont, CD, OMC**  
MNO Veterans' Council Senator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens were invited as special guests to several events celebrating the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's arrival in Ontario.

Region 7 Councillor Pauline Richardson, Marg Raynor, Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, O.ONT., CD, OMC, and MNO Veterans' Council Secretary Greg Garratt represented the MNO in Midland and Penetanguishene between July 31 and August 2, attending a dinner gala, a historical re-enactment and a special plaque unveiling.

The dinner gala took place on July 31, where two MNO canoes were on prominent display on each side of the stage on location. The gala, hosted by Minister of Francophone Affairs Madeleine Meilleur, took place in Penetanguishene.

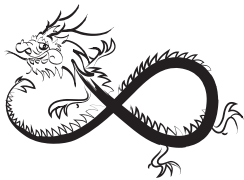
On August 1, after a re-enactment of Champlain landing in Ontario, MNO representatives were present during the unveiling of a historical plaque. The plaque was presented to Ontario by Québec Premier Philippe Couillard, commemorating Champlain's arrival in Ontario and thus bringing the francophone presence to the province.

The unveiling of the plaque was witnessed by Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, Québec Minister responsible for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs and the Canadian Francophonie Jean-Marc Fournier, Minister Madeleine Meilleur, Huron Chief Jean-Luc Sweet and Samuel de Champlain himself, played by actor Daniel Marchildon.

The plaque is on display at Fort Sainte-Marie among the Hurons in Midland. ∞

# Peterborough MNO Council races Dragon Boat for charity

submitted by | **Christa Lemelin**  
MNO Peterborough & District Wapiti Métis Council Chair



On June 13, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (MNO PDWMC) participated in the Dragon Boat Festival on beautiful Little Lake in the heart of downtown Peterborough.

The purpose of this festival was to raise money to help support the services needed for the Peterborough and Regional Health Center's Breast Assessment Center.

This goal for this year's festival was to raise \$215,000 to purchase new imaging equipment. The MNO PDWMC race team raised over \$1,500, with a goal of raising even more next year.

Since paddling on the water is found deep in Métis roots, the MNO PDWMC felt this was



▲ The MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council Dragon Boat team. From left to right, top row: Terry Bloom, Brad Hodgson, Sam Hodgson, Tom Bloom, Terra Knapp, Susan Curtis, Nathaniel Gelinas, Katherine Smith, Leslie Cruise, Cara Frost, Jessica Frost-Cruise. Bottom row: Mike Walsh, Sebastien Lemelin, Harrison Hodgson, Thomas Hodgson, Christa Lemelin, Taryn Blackstock, Krista Frost, Donna Mackay. Missing from photo: Candace Lloyd, Luke Thompson.

a fantastic way to help such a great cause in their community. The race team consisted of MNO citizens and friends of the community.

The team participated in two races, placing first in the first race, and third in their second race.

Congratulations to all who participated! ∞

# Métis flag flies in Lafontaine

by | MNO Staff

On July 1, Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) felt a sense of pride upon seeing her heritage prominently displayed near her home.

Living at *Le Villageois*, a retirement community in Penetanguishene, Senator Porter-Brunelle watched as the Canadian flag, the Franco-Ontarian flag and the Métis flag were raised together. "I was so very proud to speak on behalf of the Métis and also share that our flag was the oldest (of the three

flags)," she shared in an e-mail.

According to Senator Porter-Brunelle, a high portion of *Villageois* residents are Métis, and a Métis flag hung in the foyer of the residence as an expression of their pride. The event commemorated Canada Day but it was the first time the Métis flag was raised in the community. It now flies there daily.

The local parish priest gave a benediction for the Canada celebrations, witnessed by the residents and MNO citizens attending the event, followed by a luncheon in the main hall. ∞



▲ Left to right: The Franco-Ontarian flag, the Canadian flag and the Métis flag.



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▲ Constable Andrew Parr (right) and Corporal Keith Hendricks (left) running in full uniform.

# MNO citizen runs for Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada

submitted by | **Theresa Hendricks**  
MNO Citizen

On May 23, during this year's Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend, Corporal Keith Hendricks, a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario, and Constable Andrew Parr ran the entire 10-kilometre race in full uniform in just over an hour. In the process, Corporal Hendricks was able to raise \$1,067.33 for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada.

Both officers are part of the Prime Minister's Protection Detail (PMPD).

The mission of the Boys and

Girls Clubs of Canada is to provide a safe, supportive place where children and youth experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, develop positive relationships and build confidence and skills of life.

The Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend is Canada's largest race weekend with 49,439 participants this year. Participants running for charitable causes raised \$800,000 and counting—a significant increase over \$625,000 in 2014.

∞



▲ Back Row (L-R): Terry Bloom (Senator), Hank Rowlinson, Tom Thompson (Region 6 Councillor), Andy Dufrane (President), Brad Hodgson (Councillor) Front Row (L-R): Debra Malandrino (Councillor), Christa Lemelin (Chair), Taryn Blackstock (Women's Representative), Luke Thompson (Councillor).

# MNO Council hosts wildlife dinner

submitted by | **Christa Lemelin**  
MNO Peterborough & District Wapiti Métis Council Chair

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) held their third annual Wildlife Dinner and Comedy Night at the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough on June 6.

The event was a hit starting with a tour of the museum, followed by an amazing mix of wildlife cuisine

prepared by Miguel Hernandez.

Speakers included staff from MNO Education and Training, Healing and Wellness, and Community Relations.

Special guest speaker Dr. Rhonda Paulsen, Doctor of Education and Project Manager for the Indigenous Bachelor of Education program at Trent University, was also in atten-

dance to provide insight into how the upcoming Trent University program will include Métis history and culture.

The evening ended with the comedy stylings of famous comedian and writer Rick Currie. Currie is known for his writing contributions for the CBC's popular show The Rick Mercer Report. ∞

# A Métis Rendezvous

Adapted from an article that originally appeared at **Simcoe.com**

On June 16, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff organized a Métis Rendezvous for the Simcoe County District School Board. MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program facilitators based in Midland and MNO Health and Wellness staff planned a full day of activities, including making bannock, sampling smoked fish, jigging lessons and learning to weave.

Huron Park, Bayview and Mundy's Bay public schools and James Keating and Victoria Harbour elementary schools participated in 12 activities centered around Métis culture.

Bayview Kindergarten teacher Charleen South shared her experience on Twitter. "Had a wonderful time with students at Huron Park today at the Métis Rendezvous," she tweeted to Huron Park's principal.

The Métis Rendezvous was held at the Huron Park Public School library. ∞



▲ Clockwise from left: Michael Poole, Sarah Robitaille, Aaron Zurawski, Callum Perrault, Rory Armstrong, Amelia Perrault and Abby Goneau.

SVS with MNO participants in the Rainy River,  
New Gold Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study (2014)  
Photo courtesy of Damian Bouchard

"...more territory can be defended and  
reclaimed by maps than guns."  
- Bernard Nietschmann, 1995

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# Métis participation shines in Fort Frances at Harmony of Nations Festival

submitted by | **Wanda Botsford**  
MNO Citizen

With additional information from the **Fort Frances Times**

The Second Annual Harmony of Nations Festival in Fort Frances was deemed a success by the *Fort Frances Times* and even made some dreams come true, this past summer.

MNO citizen Sarah Marusyk, the Youth Representative for the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council, was one of many volunteers who helped organize the event, held on July 17 and 18, 2015. Marusyk represented the Métis community during the festival's opening ceremony. "Music-wise, my favourite was when the Métis Fiddler Quartet played with Ashley MacIsaac," she stated in an interview for the *Fort Frances Times*.

Headlining artist Ashley MacIsaac and the Métis Fiddler Quartet's performance was organized in a rather impromptu fashion. MacIsaac called the Quartet on Saturday afternoon and asked them to join him on stage that night. There was no rehearsal and the *Fort Frances Times* described the performance as an

"energetic set."

"Just the excitement on (the Métis Fiddler Quartet's) faces made planning the whole thing worth it," Marusyk shared.

The performance was a dream come true for Nicholas Delbaere-Sawchuk of the Métis Fiddler Quartet. MacIsaac, an award-winning Canadian artist, has been an inspiration to Delbaere-Sawchuk since he was young. It was MacIsaac's music that encouraged the Métis fiddler to learn to play the violin when he was growing up. The music and arts festival featured Canadian, American, First Nations and Métis artists and musicians, performing and hosting workshops at the Sorting Gap Marina. The Métis Fiddler Quartet organized two workshops: the Clap, Clog, Jig and Sing Along workshop and the Instrument Jam workshop.

Due to the success of this year's festival, there are plans for a third festival to take place next year. ∞



▲ Gracie George (left) and Cloe Dolony (right) represented the Métis community with MNO Sunset Country Métis Council Youth Representative Sarah Marusyk during the opening ceremony.  
(Photo sources: Lindsay Campbell, Heather Latter, *Fort Frances Times*.)



▲ Ron Gignac with his catch of pickerel near Nakina.

## MNO vet enjoys a shore lunch

submitted by | **Ronald Gignac**  
MNO Citizen

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veteran Ron Gignac enjoys being outdoors. As an MNO citizen, fishing and hunting have always been part of his life. Spending time in a boat on a small northern lake and upon rushing rivers in Ontario is a good way to re-connect with the land and the bounties it provides.

Gignac recently spent a memorable fishing day near Nakina, Ontario. There, together with good friends and family, he secured a fine catch of pickerel. Makes your mouth water, doesn't it?

To Gignac and his family, the wilderness is a favorite place. Over the years, in those far distant lands while serving in conflict areas, Gignac would often reminisce and dream about the beautiful and rugged terrain of Canada, especially northern Ontario. The peace and solitude from thinking of his next adventure, and memories of past fishing, trapping, and hunting trips with family and friends were refreshing even in the midst of the dangers of those past conflicts.

Gignac affirms that God's creations are marvelous and the ex-

perience of being in the wilderness brings that sense of comfort and wholesomeness that so many simply drive past in our hurried and demanding society. He encourages fellow Canadians, and especially our veterans, MNO citizens and their families to get reacquainted with our beautiful wilderness and the adventures that wait within it. The sense of peace and tranquility combined with the land's beautiful flora and fauna will uplift your soul. ∞



▲ Jim Tolles (L) and Joe Paquette with their catch.

## MNO citizens provide fish dinner for their elders

submitted by | **Joseph Paquette**  
MNO Veterans' Council President  
**Jim Tolles**  
MNO Citizen

On June 16, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens Jim Tolles and Joseph Paquette decided to go fishing up around Parry Sound.

With very nice weather in their favour, the drive was long but definitely worth it.

After about four hours of fishing, they walked away having lost four fish and caught five.

Some of the fish were dropped off in MacTier for Jim's parents, Jim

Senior and Bertha. No time was wasted in the cleaning and storing. There were smiles all around and a great meal was anticipated.

After having a great supper at the Tolles', they headed back home to the stresses of the big city.

It is always important to share with and take care of the elders. Remember, they took care of their children and their children should later take care of them. ∞



# A true friend never forgets

by | MNO Staff

When retired Chief Warrant Officer and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Roger Ladouceur served in the Middle East in 1980, his dear friend was tragically killed in an accident.

Ladouceur and Private Perry Porter were both stationed in the Golan Heights, a Syrian region bordered by Israel, Lebanon and Jordan, serving with the United Nations Disengagement and Observer Force (UNDOF).

The tragic incident took place on November 6, 1980, when Porter was working on an antennae tower when the tower collapsed. Ladouceur was a member of the crew working on the tower when Porter was killed.

The loss of his friend affected Ladouceur keenly. He made certain that Porter's service medal was posthumously presented to his grieving parents and worked diligently and successfully to have Porter's mother recognized as one of the Silver Cross Mothers for Remembrance Day ceremonies.

When Ladouceur returned to the

Golan Heights in 1984, he saw to it that a memorial was built and dedicated to the memory of Porter.

Now known as the UNDOF Memorial, the stone cairn has a plaque on each of its sides, listing the names of all Canadians who lost their lives while serving on UN missions in the area.

Over the years, the memorial had been refurbished several times. Originally built near the entrance of Camp Ziouani, the UNDOF Memorial was moved 26 kilometres away to Camp Faouar, Syria, in 2005.

When the decision was made to move the contingent of soldiers stationed at Camp Faouar back to Canada, it was decided the memorial would be brought with them to allow Canadians to properly honour and maintain a memorial dedicated to the memory of Canadian citizens.

The UNDOF Memorial was safely brought to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Kingston, where it still stands today. Roger Ladouceur received the Louis Riel Medal and certificate during the Veterans and Youth weekend in Midland on April 25 to 26. ∞



▲ The UNDOF Memorial is decorated with linesman's spurs which are used to climb towers, communication poles or trees.



▲ Ron Gignac speaks to the press.

## MNO veteran named as new Deputy Chief

submitted by | **Joseph Paquette**  
MNO Veterans' Council President

Ron Gignac, a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veteran, was announced as the new Deputy Chief of Police during a news conference at Belleville's City Hall on June 23.

Gignac was hired after a six-month search.

"It was definitely worth the wait...I think you'll see that in our new deputy chief," stated Cory MacKay, Belleville's Chief of Police.

Gignac, who was recently Chief of the Deep River municipal police service, is a former member of the Canadian Army. He served during the Persian Gulf War and in the Middle East.

He has also been an Emergency Response Team Tactical officer and served as a paratrooper in the Airborne Engineer troop in the Canadian Airborne Regiment Battle group.

Gignac joined the Belleville Police Service on July 2. ∞

## MNO veterans honour the fallen

submitted by | **Dr. Alis Kennedy, O. Ont, CD, OMC**  
MNO Veterans' Council President

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council (MNOVC) had their quarterly meeting at Canadian Forces Base Trenton on Sunday, June 14. After the meeting, MNOVC Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy and some of the other veterans visited the Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial located on the base.

In February 2013, members of the MNOVC had visited the Memorial when it was covered in snow

and ice. Revisiting the Memorial in June, surrounded by greenery and blooming flowers, was a very different experience. For Kennedy, it was a moving moment to read the names of soldiers who lost their lives during Canada's 12-year involvement in the Afghanistan conflict.

The Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial is dedicated to the 155 Canadian men and women who sacrificed their lives in the conflict. ∞



▲ A memorial carved with the names of soldiers who passed away during the Afghanistan Conflict.





▲ Front row: Aidan Dohlin from the Nolan Community Canoe Project; Elder Gary Sault of the New Credit First Nation. Back row: Faith Rivers, Aboriginal Committee of the New Credit First Nation; Barbara O’Neil, President of Heritage Mississauga; Joseph Paquette, President of the MNO Veterans’ Council and Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director of Mississauga Heritage.

# MNO veterans donate to Plant a Canoe project

submitted by | **Joseph Paquette**  
MNO Veterans’ Council President

On June 13, a special event was held by Heritage Mississauga at The Grange. This event was part of the David Suzuki Foundation’s Plant a Canoe project. The city of Mississauga, Mississauga Heritage, Mississauga First

Nations, the Plant a Canoe committee and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council all participated in bringing this project to fruition. Plants were donated for the project on behalf of the MNO Veterans’ Council.

The donated plants, being good pollinators, will help the bee population and also beautify the garden at The Grange. A plaque will eventually be placed at the site. ∞



▲ Members of the Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Local Regional Council, from left to right: Trent Desaulniers, Cameron Burgess, Patricia Obie, William (Torch) Gordon, Ken Simard and Kevin Muloin (MNO staff).

# MNO Region 2 Consultation Committee visits Hemlo mine

submitted by | **Kevin Muloin**  
MNO Mineral Development Coordinator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) representatives recently took an underground tour of the Barrick Gold-Williams Mine located at Hemlo, near Marathon, by Lake Superior. Members of the Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Region 2 Consultation Committee spent four

hours in the mine, overseeing that the mining company responsibly maintained regulations regarding environmental protection and safeguarding the Métis Way of Life. Following the underground tour, the Consultation Committee held a meeting, followed by an above-ground tour of the former David

Bell Mine and the Golden Giant Mine, which are adjacent to the Williams Mine. The gold mined from the Hemlo mine was used to create the gold medals for the 2015 Pan AM and Parapan AM Games. ∞

## Métis Voyageur Development Fund: Northern mining supplier set to expand

Adapted from an original article by **Ian Ross** that appeared at **northernontariobusiness.com**

Gerry Lafontaine, president of Excalibur Bits and Steel, a mining services company situated in Kirkland Lake, is preparing to open a second location in Dryden this upcoming fall. The Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) provided \$150,000 to Lafontaine and his wife, Carole, when they purchased a 9,000-square foot building in Kirkland Lake a year ago. He has another application submitted to the MVDF for \$300,000 to finance the Dryden expansion. Lafontaine also hopes to hire and train locals in the Ring of Fire, a mineral-rich section located in northern Ontario.



▲ An employee of Excalibur Bits and Steel.

“That’s where I’m pushing to go, wherever I can open up in remote areas,” he informed *Northern Ontario Business*. Due to lenders’ reluctance to assist a start-up business, securing finances was a huge challenge when Lafontaine made the decision to move his company. They had originally been located in Elk Lake but moved to Kirkland Lake in 2013 as a wiser business location for the industry. Lafontaine and his wife, Carole, dipped into his pension in order to make on-site repairs to the shop and purchase many large pieces of equipment, such as a five-ton

truck, loader and two delivery trucks. Thanks to MVDF assistance, they were able to obtain the needed equipment. The government and the mining industry are pushing to involve Aboriginal people in the mining sector. Excalibur Bits and Steel currently has 10 employees, many of which are Métis or other Aboriginal women. Lafontaine works closely with the Aboriginal women in mining program. ∞



▲ PCMNO Executive Senator Reta Gordon speaks at the Ceremony of Remembrance in Ottawa.

# MNO Senator takes part in Ceremony of Remembrance

by | MNO Staff

On June 21, National Aboriginal Day, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Reta Gordon participated in the annual Ceremony of Remembrance. The ceremony took place at the National Aboriginal Veterans Memorial in Ottawa. Métis veterans from across the Homeland participated in the ceremony and Senator Gordon laid a wreath at the foot of the memorial

to commemorate the Aboriginal veterans who gave their lives for their country. The Senator had been asked to lay the wreath on behalf of the Métis National Council. The Ceremony of Remembrance was hosted by the Aboriginal Veterans Autochtones, formerly known as the National Aboriginal Veterans Association. ∞





▲ From left: Billy Lefebvre, President Richard Sarrazin, Minister David Zimmer and Maurice Sarrazin.

## Provincial Aboriginal Affairs Minister visits MNO offices

by | MNO Staff

The Sudbury and North Bay Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) offices recently received a visit from David Zimmer, Ontario's Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

Minister Zimmer has been visiting several First Nations and MNO

locations in northern Ontario.

On July 6, he arrived in Sudbury and visited the MNO offices where he spoke with members of the MNO Sudbury Métis Council, including President Richard Sarrazin.

Minister Zimmer also travelled to

the MNO office in North Bay and spoke with MNO North Bay Métis Council President Marc Laurin.

The Minister returned to Toronto in time to attend the opening ceremony of the 2015 Pan AM Games. ∞

## MNO citizen receives special award

submitted by | **Darby Starratt**  
MNO Citizen

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Gabe Picard was one of seven men recently honoured during the National Aboriginal Day powwow held in Thunder Bay.

Picard received the "Honouring our Men" Award from the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council. The award was created to acknowledge and recognize important contributions Aboriginal men make within the community of Thunder Bay.

A recent graduate from Confederation College's Social Service Worker program, Picard is also Treasurer for the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council. He plays a very active role in the community as President of the Oshki Anishinabek Student Association and an Infinite Reach Facilitator.

Picard recently began working at Dilico Anishinabek Family Care. He plans to work with Aboriginal children and ensure they are cared for in a loving and culturally appropriate environment. ∞



▲ Gabe Picard at the Thunder Bay National Aboriginal Day celebration.



▲ From left: Tammy Mah, PCMNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride, Melanie Omeniho, Marilyn Lizée, Clara Dal Col and Anita Campbell.

## WSMNO represented at Women of the Métis Nation Assembly

by | MNO Staff

From May 22 to 24, Sharon McBride, Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Vice-Chair and Spokesperson for the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO), attended the Women of the Métis Nation (WMN) National General Assembly in British-Columbia.

She was among 50 delegates

representing all five Métis governments within the Métis Homelands.

The WMN discussed a variety of concerns, including child welfare, food security, missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Among the issues addressed during the Assembly were the pursuit of projects funding in a number of areas including economic development, violence against women, res-

idential schools, Michif Language, health and wellness, traditional knowledge, housing and education.

McBride is also a Board Member of the WMN Board of Directors. The Board holds responsibility for the overall governance and accountability of the WMN.

Additional information about the WMN can be found on their website at [www.metiswomen.org](http://www.metiswomen.org). ∞

## Thanks to participants in MNO Moon River Council events

submitted by | **Rose LePage**  
MNO Moon River Métis Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Moon River Métis Council would like to thank participants in the Council ice fishing tournament in Parry Sound, held in February. It was a small group and poor fishing, but a winner was awarded with a cash prize. The Council hopes to hold a similar event in the winter 2016 on Georgian Bay in Parry Sound.

Additionally the Council would like thank the attendees of the Wellness Blanket Workshop hosted by Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle and the Drum Making Workshop hosted at the G'zaagin Art Gallery in Parry Sound in June. Both were marked with a great community atmosphere as citizens renewed bonds with each other and their culture through creation and conversation. The pride was evident as people departed with



▲ A young boy participates in a drum-making workshop.

their blankets and hand drums.

The Council looks forward to repeating these workshops in the spring of 2016. The council can be contacted at [moonrivermetisCouncil@outlook.com](mailto:moonrivermetisCouncil@outlook.com) to reserve spots or get more information. ∞

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# MNO citizen’s art expands to fashion

Adapted from an original story by **Brandi Morin** that appeared at **aptn.ca**

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Christi Belcourt’s art has gone from the National Gallery, across the Atlantic and to Italy, inspiring nine pieces in fashion company Valentino’s Resort 2016 collection.

Belcourt is an award-winning Métis visual artist whose work is displayed in the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Art Gallery of Ontario, Parliament Hill and many other prestigious galleries.



▲ Métis artist Christi Belcourt.

She was contacted several months ago by Valentino representatives and informed they were interested in working with her.

Resort 2016 features 82 different pieces and Belcourt’s art piece *Water Song*, which is found in the National Gallery in Ottawa, inspired the embroidery for several outfits.

After being contacted, Belcourt did some research about the fashion company and felt reassured by what she learned.

“The number one thing to me is always, not only how we’re treated as Indigenous peoples, but how is the environment treated,” Belcourt stated in an article by APTN National News.

“I was really pleased and surprised that Valentino is ranked number one by Greenpeace for all top fashion designers. They have built into their company environmentally and socially conscious steps and they’ve also committed to eliminate all hazardous materials by the year 2020.”

The collection was revealed in mid-June and Belcourt stated it was a very good experience.

“It’s just been wonderful to work with (Valentino) all around,” she added. “They were extremely respectful.” ∞



▲ A dress from the collection, emblazoned with Belcourt’s distinctive art.

# Métis woman uses art to teach students gift of giving

Adapted from an original story by **Nate Smelle** that appeared at **bancroftthisweek.com**

Artist, educator and self-identified Métis Jaime Koebel recently attended an assembly at York River Public School in Bancroft. The assembly, titled “Think Indigenous,” included participation from Métis and other Aboriginal representatives.

Koebel led a workshop on Métis culture and teachings, discussing how the Métis people would communicate and share with each other by using what she calls a “giving tree.”

The giving tree was used to leave messages to allow Métis people to exchange information or to leave useful things like spare moccasins, medicine, food and tools for others

who may need them.

The only requirement to take part in the giving tree system was that if an item was taken, then another item had to be given.

Part of the Métis culture involves taking care of each other. Koebel believes the core values and strength of the Métis people is well defined by the Cree word Otimpemsuak.

“(It) roughly translates in English to ‘the people who are their own boss’ or ‘the people who own themselves,’” she stated.

The assembly was a day-long set of activities meant to make the First Nations, Métis and Inuit students from the area feel represented and



▲ Jaimie Koebel.

their culture recognized. ∞

# MNO citizen awarded Louis Riel medal and certificate

submitted by **Yvonne Jensen**  
President, MNO North Channel Métis Council

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and 36-year veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces was recognized at the August 31 meeting of the MNO North Channel Métis Council. There, Council President Yvonne Jensen presented veteran June Fogen, C.D., with the Louis Riel medal and certificate that formally acknowledges Fogen as an MNO veteran.

Fogen started in the reserves in 1974 and joined the regular forces in 1978. In her storied career, Fogen was stationed in Toronto, Chilliwack, Lahr in Germany, Calgary, Ottawa, the Golan Heights in Israel and Ottawa. She was assigned to several Communications squadrons and detachments during her career as well as to the Defence and Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine, Canadian Forces Europe Headquarters, Canadian Forces Language School, the United Nations Disengagement Observe Force and Chief of Defense Intelligence.

Fogen was released from the Armed Forces in 2010 as a Master Warrant Officer. With her fiancé, she moved to Thessalon, which is also near her three sisters. Fogen is currently the Women’s Representative on the MNO North Channel Métis Council. ∞



▲ Yvonne Jensen (left) presents Métis veteran June Fogen, C.D., with Louis Riel medal and certificate.

# MNO Credit River Métis Council hosts archery workshop

submitted by **Andrea Jibb**  
Community Outreach Coordinator, MNO Credit River Métis Council

On Saturday, August 8, 2015, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) hosted an Archery 101 workshop at the home of Senator Bill Morrison in Caledon, Ontario.

Facilitated by traditional Métis knowledge holder Jim Tolles, participants learned about the different types of bows, from longbows to crossbows, and gained hands-on experience with shooting.

Bows and arrows are a hunting tool used by many Indigenous Peo-

ples including the Métis, for whom archery was a way of life.

Tolles, a seasoned harvester, assisted participants of all ages, some as young as four years old, shoot at a variety of targets. He shares: “Harvesting is a big part of our heritage whether it’s hunting, fishing, trapping or gathering plants. It’s in our heart and in our blood. We all need to do our part in keeping our heritage alive. Get outside, go for a walk. The bush has healing powers for your mind, body and soul. Learn something new and try

something new every day. Life’s all about learning and sharing!”

Following the workshop, participants enjoyed a BBQ that included two traditional foods: fresh rainbow trout and corn on the cob. Participants had also been asked to bring a non-perishable food item suitable for donation to the Food Bank.

The Archery 101 workshop is one of many public events hosted by the Council with the help of a Trillium grant to promote Métis culture and way of life. ∞



▲ Métis traditional knowledge holder Jim Tolles assists Arlo Gray Jibb during the MNO CRMC Archery 101 Workshop.



# Weaving the Sash

Toronto and York Métis youth granted \$25K for cultural program

submitted by **Elise St. Germain**  
MNO Citizen

I want to give other Métis youth the same experiences that I had growing up,” said Christine Skura at the first official meeting of the leaders of a brand new initiative for urban Métis youth called Weaving the Sash: Métis youth, culture, and connection.

Skura, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) Youth Representative, brought together a group of spirited and community-minded young women--Alicia Blore, Elise St. Germain and Lindsay DuPré--to partner with the MNO TYRMC on a project that will take place over the next year. The project will offer urban Métis youth the cultural experiences that they may not otherwise have access to and a chance to build relationships with Senators and Elders, knowledge holders, the land, and each other.

With the invaluable guidance of MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu, the group applied for the Laidlaw Foundation’s Youth-led Community Change Program’s annual grant. In May 2015, the group was ecstatic to hear that they had been granted the maximum amount of \$25,000, an impressive achievement.

With its Youth-led Community Change Program, the Laidlaw Foundation seeks to empower youth with “wildcard” ideas to create the critical change they want to see in their communities and to have the conversations that may not be happening anywhere else. Skura, Blore, St. Germain, DuPré and the MNO TYRMC are very grateful to the Laidlaw Foundation for the opportunity to strengthen the diverse and vibrant urban Métis youth community and, by extension, the broader Métis and Aboriginal communities of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).



▲ From left: Christine Skura, MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council President Tera Beaulieu, Lindsay DuPré (back), Alicia Blore and Elise St. Germain.

The young women organizing Weaving the Sash have strong ties to the MNO.

Skura is a Registered Nurse and graduate of Ryerson University. She is an MNO citizen and is currently the Youth Representative of the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council. At a young age, Skura was closely involved with the Métis community and is passionate about the community and staying connected to her heritage.

Blore has recently graduated from the University of Waterloo with a degree in Therapeutic Recreation and Gerontology. Also a highly involved and knowledgeable MNO citizen, Blore has had the chance to build a strong Métis identity and has experienced the positive im-

“I want to give other Métis youth the same experiences that I had growing up.”

— Christine Skura

pacts that cultural-based programming can have and would like to provide that opportunity to other youth.

St. Germain is entering her fourth year of Aboriginal Studies and Environmental Studies at the University of Toronto. She is eager to collaborate on this project because she has a vision for a network of Métis youth, Senators and Elders connected to the land, sharing knowledge and supporting one another: something she did not have while growing up. She is an MNO Infinite Reach Youth Facilitator for the University of Toronto.

DuPré recently completed her Master of Social Work degree specializing in social justice and diversity. She is very grateful and proud

to be joining the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council as their Women’s Representative and looks forward to exploring Métis identity, community building, and youth leadership through this project. She is also an MNO citizen.

With this grant, the leaders of Weaving the Sash hope to reach the youth of the GTA and surrounding regions. While they continue to gain visibility in the broader Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, there remains a shortage of culture-based programming for Métis people, specifically Métis youth, in these areas.

Weaving the Sash aims to offer culture-based programming that will strengthen Métis youth identity, create a network of Métis youth in the GTA, build relationships with traditional knowledge holders like Senators and Elders, increase knowledge about Métis culture and history, promote healthy living, and reconnect Métis youth with the land.

These goals will be accomplished with a four-part event beginning in the Fall of 2015 and running until the Summer of 2016, with one event offered per season. The programming will include workshops on identity, history, arts and crafts, language, and traditional ways of life on the land, amongst other aspects of Métis culture.

Before the first event takes place this fall, there will be two Weaving the Sash sharing circles held, one in Toronto and the second in the York Region, where Métis youth will be invited to share their ideas for the culture-based workshops they would like to see offered. An online survey has also been developed for Métis youth to fill out as the youth leaders hope to gain feedback and direction from Métis youth in the community to guide the project. ∞

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# ACHIEVEMENTS

## MNO citizen finds his place in the north

submitted by | **Confederation College**

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Paul Robitaille graduated from McMaster University with a degree in Environmental Science but lacked the hands-on experience that many employers look for when seeking to hire new graduates.

“Unless you’ve gone for engineering or nursing or another applied degree, employers aren’t really knocking on your door,” Paul shared.

With MNO financial support, Paul enrolled in the two-year Forestry Ecosystem Management Technician program at Confederation College in Thunder Bay and since then, the opportunities have gone above and beyond his expectations.

Paul, who is from Midland, loves the forest and was on track to becoming a forestry technician. But several opportunities came his way

including working on a college-led bio-energy study in remote First Nation communities, facilitating student engagement for the MNO, and becoming the Confederation Student Union’s Sustainability Ambassador.

Northern Ontario has been a good place for Paul, allowing him to immerse himself in the Thunder Bay community and be involved in ways that will help him in his career. His experiences in the north made him realize there was still so much more he wanted to learn as a student.

After completing the two-year program, Paul decided to continue his studies instead of leaping into the job market.

“By the time graduation came around, I never really considered getting a job, the opportunities I had over the last two years have just

kept snowballing,” he admitted.

Paul has spent much of his spare time volunteering and being a role model for other students. He proudly became a student counsellor/steward for the MNO and a Youth Representative for the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council.

At his convocation ceremony, Paul received the 2015 Governor General’s Award, an honour bestowed upon the student who has achieved the highest academic standing at the Confederation College in the final year of a diploma level post-secondary program earning an average of 80 per cent or better.

Thanks to all the opportunities presented to him, Paul has decided to continue his education. He was accepted into the Masters of Forestry program at Lakehead University. ∞



▲ Paul Robitaille attends his graduation from the Forestry Ecosystem Management program at Confederation College in Thunder Bay.

## MNO youth graduates with honours

by | **MNO Staff**

PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case recently completed his degree program at Algoma University and graduated with an Honours Bachelors degree in History and a certificate in Indigenous Studies. When reflecting on why he chose his course of study Mitch says, “Someone needs to tell our story, we need to tell our story, and tell the truth about our people.”

Mitch recently completed his Honours thesis in History which focused on the interconnections within Great Lakes Métis communities. Mitch’s idea was to bust the myth of the “dot on a map,” the idea that Métis communities are disconnected from each other and not part of a whole. Based on primary source research that involved the records of Métis families from communities all around the Great Lakes, the research concluded that the Métis communities in the Ontario part of the Homeland are not disconnected from each other and are part of a web of families, economies and stories.

Algoma University, which is located in Sault Ste. Marie, is situated where the former

*“In the night sky, the darkness is softened by the light of the stars. For the Métis Nation, our elders have been those stars in the night, the youth are the sunrise emerging from the darkness.”*

— Mitch Case

Shingwauk Indian Residential School had been built. In keeping with the legacy of the site, Algoma University is a covenant partner with Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig, an Indigenous-run post-secondary institution. The institution bases its curriculum on the culture, history and teaching methodologies of the traditional Indigenous ways of life.

At convocation on June 13, Mitch was asked to give the “Expression of Thanks” on behalf of the graduating class. Mitch spoke about his connection to Algoma and Shingwauk, based on his own experiences and the fact that he is an intergenerational survivor of the Shingwauk Indian Residential School, being a descendant of a survivor of the school. During convocation, Mitch wore

his sash pin and from his cap hung an eagle feather. The feather was gifted to him by a Métis youth in the summer of 2014 for his service to the Métis Nation and the youth.

Mitch has accepted an offer of employment at Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig to work as Cultural Coordinator and Teaching Assistant. He will be working with Shingwauk faculty member Grand Chief Bawdwaywidun (Eddie Benton-Banai). Bawdwaywidun is the Chief of the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge. He is a pioneer in culture-based education and a huge supporter of Métis youth. “You are my brothers, my sisters, my family,” the Chief frequently says.

Mitch encourages all Métis youth to pursue their goals and their passions and to strive for academic excellence. “Métis youth are rising stars,” he says.

“The Métis Nation has gone through a lot of dark times. The sun is rising on the Métis Nation once again. In the night sky, the darkness is softened by the light of the stars. For the Métis Nation, our elders have been those stars in the night, the youth are the sunrise emerging from the darkness.” ∞



▲ Mitch Case wore his Métis sash pin and an eagle feather on his convocation cap as a nod to his roots.

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# MNO citizen plans picture perfect future

by | MNO Staff

For Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Andrée Wagar, the decision to return to school might not have been possible if it weren't for the MNO.

For eight years, Andrée worked as an instructor for a company that helped people prepare for new jobs. When the company had to close its doors, this presented her with an opportunity to begin a second career.

"After seeing so many of my former students go to college to change careers, I thought 'Why not me?'" Andrée shared.

In 2005, Andrée and her family learned they had Métis heritage. Since then, they have been learning more and more about Métis culture and getting involved whenever possible.

With her decision to return to school, Andrée turned to the MNO for assistance with tuition and the costs of some of the required equipment for her program. She enrolled in the Digital Photography program

at Durham College.

"Because of that financial help, I was able to concentrate on my classes instead of how I was going to pay for school," she says.

Due to her diligence in her studies, Andrée was on the Dean's List for all four semesters of her program. She also graduated as the highest ranked graduate in the Digital Photography program for 2014.

These days, Andrée works for two companies as a photographer and also does freelance work for local businesses in her hometown of Whitby. In the future, she hopes to open her own photography studio to offer portraits and cover special events.

"The decision to go back to school was a difficult one for me to make," she admits.

"Knowing that the MNO would be able to help me accomplish that goal made it easier for me to take that next step towards a new career. I am extremely grateful for the support the MNO provided." ∞



▲ A self-portrait from Andrée Wagar's online portfolio.



▲ (L-R): Richard Lefebvre, C.D. MWO (Retired), Jaime Lefebvre C.D., BMASc, JD, Sylvie Lefebvre.

## A father's pride in his daughter

submitted by | **Richard Lefebvre**  
MNO Citizen

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Jaime Lee Lefebvre recently finished her law degree with the University of Ottawa and was called to the bar as a lawyer on June 22.

She accomplished all this with her husband being posted in Kingston and three children at home.

Jaime Lee is presently the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 28 Medical Company Ottawa. She's completed a Bachelor of Military Arts and Science through correspondence from the Royal Military

College in Kingston.

Richard Lefebvre, Jaime Lee's father and MNO citizen and veteran, is proud of his daughter's accomplishments.

"There is nothing a Métis person cannot accomplish with a lot of hard work," Richard wrote in an e-mail about his daughter.

Jaime Lee and her father both wore their Métis sashes to the June 22 ceremony to show their pride in their heritage and to encourage Métis youth to make their dreams reality. ∞

## Graduating to a better life with MNO assistance

by | MNO Staff

During the 2013 to 2014 academic year, Katrina Richard found herself struggling to make ends meet. She had been accepted at the esthetics program at Collège Boréal in Sudbury but times were hard.

Katrina's parents were unable to provide her with financial assistance and she only received income from a part-time job where she worked a sparse 10 hours per week.

At a loss, Katrina reached out to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) for assistance through MNO employment and training programs.

Thanks to the MNO, Katrina was able to complete her studies and

receive her diploma as a certified esthetician. She was able to focus on her studies without worrying, knowing her finances were secure.

Today, Katrina works at Nails Plus by Nicole providing manicures, gel nails, pedicures, waxing, facials, body treatments and many other cosmetic services to her clients.

"If it weren't for the MNO, I would not have been able to go to school and become what I am today," she said.

Since gaining employment in her chosen field, Katrina's life has improved. It never feels like work now that she does what she loves for a living. ∞



▲ Katrina Richard working with one of her clients.



# Métis receives Officer's Commission

submitted by **Guy Mandeville, CD**  
Chair, MNO Veterans' Council

Charles Mandeville, the son of Guy Mandeville, C.D., Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council, has become a commissioned officer and promoted to Sub-Lieutenant in Her Majesty's Royal Canadian Navy. He received his commission at Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Leitrim in Ottawa in a ceremony on July 13.

*(The text below is an edited excerpt from his Commissioning biography.)*

Charles Mandeville joined the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves in August 1997 as a Signals Operator with 772 Reserve Electronic Warfare (EW) Squadron in Kingston. Although he should have known better after three years in the Reserves, he enrolled in the Regular Force in July 2000 as a Communicator Research Operator at Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre (CFRC) Kingston. After completing his Developmental Period (DP) 1 training, he was first posted to Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Leitrim in May 2001, where he served in a variety of positions on shift as an analyst.

Following his DP2 training in



▲ Charles Mandeville (centre) receiving his Sub-Lieutenant's rank from his wife Julia (left) and his father Guy (right) at his Commissioning Ceremony on July 13 at CFS Leitrim in Ottawa.

February 2004, he returned to CFS Leitrim as a Processing and Reporting (PR) Analyst, and member of the Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) Support Element (SSE) at the National Defence Command Centre (NDCC). Due to his outstand-

ing performance, he was selected for, and completed, Persian Farsi language training at the Canadian Forces Language School (CFLS) Asticou before being posted in 2006 to Canadian Forces Information Operations Group (CFIOG) De-

tachment in Fort Gordon, Georgia. This location afforded him and his wife the opportunity to make regular sojourns to "The Happiest Place on Earth," Disneyworld, in Florida.

Returning to CFS Leitrim in 2010, Charles was employed as a

Duty Shift Supervisor before being sent on a continuous French language course at CFLS Asticou whereupon he completed his language requirements. Since January 2013, he has been employed in Echo Troop in a variety of positions including the SIGINT Development (SIGDEV) Task Manager, Target Discovery Team Lead, Cyber Discovery Team Lead, and Echo Troop Warrant Officer. In March 2015, he was selected for the Commissioning from the Ranks (CFR) program as an Officer in the Intelligence Branch.

Throughout his career to date, Charles has deployed to the former Yugoslavia as a member of Operation PALLADIUM, and as the Cryptologic Deployed Support Element (CDSE) Team Lead on the HMCS Vancouver in support of Operation MOBILE and Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR.

Charles is an extremely motivated, intelligent, and dedicated member of the Canadian Armed Forces who has the potential to be an outstanding officer. ∞

# MNO helps youth become Early Childhood Educator

submitted by **Jade Bourbonnière**  
MNO Education & Training Operations Coordinator

Heather Van Wyck, a self-identified Métis, was living on her own and supporting herself by working in retail. She knew that the cost of postsecondary education could present an obstacle to her goal of becoming an Early Childhood Educator, so she approached the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to see if it could help her. She was able to obtain funding assistance through the MNO as well as help applying for many bursaries and scholarships.

She enrolled in a two-year Early

Childhood Education program at Georgian College, where she was very successful in both her studies as well as in other areas of student life. She earned her First Aid/CPR Certificate. She was selected the "Classmate of the Year," for two consecutive years, received two volunteer certificates and earned a Certificate of Professional Development at the Ontario Native Education Counselling Conference. She was nominated to attend the 2013 Annual Georgian College Leadership Conference in Barrie.

Heather was also a peer mentor through Georgian Bay Aboriginal Services, which opened many doors for her. She became a MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator. She found that this position strengthened her self-esteem and gave her the confidence to believe she is capable of achieving her goals.

At Georgian College, Heather was able to learn so much more about her Métis culture and it made her into the person she wanted to be. She enjoys teaching others about Métis culture and for two years in a

row organized and facilitated Louis Riel Day at Georgian College.

Heather graduated from Georgian College in June 2015 and has accepted a position at a child care centre as a registered Early Childhood Educator. She will be educating children up to 12 years of age as part of before/after school programs.

Heather credits the financial support and other help provided by the MNO as crucial to her success. ∞



▲ Heather Van Wyck.



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# MNO citizen and musician represents Métis culture at Aboriginal Pavilion

by | MNO Staff

When Jamie Dupuis received his Métis Nations of Ontario (MNO) citizenship card, his family held a special celebration, welcoming him as an MNO citizen and presenting him with a Métis sash.

“I am very proud (I did this) now, since it is part of my family history,” he shared in an interview. Several of Dupuis’ paternal relatives are active with the MNO Temiskaming Métis Council, including his uncle Claude Dupuis.

With the MNO’s active participation in the Aboriginal Pavilion at the 2015 Pan AM and Parapan AM games, Dupuis was asked to perform during the Aboriginal Pavilion’s opening night as a representative of the MNO and the Métis community.

He accepted.

It was his first time performing in Toronto and to be showcased at the opening night as well as to represent Métis culture at the Aboriginal Pavilion were both opportunities Dupuis couldn’t miss.

“Being a part of the whole show, with so much talent in the Aboriginal culture... it was amazing,” he shared in an interview.

Dupuis has recorded two albums so far. His latest album, *Elements*, is made up entirely of music he composed himself.

For the Aboriginal Pavilion, Dupuis composed a special piece just for his performance on opening night. The song, titled *Chasing A Dream*, was played on the harp guitar.

“I tried to put in as much intensity as I could,” he said.

Born in New Liskeard, Dupuis has studied under renowned guitarist Philip Candelaria at Cambrian College in Sudbury.

He went on to win first place among 1,000 competitors in the Full Ride Scholarship 2011 competition. It took him all the way to Hollywood, California, where he graduated with an Associates’ Degree from the Musicians Institute.

Dupuis has released two albums, the first in 2011 titled *Inspired by a Dream*.

Many of his compositions as well as covers of other songs can be found on his YouTube channel or purchased on iTunes. ∞



Jamie Dupuis with his harp guitar.

## MNO citizen celebrates university graduation

by | MNO Staff

On June 17, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Katie Baltzer graduated from the University of Windsor. She received her combined Honours degree in Social Work and Women’s Studies.

Now that she has obtained her degree, Katie plans to continue her studies. She’s enrolled in the Master of Social Work program at the University of Windsor. Once she completes that program, she plans to work with the Indigenous community. ∞



▲ Katie Baltzer.

## A teacher in training

MNO citizen graduates with honours

by | MNO Staff

Jennifer Nicholson is the Post-secondary Representative on the Provisional Council of The Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). She faced her share of private challenges before she received her diploma at Trent University’s convocation ceremony this year.

Jennifer’s father is struggling with lung cancer but she worked hard and stayed on top of her studies while helping to care for him. She graduated on both the Dean’s List and the President’s List, which means she maintained an average of 80 per cent.

On June 3, Jennifer proudly

wore her Métis sash over her graduation gown.

“It looked awesome,” she shared in an e-mail.

Jennifer spent four years studying at Trent University for a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Indigenous Studies and History. One of those years was spent as an exchange student in the United Kingdom, at the University of Birmingham.

Jennifer is pursuing a career as a teacher. She’ll be entering the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program this fall at Queen’s University. ∞



▲ Jennifer Nicholson.

## MNO helps turn an interest in cooking into fulfilling career

submitted by | Jade Bourbonnière  
MNO Education & Training Operations Coordinator

Self-identified Métis Chad Marion was interested in a career in Culinary Management because it combined two of his interests: food and science.

To pursue these interests, however, Chad had a few challenges to overcome; most of them being financial. He lived with his mother and worked in a minimum wage dishwasher job that did not provide him with enough money to take a post-secondary Culinary Management course where he could learn the proper methods/process of storing, cooking, preparing and serving food.

Like many other Métis, Chad approached the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and with MNO assistance, Chad was able to enroll in the two-year Culinary Management program at Canadore College in North Bay. There Chad received his Smart Serve, Basic Food Safety

Training, and WHMIS.

During his program, Chad learned many valuable skills such as culinary planning/preparation, essential nutritional principles, ensuring a well-maintained kitchen environment, performing effectively as a member of a food and beverage preparation service, self-management, cost control techniques and knowledge of kitchen management techniques.

Chad enjoyed the training because it demanded he be creative. He was encouraged to play with his food so as to make delicious and beautiful meals that people would enjoy.

Today Chad works at the Midland Golf and Country Club as a Line Cook. He prepares and cooks the food and maintains and closes the kitchen. He is now on track for the career in Culinary Management that he had wanted. He credits the



▲ Chad Marion.

support and services of the MNO as a crucial part of his success without which he could not have completed his training in the field he loves. ∞

## Father plans bright future for family

by | MNO Staff

For Jamie Aide, learning that he was about to become a father was a life-changing event.

Jamie was working as a gas station clerk when he got the news. It was then he decided he needed to make some important changes in his life in order to better provide for his family. He knew that, without help, securing a career with health benefits would be a challenge.

With financial assistance from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Jamie was able to attend Durham College’s AZ Driver skills training program. Successful graduates of the program gain an A-level driver’s license, allowing them to tow trailers which weigh in excess of 4,600 kilograms, in addition to gaining a Z-endorsement to operate any vehicle with air brakes within the province of Ontario.

After two months of training, Jamie received his Certificate of Completion.



▲ Jamie Aide, professional truck driver for Mackie Transportation, Inc.

Today, Jamie is a professional truck driver at Mackie Transportation, Inc. He loves his job and he gets to travel to see new places throughout North America.

Most importantly, Jamie is now able to provide a solid financial foundation for his family’s care and his children’s future. ∞



# Obituaries

## Barbaranne Wright



It is with deep sadness that the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) mourns the passing of Barbaranne Wright on Sunday, July 26, 2015.

Barbaranne was a published author and passionate genealogist as well as a devoted citizen and volunteer within the MNO.

She was the first chartered President of the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council and afterward became the Women's Representative for that region. In 2012, she received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her active volunteerism.

She was passionate about her family, her heritage, gardening and did award-winning needlepoint and beadwork.

A devoted mother, she pursued her education after raising her family and graduated in 2011 from the University of Toronto with a BA in Genealogy. It was through genealogy that she discovered her Métis lineage.

Barbaranne is survived by her beloved husband, Harry James Wright; their daughters Leasa Dawn Wright-Cumming (Hugh Cumming) and Kirby-Lynn Wright; her grand-children Zoe and Ethan; her brother, Richard Steven Dominic; and her mother, Dorothy May Honsinger.

She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. ∞

## Colette Risewick



With great sorrow, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) mourns the passing of MNO citizen and former employee Colette Risewick on Wednesday, August 5, 2015, at Bingham Memorial Hospital in Matheson, Ontario. She was 69 years old.

Colette started working at the MNO Timmins Métis Council office on October 1, 1997, and later joined the MNO's Education and Training branch at its Timmins office.

She is survived by her children, Lisa Risewick (Wain Matthews) and Brian Risewick (Sandy Westenberg); her grand-children, Christopher, Calen, Nicholas, Hunter, Merissa, Leanne and Kate; her great-grand-child, Benjamin; her siblings Alice Lacroix (Gerry), Monique Gagne (Donald), Richard Aubin (Linda), Lise Arseneault (Paul) and Vivianne Regimbal (Daniel); and her mother, Irene Aubin.

She will be deeply missed. ∞

## Parker Sabourin-Omenye



SABOURIN-OMENYE, Parker - 1997 - 2015. The family announces with great sorrow his sudden and unexpected passing at the Timmins & District Hospital on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at the age of 18 years. Beloved son of Kelly Sabourin and George Omenye. Loving brother of Isaac and Sahayma Omenye. Cherished grandson of Denise & Doug Russell of Timmins and Mary & Dominic Omenye of Mombasa, Kenya. Dear nephew of MNO Citizen Laurie Fonjong (Sunny) of Timmins, Scott Russell of Timmins, Norm Beaudouin (Ashleigh) of Cambridge, Anne Omenye of Kenya, Jacqueline Omenye (Joshua) of Kenya, Christine Omenye (Joseph) of

Baltimore, Marilyn and Isaac Omenye of Kenya. Parker was an outdoor enthusiast. Enjoyed riding his dirt bike, playing hockey, skiing and snowboarding. What he cherished most was to be surrounded by his friends and family. Funeral services were held at 3:00 pm on Sunday, May 24, 2015 at the Miron-Wilson Chapel (Pastor Paul Douglass officiated). Remembrance donations to Kids Help Phone would be greatly appreciated. The family received friends from 2 - 4 pm and 6 - 8 pm on Saturday, May 23, 2015 at the MIRON-WILSON FUNERAL HOME, CREMATION AND RECEPTION CENTRE 150 Balsam St. S. Timmins ∞

## Manley Morley 'Moe' Johnson



Passed away peacefully on July 14th, 2015, with his family by his side. Loving father to Glenn and wife Debra; cherished Papa to Cody, Justin, Taylor and Caulin. He will be missed dearly by his best friend Rita Florence. He was a devoted brother to Nora, Lloyd (Cora), fellow Métis veteran Tom (Anna Jean), fellow Métis veteran Durwood (Marie), Emma, Eileen and Edith. Moe's proud-

est moments were spending time with his grandchildren and serving his country in the 2nd Battalion of the Queen's Own Rifles from 1956 to 1966. Moe was also a devoted member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 255 and served as an executive for many years. Moe touched the hearts of all who knew him. He will be greatly missed. ∞

## Henry Mageau



The family of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Henry Mageau is sad to announce his passing on July 15, 2015, at the Ottawa General Hospital at the age of 63. Henry was born in Timmins and moved to Ottawa over 30 years ago. He worked in the hospitality industry as a cook and his speciality was amazing breakfasts.

Henry had a generous heart and an incredible sense of humour. Henry was pre-deceased by his parents, Jean and Aldege Mageau

and survived by his sister Linda (Serge) Pearson and brothers Larry (Gloria) Mageau and Harold (Maggie) Pearson. He is also survived by his nieces Michelle Milette, Collette Cote, Lisette Duguay and nephews Jamie and Jason Mageau, Rick Duguay and Dylan and Jarod Pearson.

He will forever be missed and loved. ∞

Submitted by MNO citizen Teri Sabourin

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# Birth Announcements



## eizak JENSEN

Proud parents Renee and Bob Jensen Jr. would like to share a picture of their son Eizak, born May 20, 2015. Eizak's proud grandparents are MNO North Channel Métis Council President Yvonne Jensen and Bob Jensen, Councillor for Region 4 Ernest Gatien and Suzanne and Tim Lamour. ∞



## ava maureen DRAINVILLE

Proud Grandpa Tim Pile is happy to welcome the arrival of his Métis Voyageur Granddaughter, Ava Maureen Drainville, born March 30, 2015, at 9:40 p.m.; 7 lbs 11 oz and 20 inches long. Proud Parents Kaitlyn Pile and Alex Drainville welcomed their beautiful daughter at Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Centre. ∞

## Building the MNO Team

*The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is excited to welcome two new staff members who are returning in different roles.*

### MNO Education and Training

*Submitted by Jennifer St. Germain, Director of Education & Training*

#### Ginny Gonneau

MNO Policy Analyst/Projects Coordinator  
 Ottawa

Ginny has worked in the non-profit sector for the past 10 years. Previously she worked as the Director of Youth for Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC), Project Manager for the Society of Children and Youth of B.C. (SCY), and Provincial Youth Coordinator for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). For the past seven years, she has been self-employed as an independent contractor with various Ontario and BC based consultants and organizations. This included six years with the BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health (BCCEWH) assisting the Director of Knowledge Translation on various projects related to women, girls, substance use, trauma and mental health.

She worked with Sue Howard Inc. Consulting based in Surrey, B.C., on developing a provincial First Nations-specific prescription drug use community awareness curriculum for the Alberta First Nations. For the MNO, she has



recently completed two program evaluations for the Infinite Reach Métis Post-Secondary Student Network. Ginny completed a bachelor's degree in Women's Studies and History at Carleton University. She started her career working at the MNO during her university studies when she was 18 and has participated in two of the MNO's summer-long Métis youth canoe expeditions paddling from Lachine, Quebec, to Batoche, Saskatchewan. She is also a Registered Massage Therapist (RMT) and loves to jig! Ginny is excited to be returning to the MNO and looks forward to working within the MNO Education and Training Branch.

### Infinite Property Services

*Submitted by Doug Wilson, MNO Chief Operating Officer.*

#### Dianne Lampi

General Manager of Infinite Property Services  
 Thunder Bay

Dianne served as a Senior Housing Analyst with the MNO in 2009-10. She has a wealth of experience in all elements of the housing industry and social housing. Besides her time with the MNO, she was also Supervisor of the Housing Portfolio for the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board; a Housing Regulatory Analyst with the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board; and the Housing Manager with the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board. She also has many years of experience in managerial and administrative positions including most recently as the Manager of Suomi Koti of Thunder Bay Incorporated where she was responsible for all aspects of operations including supervision, maintenance, planning, finances and tenant relations.



Dianne holds a diploma in Business Administration from Confederation College where she was on the Dean's List and won the Dean's Medal. She is currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Management program through Athabasca University and is an active community volunteer and a fitness enthusiast.

*Welcome back to the MNO team, Dianne and Ginny!*



# ACROSS THE HOMELAND

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



▲ Left to right: **Codie Morigeau, Debbie Whitehead, Marilyn Taylor, Annette Maurice.**



▲ **Métis fiddler Brianna Lizotte.**



▲ **A sculpture of Louis Riel along Highway 11 in Saskatchewan.**



▲ **Manitoba Metis Federation President David Chartrand.**

## ■ British Columbia

On August 31, the Métis Nation British Columbia and the Ktunaxa Nation signed a Health Protocol Agreement agreeing to increase planning and access to health services for Métis and all Aboriginal people residing in Ktunaxa Territory.

“This agreement will ensure that any and all health services, from the planning stage to the provisioning stage, will include input from Métis and all Aboriginal people in Ktunaxa territory,” Whitehead stated in an interview for *The Daily Townsman*.

The agreement was signed by Ktunaxa Nation Council Social Sector Director Debbie Whitehead, Ktunaxa Nation Council Social Sector Chair Codie Morigeau, Métis Nation British Columbia Regional Director for the Kootenays Marilyn Taylor and Métis Nation British Columbia Minister responsible for Health and Vice-President Annette Maurice.

Source: *The Daily Townsman*

## ■ Alberta

On August 7, the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Fort Edmonton Park, a parkland along Edmonton’s river valley, in an agreement formalizing the inclusion of Métis cultural programming with the park’s Indigenous People’s Experience.

Audrey Poitras, President of the MNA, and Douglas Goss, Fort Edmonton’s management company Board Chairman, agreed that the MOU assured that both parties “will work collaboratively and in good faith to ensure the diversity, richness and integrity of Métis history and culture incorporated into cultural programming accurately,” according to Goss.

The MOU signing took place during the MNA’s 2015 Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Edmonton, Alberta.

This is the second MOU Fort Edmonton Park has signed in 2015 to expand the Indigenous People’s Experience.

Source: *The Edmonton Journal*

## ■ Saskatchewan

Retired Saskatchewan farmer and artist Don Wilkins created eight metal sculptures depicting Métis history. They have been placed along the Louis Riel Trail, which is the most traveled highway in the province going from Regina to Saskatoon.

The sculptures portray historical Métis accounts between 1850 and 1895. While they depict parts of the Northwest Rebellion, the stories behind the history are not all doom and gloom.

“The Métis people were a great, joyful bunch,” Wilkins told CBC News. “After the buffalo hunts and during the winter months [they] had a fiddle fest.”

Each sculpture has been donated by Wilkins and comes with no burden to taxpayers.

The Louis Riel sculpture is located near Bladworth, while the second other sculptures can be seen between Prince Albert and Regina.

Source: *CBC News*

## ■ Manitoba

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) called upon Elections Canada to recognize MMF citizenship cards as acceptable voter identification in the upcoming federal election.

As a result, Métis voters in Manitoba will be able to use their citizenship cards as legal proof of identification. MMF President David Chartrand hopes that this will lead to more Métis citizens casting ballots on October 19.

“They’re hard to forge,” Chartrand stated about the cards. “So it’s very important that this card gets its recognition.”

According to Chartrand, democracy among the Métis can be traced all the way back to the days of the buffalo hunt, when a captain of the hunt would be elected to lead the hunting parties.

Chartrand hopes that the new change will encourage the 52,000 MMF citizens to vote.

Sources: *ChrisD.ca, CBC News*

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# Métis

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# AGA 2015

THE 22<sup>ND</sup> MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY • AUGUST 22-24, 2015 • MIDLAND, ONTARIO



◀ An air of celebration prevailed as MNO leaders and dignitaries landed at Pete Pettersen Park. Paddlers greeted the crowd on shore with raised paddles and big smiles.

# It is our <sup>to</sup> Time Rise

## This year the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly started with a song

Entitled “We Aspire,” the song is based on the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) *Statement of Prime Purpose* and was produced for the MNO by MNO citizen and award-winning musician Amanda Rheame. The soaring lyrics proclaimed, “It is our time to rise,” which captured the spirit of the 400 MNO citizens and leaders gathered in Midland to provide a dynamic example of Métis self-government in action. (See page B4 for more about the song).

As in past years, on Friday evening, prior to the official start of the AGA on Saturday, August 22, the traditional Welcome to the AGA event was held, this year at Pete Pettersen Park in Midland. There, excited citizens gathered as four canoes paddled by members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), Métis youth and numerous dignitaries landed on the beach and marched in a short procession led by MNO veterans. Following remarks from MNO President Gary Lipinski and greetings from the Honourable Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services (who could not attend events the next day), a spontaneous celebration broke out in the park

“... if you want to play hard you need to earn it by working hard.”

– MNO Chair  
France Picotte

as Métis youth started traditional dances and MNO citizens and dignitaries renewed acquaintanceships in a festive atmosphere.

The following morning MNO Chair France Picotte called the AGA to order and ran the meeting with her usual efficiency and good humour. Ably assisted by MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride,

Chair Picotte reminded delegates it was their job to both “work hard and play hard and if you want to play hard you need to earn it by working hard.”



▲ MNO Citizen  
Amanda Rheame  
performs *We Aspire*.





1) President Lipinski and the PCMNO on the first day of the AGA. 2) The Honourable Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services (left) with President Gary Lipinski at the Welcome to the AGA. 3) Métis youth jig in celebration at the arrival of the canoe flotilla in Pete Pettersen Park. 4) As PCMNO Region 7 Councillor, Pauline Richardson played a big role in making the AGA a success. 5) MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride. 6) MNO Chair France Picotte. 7) Métis lawyer Jason Madden. 8) President Gary Lipinski. 9) Post-secondary Representative Jennifer Nicholson at the Welcome to the AGA.

## Dignitaries & Special Guests

Most of the same dignitaries who had been part of the Welcome to the AGA event brought greetings during the Opening Ceremony Saturday morning. These included Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Zimmer, Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown, Members of Parliament Carolyn Bennett and Bruce Stanton, Member of the Provincial Parliament France Gélinas, Midland Mayor Gordon McKay as well as several Ontario Deputy Min-

isters and the Presidents of other Métis governments: President Audrey Poitras from the Métis Nation of Alberta, President David Chartrand from the Manitoba Metis Federation and President Clément Chartier from the Métis National Council. Video greetings were also viewed from Premier Kathleen Wynne and provincial New Democratic Party leader Andrea Horwath. (See page B6 for more on what the special guests had to say).

## State of the Nation Address

During his State of the Nation address, President Lipinski took advantage of the presence of political leaders of all stripes to encourage MNO citizens to make their presence felt in the upcoming federal election. He encouraged MNO citizens to ask candidates questions about parties' policies on Métis issues. "Pay very close attention to what the parties are saying, but even more importantly, to what they are not saying," said President Lipinski. President Lipinski also reviewed the long list of achievements made by the MNO in 2014-15 (see the Annual Report Highlights section in this paper for more details) and outlined the major issues that the MNO will focus on in the upcoming year.

is unacceptable to Ontario Métis. Moreover, this federal exclusion can no longer be sustained based on Métis inclusion in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* as well as the Supreme Court of Canada's decisions over the last decade. Negotiations are the only way forward."

President Lipinski pointed to the recent appointment of Vancouver-based lawyer Tom Isaac as a Ministerial Special Representative on these issues and the upcoming Supreme Court of Canada hearing the landmark case of *Daniels v. Canada* as hopeful signs that a federal land claims process may finally become a reality. To further move the government in that direction, on the final day of the AGA, the delegates passed a unanimous resolution calling

*"Pay very close attention to what the parties are saying, but even more importantly, to what they are not saying."*

— MNO President Gary Lipinski

Among these issues is establishing a process for federal land claims for Métis. "Métis communities have been excluded from the federal claims process for far too long," explained President Lipinski. "This

on the federal government to establish a process to address outstanding Métis rights and claims (See pages B13 - B15 for the AGA Resolutions).

## Resolutions & Rights Advancement

The AGA also passed unanimous resolutions to advance Métis harvesting rights with the Ontario Government (see page B13 for more details), to ensure Métis rights and interests are addressed in any potential sale of Hydro One, to draw increased attention to the need for rail safety in order to protect the traditional territories of Ontario Métis communities as well as to call on both the provincial and federal governments to ensure Métis inclusion in the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action (see pages B13 - B15 for the text of all AGA resolutions).

During the AGA, delegates received reports on Métis rights and legal issues, and an overview of

Métis economic development progress through the Métis Voyageur Development Fund as well as the MNO's recently created business arm, Métis Infinity Investments, from MNO Legal Counsel Jason Madden.

In keeping with Chair Picotte's admonishment, however, it was not all work for the delegates. On Saturday evening, the MNO hosted a dinner and dance that was kicked off by the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program students who energized and entertained delegates with sing-a-longs of traditional voyageur songs. This was followed by a concert from Amanda Rheume (see page B4) and then a local Métis country band, Rosewood.





# Region 7 Hosts

The AGA was hosted by the Region 7 MNO Community Councils: the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council, the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council, and the MNO Moon River Métis Council, which held a barbecue for lunch on Sunday. Sponsored by Bruce Power and Ontario Power Generation, the barbecue corresponded with a number of cultural activities that afternoon where families and friends could meet, participate in artistic workshops, voyageur games and enjoy some warm bannock. Sash weaving, fiddling, beading and making jams were among the many activities for all to enjoy (see pages B8 & B9 for photos from the Sunday cultural activities).

The Region 7 Councils also

hosted a community supper on Sunday evening, further extending their hospitality to visitors to their region. Sponsored by Bruce Power, the packed supper featured a delicious meal and Métis entertainers including the Métis Ladies Drumming Group, Tricia Paradis, Marg Raynor, Sharon Blondin, Leah Gravelle, Nick Howell and the Copegog Brothers (see pages B8 & B9 for photos from the community supper).

After an exciting and productive AGA, MNO citizens returned home secure in the knowledge that the MNO continues to aspire to attain our highest potential and in the words of our new anthem: "...to be the best we can be." ∞



1) Manitoba Metis Federation President David Chartrand receives a hug from Senator Lois McCallum. 2) Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) President Audrey Poitras presents MNO Chair France Picotte with a beautiful fiddle she won in an MNA draw. 3) The Region 7 Community Councils did a great job hosting the AGA. They were recognized for their hard work during the opening ceremony. From left: President Peter Couture of the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council, President David Dusome of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council, PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle, President Tony Muscat of the MNO Moon River Métis Council and Andy Dufrane, President of the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council. 4) The hard-working MNO Resolution Committee, from left: MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride, Senator Gary Laframboise, PCMNO Region 7 Councillor Pauline Richardson, Youth Representative Mitch Case. (See pages B13 - B15 for resolutions.) 5) MNO Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette (left) chats with MNO SYCP facilitators at their AGA booth. 6) PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle.

## MNO Veterans' Pilgrimage to Vimy Ridge in 2017

*The capture of Vimy was more than just an important battlefield victory. For the first time all four Canadian divisions attacked together: men from all regions of Canada were present at the battle. Brigadier-General A.E. Ross declared after the war, "in those few minutes I witnessed the birth of a nation."*

— Dr. Tim Cook, noted historian with the Canadian War Museum and Carleton University (source: [www.warmuseum.ca](http://www.warmuseum.ca).)

*Lest We Forget...*

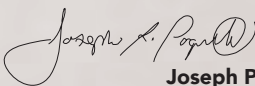
The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council has formed a Vimy Ridge Pilgrimage Committee with the purpose of raising funds to permit as many MNO veterans as possible, as well as a contingent of MNO youth, to attend the 100th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, which are taking place at the Vimy Ridge monument in France in 2017.

As we all know, Métis have been fighting for Canada before there was a Canada, and so it is especially important that Métis be represented at this commemoration. The MNO Veterans' Council has already been in contact with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, who is very interested in our plans for the Pilgrimage (including the youth educational component). Ideally enough funds will be raised so that ALL MNO veterans will be able to attend the Vimy

Ridge commemoration as well as a large number of young people.

2017 is definitely Canada's year and WE should let the world know it! 2017 is Canada's 150th birthday. The Battle at Vimy Ridge was the major event that got Canada recognized as a country that can hold its own. This was at great cost and sacrifice.

The MNO Veterans' Council is looking for MNO veterans and others who support MNO veterans to consider joining the Vimy Ridge Pilgrimage Committee. Individuals with experience in successful proposal writing are particularly encouraged to join the Committee.

  
**Joseph Paquette**  
President, MNO Veterans' Council

For more information and to express your interest in being a part of the Vimy Ridge Pilgrimage Committee, please e-mail:  
**[mnovc@rogers.com](mailto:mnovc@rogers.com)**







# AGA 2015 Highlights



▲ MNO President Gary Lipinski (left), Union Gas Vice President Mike Shannon (centre) and MNO Chair France Picotte (right) sign the new Relationship Agreement.

## MNO and Union Gas renew Relationship Agreement

Union Gas and the MNO enjoy a longstanding positive relationship and Union Gas has consistently been a model proponent in terms of respecting Métis rights and the duty to consult and accommodate. During the AGA, MNO and Union Gas signed a renewal of their Relationship Agreement. ∞



▲ MNO Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette presents the first copy of *Fighting for Canada Before There Was a Canada* to MNO President Gary Lipinski.

## Fighting for Canada before there was a Canada

During the AGA, *Fighting for Canada Before There Was a Canada: Ontario Métis Veterans pass the Torch* was released. Featuring biographical stories of over 40 veterans, the first edition sold out within a few hours. The book represents hundreds of hours of painstaking research, writing and editing by the MNO Veterans' Council. ∞



▲ MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile (second from right) delivers the 2015 Finance Report at the AGA. The MNO debt has decreased by 82.6% since 2008.

## Working together keeps the MNO in the black

For the eighth consecutive year the MNO maintained a surplus. Working together, MNO citizens reduced the MNO deficit from over \$4.2 million in 2008 to only \$731,538 in March 2015. Through sound fiscal management the MNO has almost completed a 20 year payment plan in a mere six years. ∞



▲ Amanda Rheume and her band performing at the Dinner and Dance on Saturday night.

## We Aspire premiere

MNO citizen and award-winning artist Amanda Rheume delivered a barn-burning concert capped off with the world premiere of the new Métis anthem, "We Aspire," which drew a standing ovation. Amanda's songs reached deep into her Métis roots and got everyone up and jigging especially during the encore when her fiddler, Anthony Brascoupe, left everyone wanting more. ∞



▲ Métis youth at the MNO Youth Council meeting.

## Planning for the future

Twenty youth attended the MNO Youth Council meeting where they planned how to build a stronger future for the MNO. The proposal for a youth leadership conference generated enthusiasm and a resolution to investigate the potential for such an event was submitted to all AGA delegates, where it was passed it unanimously. ∞



▲ Members of the WSMNO discuss the year's events.

## WSMNO meeting honours Barbranne Wright

The absence of Barbranne Wright, who passed away in July, was clearly felt on August 21 as members of the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) met for their yearly update. Members discussed ways of honouring her memory, read and revised their Terms of Reference, and reviewed the work being done by representatives in each of their regions. ∞





▲ President Lipinski stressed the importance of raising the 1250 Harvest cap.



▲ MNO SYCP facilitators presented two Métis dot art paintings to President Lipinski and COO Wilson (represented by Associate Chief Operating Officer Margaret Froh).

## MNO resolves to raise the 1250 Harvest cap

The 2004 MNO-Ontario interim Harvesting Agreement limits the MNO to issuing 1250 Harvest cards. It was expected that number would be eventually raised, but after 11 years, no increase has been negotiated. Accordingly, the AGA unanimously resolved to give Ontario until the end of September 2015 to negotiate an increase or the MNO will unilaterally issue more than 1250 cards. ∞

## Honour and Aspire

As a token of admiration, MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) members from Midland created beautiful dot art paintings named “Honour” and “Aspire” and presented them to President Lipinski and Chief Operating Officer (COO) Doug Wilson. Primarily created by Melissa St. Amant, Alexis and Karly Chapman, “Honour” was presented to COO Wilson and “Aspire” to President Lipinski (See page A9 for more details). ∞

## Thanks to MNO Staff for their hard work!

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, “it is their hard work that makes so much of what we do possible.” ∞



▲ (L-R) Manitoba Metis Federation President David Chartrand, Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras, MNO President Gary Lipinski, and Métis National Council President Clément Chartier.



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.





# Working Together

## for a Better Nation



“The government recognizes the importance of economic development for the Métis community because of the extent the Métis community is successful in the world of business and economics. [This success is] better for the community, it’s better for the province, it’s better for the country...we all benefit from these initiatives.”

**David Zimmer**  
Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs



“There are no shades or partisanship when it comes to the support for the Métis Nation and as the official opposition, we’d be happy to support you along the way.”

**Patrick Brown**  
Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario



“As the MP who has served this riding since 2006...I know how deeply we hold the relationship with Ontario’s 18,000 Métis: you are a root of our province and trace your lineage to the very first settlements, among them this community here on Georgian Bay.”

**Bruce Stanton**  
Member of Parliament for Simcoe-North



“Vous avez beaucoup de pain sur la planche et beaucoup de belles initiatives qui s’en viennent. Je vous garanti que si vous avez besoin de nous, si on peut vous aider, ce serait un honneur et un privilège pour les Néo-Démocrates d’appuyer la Nation Métisse.”

**France Gélinas**  
Member of Provincial Parliament for Nickel Belt



“I am excited as we embark on this next chapter as allies. I’m excited as we see non-Indigenous Canadians wanting to know more. This is an exciting time...We have so much work to do.”

**Carolyn Bennett**  
Member of Parliament for St. Paul's



“This gathering stands as a clear signal of the strength of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Your positive presence today strengthens our community.”

**Gordon McKay**  
Mayor of Midland



“Your government not only says words, they actually follow through...we’re getting new leadership that’s started embracing the issues and rights of the Métis Nation.”

**Clément Chartier**  
President of the Métis National Council



“I’m proud to say that I’ve been somewhat jealous and envious at times of [President Lipinski], my colleague to the east. He’s done an exceptionally great job when it comes to Duty to Consult...it shows that leadership is there, fighting on your behalf.”

**David Chartrand**  
President of the Manitoba Metis Federation



“I believe you’re going to continue going strong, going forward, and we’ll see a lot more accomplishments in the next short while.”

**Audrey Poitras**  
President of the Métis Nation of Alberta



“Continued engagement with the Métis Nation is a priority for the [Ministry of Children and Youth Services]...our government is listening carefully to you and we want to continue to learn from you.”

**Alex Bezzina**  
Ontario Deputy Minister of Children and Youth Services



“We look forward to the continuing support of the Métis participation in the energy sector as we move forward to maintain a clean, affordable and monitored electricity system for Ontario.”

**Serge Imbrogno**  
Ontario Deputy Minister of Energy



“We have a long-standing partnership with the MNO and we’ve had that for some time in collaboration of shared goals of supporting Métis student achievements and well-being and raising the awareness of all Ontario students regarding the richness of the MNO.”

**George Zegarac**  
Ontario Deputy Minister of Education





▲ MNO President Gary Lipinski presents the 2015 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award to Ernie Gatien at the 2015 AGA in Midland.

Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Award

# Ernie Gatien named Volunteer of the Year

by | MNO Staff

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. Every year at the Annual General Assembly, the MNO recognizes the selflessness of outstanding volunteers. This year, the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Councillor Ernie Gatien, the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Councillor for Region 4. Councillor Gatien was nominated for the award by MNO North Channel Métis Council President Yvonne Jensen. She shared that, “Ernie is available any day and time...he gets himself involved in all possible activities, he sits on lots of committees, he has a lot of knowledge on Métis ancestry and shares that knowledge at the meetings he attends.” As early as 2006, Councillor Gatien began attending Council-spon-

*I think it's important that we do recognize people for what they do because there are so many people deserving of recognition...I feel that all those folks around me should have an award as well. So I accepted it on behalf of all of them.”*

– PCMNO Councillor Ernie Gatien

sored sessions in Sault Ste. Marie. These sessions were the beginning of his involvement as a volunteer within the Métis community. While still working for the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), he also acted as Assistant Captain of the Hunt for several years before being elected to the PCMNO. While giving his acceptance speech, Councillor Gatien spoke of all the other volunteers who were involved with the MNO. Humbled to have been nominated, he ac-

cepted the award on their behalf as well. “I think it’s important that we do recognize people for what they do because there are so many people deserving of recognition... I feel that all those folks around me should have an award as well. So I accepted it on behalf of all of them,” he later shared in an interview. “I’d just like to thank all those people who do contribute so much. Keep up the good work,” he added. 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 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, Senator Brenda Powley, and Senator Bob McKay. ∞

# PCMNO Youth Representative reflects on the 2015 General Assembly

submitted by | Mitch Case  
PCMNO Youth Representative

Every summer hundreds of Métis leaders from across Ontario gather for the Annual General Assembly (AGA). The AGA is an opportunity to come together and review the progress that we have made as a Nation over the previous year and to set the course for the year to come. This is an important process because it is a continual reminder for the Nation that we are just that: a Nation. We are not a club or a service organization. We are a Nation of people gifted by the Creator with freedom and the right to self-determination.



▲ Mitch Case.

Aside from the formal “business” required at the AGA, such as approving audits and passing resolutions, there are so many other important business items that we as a people do together. We share stories, we share our history and we pass on the knowledge that has been safeguarded by generations of Métis people. We also smoked our pipes, danced, sang and most importantly, shared the company of our large extended Métis family. As we told the stories and heard the songs of our past, we ensured a strong future for our people. Without the stories of our past, what would we have to give to the future generations? The General Assembly is an important time for our Nation, but it is an especially important time for the youth of the MNO. As the PCMNO Youth Representative on the MNO Youth Council I am extremely proud of the youth who were in attendance at the assembly and happy to report that once again, for the fifth year in a row, the youth brought forward more resolutions than any other constituency in the MNO. The MNO Youth Council, in consultation with other youth in the MNO, brought forward resolutions pertaining to protection of the environment, youth leadership capacity building, a residential school reconciliation and providing services to our youth who attend French schools. Sometimes I worry about the future of the Nation; I often wonder if we will be ready. Will the youth of today be ready to take up the incredible responsibility that is ahead of us? Will we have the tools, the passion and the desire to carry the incredible burden of leadership that awaits us? Those doubts and worries were put to rest as I sat around a kitchen table on Sunday of the AGA. At 2:30 in the morning, with eight other youth, we were fully engulfed in deep, complicated conversation about Métis nationalism, sovereignty, self-determination, land claims, cultural integrity and the cultural as well as the spiritual rebirth of our Nation. I sat there among those brilliant young Métis minds and in that moment I knew our future was in good hands. I continue to be inspired by the youth that I have had the opportunity to work with and I look forward to the next assembly in North Bay where we will gather again to continue the important work of our people. ∞

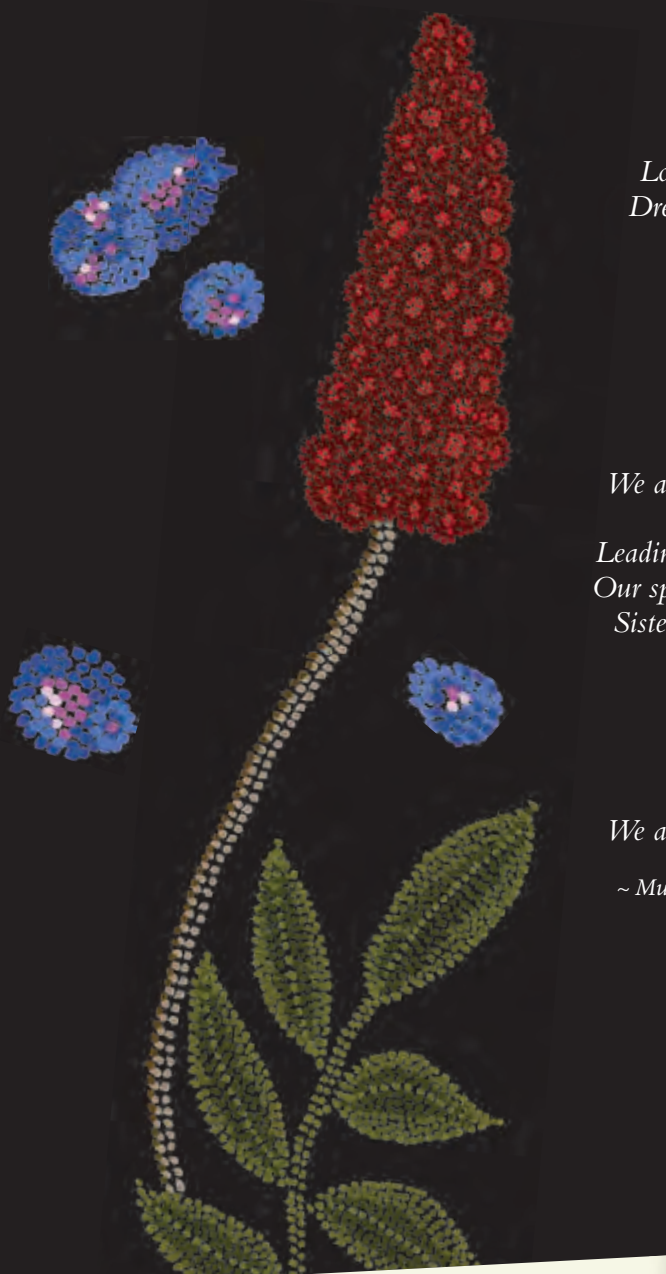
Thank You TO THESE SILVER SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE 2015 AGA



**Abitibi/Temiscamingue & James Bay Territories**  
Consultation Committee  
MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO REGION 3







## We Aspire



Looking up so high, to the sky  
Dreams come true, when you try  
These are our lands  
This is our home  
It is our time to rise

We aspire, we are  
Reaching higher, so far  
To be the best we can be  
We are the Métis Nation of Ontario

Leading with many voices of one mind  
Our spirits have grown stronger in time  
Sisters and brothers, nation inspired  
Hand in hand we rise!

We aspire, we are  
Reaching higher, so far  
To be the best we can be  
We are the Métis Nation of Ontario

~ Music and lyrics by Amanda Rheume ~

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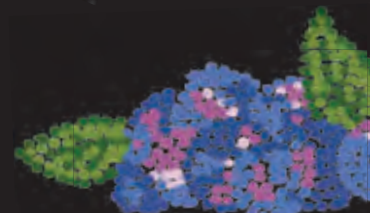
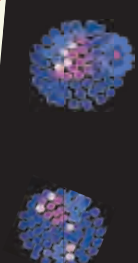
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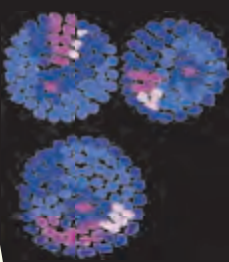
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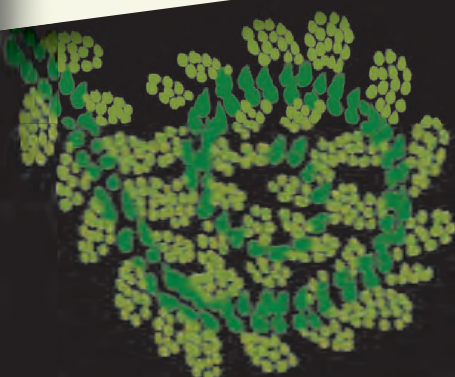
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1) The Lefaiwe family were part of the entertainment during cultural activities on Sunday afternoon. 2) Many local entertainers participated in the Community Supper on Sunday evening. 3) MNO SYCP facilitators Aaron Oakes (left) and Gerald Lavallee (right) challenge each other at the voyageur games. 4) President Lipinski dancing with his wife Dianne at the Dinner and Dance on Saturday night. 5) The canoe flotilla arrives at Pete Pettersen Park. 6) Hanna St. Germain-Calder tries her hand at Métis dot art. 7) Amanda Rheaume performing at the Dinner and Dance. 8) Senator Larry Duval and MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council President David Dusome were decked out in their best attire for the Welcome to the AGA. 9) The Manitoulin Soap Factory was one of the many vendors at the AGA's trade show. 10) Bill and Dora Ellis during cultural activities on Sunday afternoon. 11) Marg Raynor performed at the Community Supper. 12) MNO SYCP facilitators dancing at the Welcome to the AGA. 13) Senator Brian Gouliquer takes part in a beading workshop. 14) Members of the Region 7 Councils man the grill during the barbecue lunch on Sunday afternoon. 15) David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, tries out a blow horn while Senator Gary Laframboise looks on. 16) Métis jig dancers were part of La famille Lefaiwe's performance during the Voyageur Games on Sunday afternoon. 17) Gerald Lavallee and Senator Brenda Powley admire fox fur at the Métis fur trade camp. 18) Senator Brunelle-Porter, MNO SYCP Facilitator Joanna Burt, MNO SYCP Facilitator Alicia Bloor and Senator Cecile Wagar performed a moving rendition of Amazing Grace at the close of the AGA. 19) Participants show off their cornhusk dolls at the Sunday AGA workshop. 20) Friends and family enjoy a meal together at the Community Supper hosted by the Region 7 Councils on the final night of the AGA.





# 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.



## Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario

**BACK:** (l-r) Peter Rivers (Region 9), Pauline Richardson (Region 7), Cam Burgess (Region 2), Vice-Chair Sharon McBride, Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, Theresa Stenlund (Region 1), Anita Tucker (Region 8), Marcel Lafrance (Region 3), Ernie Gatien (Region 4), Youth Representative Mitch Case, Associate Chief Operating Officer Margaret Froh (Ex officio). **FRONT:** (l-r) Juliette Denis (Region 5), Senator Joseph Poitras, Chair France Picotte, President Gary Lipinski, Executive Senator Reta Gordon, Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle, Post-secondary Representative Jennifer Nicholson. (Insert) Tom Thompson Jr. (Region 6).



## MNO Senators at the 2015 AGA

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





**MNO Presidents' Meeting**

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



**Métis youth who participated in the MNO Youth Council meeting at the 2015 AGA**

**BACK:** (l-r) Amilia DiChiara, Cassidy Eames, Paul Robitalle, Gabe Picard, Kate Helleman, PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case, Dustin Hoogsteen, Region 7 Youth Representative Kyle Grenier, Brittney Matthews, Courtney Wall. **MIDDLE:** (l-r) Natasha Lafreniere, Region 1 Youth Representative Kelly Duquette, Sarah Bibeau, Simone Blais, Region 3 Youth Representative Brianne Gosselin, Alexandra Dusome, Devin Taylor. **FRONT:** (l-r) Aaron Oakes, Gerald Lavallee.



**Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council Executive**

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



**Participants in the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario meeting at the 2015 AGA**

**BACK:** (l-r) Amanda Pont-Shanks, Bernadette Picco, Giselle Legeihn, Jeanette Brunelle, Wendy Elliott, Tobias Clarke. **MIDDLE:** (l-r) Juliette Denis, Jo-Anne Secord, Sandy Triskle, Lorraine Mountney, Theresa Stenlund, Pat Taylor. **FRONT:** (sitting l-r) Representative (Regions 2 and 6) Rosalyn Calder, WSMNO Spokesperson Sharon McBride, Representative (Regions 5 and 8) Pearl Gabona.





# HONOURING MÉTIS WOMEN IS PART OF *our culture*

submitted by | **Sahra MacLean**  
MNO VAAW Coordinator

In 2014, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens unanimously adopted a resolution calling for a National Public Inquiry on Violence Against Aboriginal Women. This resolution included the adoption of the Métis Nation Declaration to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women.

One way the Métis Nation Declaration is being moved forward is the creation of an education campaign: Honouring Métis Women is Part of Our Culture. The success of this campaign is rooted in the strength and determination of our MNO leadership, from elected council members and Senators to elders and veterans to Women's Representatives and youth. Together we can effect change.

In 2015, the Healing and Wellness Branch engaged leader-

ship once more through a series of interactive stations.

At the first station, participants made a pledge declaring how they will honour the Métis women in their lives. These pledges were written on pictures of a beaded five petal rose and pasted on the wall to display the work being done across the MNO. Personal pledges ranged from hosting a workshop or speaking at a vigil, to becoming a positive role model and mentor.

The second station built momentum for the campaign. Participants took Polaroid pictures with a frame cut out that read "Honouring Métis Women is Part of Our Culture" and printed out as souvenirs. Participants amplified the reach of the campaign through social media.

At the third station, participants received a special lapel pin, as well as a Community Engagement Toolkit. The toolkit provides resources for community engagement with the education campaign through the Healing and Wellness Branch and includes a poster of the five-petal beaded rose.

The three stations were incredibly popular, with AGA attendants eager to show their support for Honouring Métis women is Part of Our Culture. Our staff are thankful to all who attended, and grateful to work for and with strong and passionate advocates for ending violence against Aboriginal women.

Over the next year, the EVAAW campaign will collect and share success stories from citizens and leadership effecting change in their communities. If you have a story to share, please contact Sahra MacLean, VAAW Coordinator at [Sahram@metisnation.org](mailto:Sahram@metisnation.org). ∞



I am participating in the "Honouring Métis Women is Part of Our Culture" education campaign in the following ways...

To continue work with women and children to live free from harm!"

Add the 'Honouring Métis Women is part of our culture' banner to my Facebook profile picture to spread awareness of the education campaign."

Hosting blanket workshops and doing projects in school about missing and murdered Aboriginal women."

Sharing EVAAW Prayer, Métis Faceless Dolls projects, Beading Rose, talking and educating people."

Have discussions in the workplace about Honouring Métis women and ending violence against Aboriginal women."

Educate others about consent and being committed to safe relationships."



1 - President Gary Lipinski and his wife, Diane. 2 - Carol Levis and Jennifer Parkinson. 3 - Carey Calder and her daughter, Autumn. 4 - Ben and Paul Robitaille. 5 - Gabe Picard. 6 - Rosalyn Calder and Pearl Gabona. 7 - David and Jennifer Nicholson. 8 - Allan Vallee. 9 - Brenda Powley and Brianne Gosselin. 11 - Senator Roland St. Germain and PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle. 12 - Peter Rivers and Beth Honsberger.







# AGA Resolutions

## Metis Self-Government in Action

Among the most important work carried out at AGAs are the resolutions that are brought up for discussion. When passed these resolutions provide direction to the MNO leadership in crucial areas of governance and operations. The following are the Resolutions passed at the 2015 AGA:

### Special Business Resolutions:

**Resolution #:** AGA-SPECRES2015-001  
**Title:** **AMEND MNO PROSPERITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY LAW**  
**Mover:** Gary Lipinski  
**Seconder:** France Picotte

**WHEREAS** the PCMNO met on June 25-26, 2015 and approved proposed changes to the MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law based on the recommendation of the MNO legal counsel;  
**AND WHEREAS** the exact wording of the proposed changes to section 2 (definition of “Infinity Investment Structures”, “MNO Infinity Investments GP Inc.” and “MNO Infinity Investments LP”), 7, 12, 16-18, 21-22, 25-29, 35-36 and 42 of the MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law are attached;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2015 MNO AGA adopts the changes to the MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law, which are attached to this resolution.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
**(AGA-SPECRES2015-001)**

**Resolution #:** AGA-SPECRES2015-002  
**Title:** **AMEND MNO REGISTRY POLICY**  
**Mover:** Gary Lipinski  
**Seconder:** France Picotte

**WHEREAS** the MNO has been engaged in collaborative research on Métis health with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), which has brought attention to Métis health priorities and has been used to secure resources to address Métis health needs and improve MNO service delivery and program development;  
**AND WHEREAS** amendments to the MNO’s Registry Policy are required in order to address both ICES’ and the MNO’s privacy obligations and ensure that the research collaboration can continue;  
**AND WHEREAS** the current MNO Registry Policy does not include a mechanism for appeal of the MNO Registrar’s reconsideration decision in relation to a Harvester’s Card;  
**AND WHEREAS** the current MNO Registry Policy is no longer consistent with the Policy on Conditions for Limitations that May Apply to MNO Citizens, effective February 21, 2015;  
**AND WHEREAS** the exact wording of the proposed changes to page 3 of the MNO Registry Policy (“Independent and Confidential Registry”), sections 3, 5, 39, and 41 of the Registry Policy Guidelines, and the proposed Appendix C are attached;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2015 MNO AGA adopts the changes to the MNO Registry Policy that are attached to this resolution.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
**(AGA-SPECRES2015-002)**

**Resolution #:** AGA-SPECRES2015-003  
**Title:** **AMEND THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO (MNO) STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE**  
**Mover:** Lawrence O’Connor  
**Seconder:** Jennifer Henry

**WHEREAS** we state in the Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose that: The strength of our society is based on democracy, freedom, fairness, equality, generosity, justice and the customary and written law of our people. Above all, we cherish harmony and peace;  
**AND WHEREAS**, consistent with this statement we declare as one of our aims and objectives: to establish good relations with all Aboriginal peoples for the pursuit of our common interests and goals;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this objective be amended to read: to establish good relations and maintain our historic alliances with all Aboriginal peoples for the pursuit of our common interests and goals.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
**(AGA-SPECRES2015-003)**

**Resolution #:** AGA-SPECRES2015-004  
**Title:** **AMEND THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO (MNO) STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE**  
**Mover:** Lawrence O’Connor  
**Seconder:** Jennifer Henry

**WHEREAS** it is a value of the Métis people to respect and honour Mother Earth;  
**AND WHEREAS** this value is contained the Statement of Prime Purpose as follows: We are a Nation, born of independence, and self-sufficiency whose teachings are founded on the values of honesty and truth. We are proud of our rich heritage. We are inspired by the values and traditions of our ancestors. The strength of our society is based on democracy, freedom, fairness, equality, generosity, justice and the customary and written law of our people. Above all, we cherish harmony and peace;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the following text be added to the aims and objectives of the Métis Nation of Ontario: to protect and preserve the land and waters within our homelands for future generations.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
**(AGA-SPECRES2015-004)**

### Non-Special Business Resolutions:

**Resolution #:** AGA-RES2015-005  
**Title:** **MNO HARVESTER CARDS**  
**Mover:** Nelson Montreuil  
**Seconder:** Kim Powley

**WHEREAS** the advancement of Métis rights is the utmost priority for the MNO;  
**AND WHEREAS** the 2004 MNO-MNR Harvesting Agreement always contemplated the MNO and Ontario working together to increase the 1250 cap on Harvester Card allowable under the interim arrangement and for the eventual negotiation of a longer term, rights-recognition agreement;  
**AND WHEREAS** through the MNO-ADM Working Group process the MNO and Ontario have reached common understandings with respect to historic Métis communities in all of the harvesting areas that the MNO now issues Harvester Cards in;  
**AND WHEREAS** MNO has now undergone an internal assessment of all Harvester Cards that has cancelled all incomplete Harvester Card files;  
**AND WHEREAS** the MNO is now close to issuing its 1250th Harvesters Card;  
**AND WHEREAS** constitutionally-protected Métis rights cannot be capped;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the MNO’s leadership be directed to commence immediate negotiations with the MNR to have the number of MNO Harvester Cards under the MNO-MNR agreement increased and to move quickly on completing the independent review contemplated in the MNO-MNR agreement so there will be no future cap on MNO Harvester Cards;
- 2) If a negotiated arrangement with the MNR cannot be reached by the end of September 2015 that the MNO be directed to begin issuing Harvester Cards over the allowable 1250 number for valid Harvester Cards holders and the MNO will defend these harvesters in court if they are charged by MNR;
- 3) The MNO leadership be directed to attempt to secure a formal negotiations process with the MNR in order to arrive at a longer-term, rights recognition agreement.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
**(AGA-RES2015-005)**

**Resolution #:** AGA-RES2015-006  
**Title:** **PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION RECOGNIZING THE MNO**  
**Mover:** Mitch Case  
**Seconder:** Jo Anne Young

**WHEREAS** past MNO AGAs have called for the MNO’s leadership to work with the Ontario Government to secure legislation that recognizes and respects the MNO’s unique governance structure;  
**AND WHEREAS** the MNO’s leadership and legal counsel have presented the MNO AGA on the progress that has been made on this issue as well as the proposals being considered;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the 2015 MNO AGA fully endorses the MNO moving forward on securing provincial legislation that recognizes and respects the MNO’s unique governance structure;
- 2) That, when it is strategic, all of the MNO’s governance structures at the local, regional and provincial levels will provide letters of support

to the provincial government and opposition parties in an attempt to secure unanimous support within the legislature for this historic legislation.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
**(AGA-RES2015-006)**

**Resolution #:** AGA-RES2015-007  
**Title:** **PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND RAILWAY SAFETY**  
**Mover:** Thomas A. Thompson  
**Seconder:** Brady Hupet

**WHEREAS** the protection of the environment is an obligation the MNO owes to future generations;  
**AND WHEREAS** many railways carry hazardous or dangerous materials if spilt and are in close proximity to Métis communities that rely on their territories for food as well as spiritual and cultural well-being;  
**AND WHEREAS** the MNO is increasingly concerned that there are insufficient environmental and safety protections in place in relation to railway transportation;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the MNO’s leadership be directed to write to other levels of government to raise these concerns;
- 2) That the MNO’s Land, Resources and Consultation branch be directed to look at this issue with a view to identifying opportunities on how the MNO can influence railway transportation policies and regulation as well as play an increased role on these issues.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
**(AGA-RES2015-007)**

**Resolution #:** AGA-RES2015-008  
**Title:** **MÉTIS LAND CLAIMS**  
**Mover:** Gary Lipinski  
**Seconder:** Kim Powley

**WHEREAS** the advancement of Métis rights is the utmost priority for the MNO;  
**AND WHEREAS** the MNO has repeatedly called on the federal government to establish a Métis claims policy or include the Métis in the existing federal claims policies;  
**AND WHEREAS** the Akaicho First Nations in the Northwest Territories have challenged the federal government’s ability to enter into a modern day land claim with the Northwest Territories Métis Nation;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the MNO AGA renew its call for the federal government to finally begin dealing with outstanding Métis claims in Ontario through the negotiation of modern day land claims or treaties;
- 2) That the MNO’s legal counsel be directed to investigate the ongoing litigation in the Northwest Territories for potential negative implications for Ontario Métis and the rest of the Métis Nation and report to the PCMNO on options to protect and advance Métis rights.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
**(AGA-RES2015-008)**





Resolution #: AGA-RES2015-009  
Title: **HYDRO ONE SALE**  
Mover: Marcel Lafrance  
Seconder: Kim Powley

**WHEREAS** energy development in Ontario has a legacy of damage to the rights, territories and way of life of Ontario Métis;  
**AND WHEREAS**, through the innovative and progressive policies of the Ontario government over the last decade, new relationships and partnerships have begun to be developed between Hydro One and Métis communities;  
**AND WHEREAS** there remains a legacy of outstanding Métis claims that have not been addressed by Hydro One in relation to past transmission development;  
**AND WHEREAS** through the sale of Hydro One the MNO is concerned that the Ontario government will divest itself of the ability to effectively address these outstanding claims as well as to ensure that Hydro One continues to be mandated and available to advance partnerships with Aboriginal communities that advance reconciliation;  
**AND WHEREAS** the MNO asserts that these factors trigger the Ontario government's duty to consult the MNO on the sale of Hydro One;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**  
That the MNO President be directed to write to the Ontario government on this issue with a view to establishing a consultation and potentially a negotiations process with the province to ensure that the rights, interests and claims of Ontario Métis communities are protected and addressed in any sale of Hydro One.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
**(AGA-RES2015-009)**

Resolution #: AGA-RES2015-010  
Title: **FRENCH LANGUAGE**  
Mover: Brianne Gosselin  
Seconder: Verna Porter-Brunelle

**WHEREAS** all resources and the MNO Website must be translated in both French and English as they are important material and have great content for MNO citizens as well as raise Métis awareness in the general public;  
**AND WHEREAS** the French language is an important part of our Métis heritage and identity for our citizens.  
**AND WHEREAS** the MNO is effectively excluding entire francophone community by providing its material only in English.  
**AND WHEREAS** the MNO appears to be devaluing francophone culture and heritage by not actively including francophone communities.  
**AND WHEREAS** by not actively including francophone communities MNO is implicitly promoting the loss of the French language for our future generations of Ontario Métis.  
**AND WHEREAS** not having access to French resources is a form of oppression for the non-English speakers.  
**AND WHEREAS** the MNO should treat both languages equally and respect their citizen's mother tongue as stated in the Statement of Prime Purpose aims and objective to promote languages of the Métis Nation and to create an awareness of our proud heritage.  
**AND WHEREAS** the MNO receives funding for publications that does not state that materials that produced must be exclusively in English.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the MNO should develop a strategy on this issue to be brought back to the next MNO AGA for a policy on publication of MNO materials in French.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
**(AGA-RES2015-010)**

Resolution #: AGA-RES2015-011  
Title: **MNO RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL RECONCILIATION STRATEGY**  
Mover: Mitch Case  
Seconder: Kelly Duquette

**WHEREAS** the Residential school system represents an attempt by Canada to erase indigenous people from existence as distinct peoples;  
**AND WHEREAS** although the Indian Residential

Schools Settlement Agreement and the Truth and Reconciliation mandate largely excluded Métis from the TRC process, the legacy of Residential Schools has impacted and affected the Métis Nation and continues to affect our people;  
**AND WHEREAS** the process of reconciliation is going to take multiple generations for Indigenous peoples and Canada to reach a place of respect;  
**AND WHEREAS**, by and large, Métis Youth understand the need for reconciliation, and it will be Métis Youth who will do the "heavy lifting" of reconciliation moving forward;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the MNO AGA 2015 direct the PCMNO and MNO administration to work with Ontario in order to ensure that Métis are included in any initiatives that Ontario undertakes as a result of the renewed effort to move towards reconciliation as a result of the recent release of the TRC summary report; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that MNO actively engage youth via the MNOYC in any reconciliation related programs or partnerships.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
**(AGA-RES2015-011)**

Resolution #: AGA-RES2015-012  
Title: **SUPPORT THE 4RS YOUTH MOVEMENT**  
Mover: Mitch Case  
Seconder: Brianne Gosselin

**WHEREAS** the goals of reconciliation between indigenous and non Indigenous communities in the land that is now known as Canada is the most pressing social issue of our time.  
**AND WHEREAS** as the reconciliation process moves forward it will take all people to come together to achieve the goals of reconciliation.  
**AND WHEREAS** the Métis Nation is often forgotten in the larger scheme of "aboriginal programs" and by participating in these things we can do something about that...  
**AND WHEREAS** the Goals of reconciliation are not only about understanding our collective past, but also preparing for a better, more productive and respectful future it is important that young people be prepared to and allowed to take on leadership roles in the reconciliation journey.  
**AND WHEREAS** youth from the MNOYC have participated in 4Rs events in the past and seen the benefits of this initiative.  
**AND WHEREAS** the National youth serving organizations and the 5 national aboriginal organizations have come together to establish a framework for allowing Indigenous and non Indigenous youth to come together and work towards reconciliation, this structure is known as the 4Rs Youth Movement.  
**AND WHEREAS** the Métis National Council Via the Métis Nation - British Columbia represents the Métis Nation on this important initiative.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2015 MNO AGA endorse the 4Rs Youth Movement as a vehicle for advancing the goal of Reconciliation.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the MNOYC President send a letter of commendation to 4Rs steering committee and board of directors expressing the appreciation of the MNO for the work they are doing to create an environment of reconciliation that is truly inclusive of and respectful to Métis people and our unique history and culture.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
**(AGA-RES2015-012)**

Resolution #: AGA-RES2015-013  
Title: **COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON MNO ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE CHART**  
Mover: Anita Tucker  
Seconder: Jennifer Parkinson

**WHEREAS** the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose states that its guiding principles are to:

- Establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government;
- Encourage the full participation of all Métis in the Métis Nation;
- To promote and foster community development;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 1 of the MNO Secretariat Bylaws states 'These are the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat (the "MNO") that represents the Métis in Ontario. The MNO is composed of nine geographic regions and has established several institutions to better serve its citizens. Those institutions include the Provisional Council of the MNO, the Registry, Community Councils, the Captain of the Hunt, the Veterans Council, the Women's Secretariat of the MNO and the Youth Council.';

**AND WHEREAS** an organizational chart is the most common visual depiction of how an organization is structured and outlines the roles, responsibilities and relationships between individuals and structures within an organization;

**AND WHEREAS** Community Council operate in accordance with MNO Charter Agreements, which give councils the mandate to govern, while ensuring accountability, transparency, and consistency within the MNO;

**AND WHEREAS** MNO citizens are represented at the local level through MNO Chartered Community Councils;

**AND WHEREAS** Community Councils are the cornerstone of a strong foundation for the MNO in its push towards its inherent right to self-government;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the MNO put Chartered Community Councils on the Métis Nation of Ontario Organizational Structure Chart.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
**(AGA-RES2015-013)**

Resolution #: AGA-RES2015-014  
Title: **FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING IN ONTARIO AND ITS EFFECT ON THE CITIZENS OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO**  
Mover: Ernie Gatien  
Seconder: Peter Rivers

**WHEREAS** the integrity of the Lands and Waters are of ultimate importance to the Métis Nation of Ontario Citizens and for their future generations;  
**AND WHEREAS** the Forest Management Planning process, as practiced by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, has jurisdiction over All Crown lands in the Province of Ontario;  
**AND WHEREAS** many community Councils and citizens have witnessed impacts to their way of life and proper forest management is necessary for the protection of not only our forests, but our way of life;  
**AND WHEREAS** there are literally thousands of roads and water crossings each year are being constructed throughout the homeland without the Métis Nation of Ontario's input or consultation;  
**AND WHEREAS** it has been made evident by virtue of many Métis Nation of Ontario Chartered Community Councils that have made registered motions to support Lands Resources and Consultation in moving forward with the Forestry agenda and move the forestry priority to top or near top of its priorities;  
**AND WHEREAS** we realize that the forestry agenda does not generate any significant monetary return to the Métis Nation of Ontario but that is not the driving force of our Métis culture;  
**AND WHEREAS** the continued integrity and maintenance of the Land and Waters for future generations of the Métis people is being disregarded as forest harvesting proceeds;  
**AND WHEREAS** Forest Management Planning is and has been proceeding in most cases on all of these lands in Ontario without the participation of the Métis Nation of Ontario and it's citizens' rights and interests in mind;  
**AND WHEREAS** there has not been any True consultation has taken place in these Forest Management Plans;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Métis Nation of Ontario by means of its Lands and Resources Branch have the appropriate numbers of staffing put in place (where funds are available) to deal effectively with these outstanding issues before the next General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario in 2016.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
**(AGA-RES2015-014)**

Working together to build a strong future.  
Ensemble nous travaillons à bâtir un avenir solide.

Vale is proud to support the Métis Nation of Ontario. Through partnership, we are building a strong future for many years to come.

Vale est fier d'appuyer la Nation métisse de l'Ontario. Dans la voie du partenariat, nous bâtissons un avenir solide pour de longues années à venir.

VALE

For a world with new values.





**Resolution #:** AGA-RES2015-015  
**Title:** TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION IMPLEMENTATION  
**Mover:** Mitch Case  
**Seconder:** Kenneth Smale

**WHEREAS** after 6 years the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has concluded their comprehensive study of Canada’s genocidal experiment known as the Residential School System. **AND WHEREAS** the Summary report has been released and the full report is due to be released later this year. **AND WHEREAS** the summary report contained 94 recommendations for Canada, the Provinces, Municipalities, Industry and Media on how to reconcile between Indigenous and settler communities. **AND WHEREAS** although the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and the Truth and Reconciliation mandate largely excluded Métis from the TRC process, the legacy of Residential Schools has impacted and affected the Métis Nation and continues to affect our people. **AND WHEREAS** the process of reconciliation is going to take multiple generations for Indigenous peoples and Canada to reach a place of respect. **AND WHEREAS** by and large, Métis Youth understand the need for reconciliation, and it will be Métis Youth who will do the “heavy lifting” of reconciliation moving forward.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the MNO AGA 2015 call on all levels of Government in Ontario and Canada to act to implement the 94 recommendations of the TRC;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the MNO President write a letter to The Premier of Ontario and the Prime Minister (after the fall election) to demand that any steps toward implementation include Métis Individuals, families and communities;

**AND FINALLY BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** MNO actively engage youth via the MNOYC in any reconciliation related programs or partnerships.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
(AGA-RES2015-015)

**Resolution #:** AGA-RES2015-016  
**Title:** COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL  
**Mover:** Anita Tucker  
**Seconder:** Jennifer Parkinson

**WHEREAS** the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose states that its guiding principles are to:

- Encourage the full participation of all Métis in the Métis Nation;
- Promote and foster community development;
- Provide care and support necessary to meet the fundamental needs of citizens of the Métis

Nation; and

- Establish means of communication for the Métis Nation;

**AND WHEREAS** MNO citizens are represented at the local level through MNO Chartered Community Councils;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the MNO develop a “Community Relations Communication Protocol” using the LRC – Community Relations team as the liaison between the MNO branches, MNO staff, MNO Regional Councilors, MNO Community Councils, MNO Veterans, MNO Senators, MNO Captains of the Hunt, MNO Women Secretariat and the MNO Youth Council to ensure advanced communication regarding engagements, consultations, gatherings, MNO branch events, etc. happening in their regions and communities to ensure full representation and participation from MNO citizens.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
(AGA-RES2015-016)

**Resolution #:** AGA-RES2015-017  
**Title:** SUPPORT A MÉTIS YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
**Mover:** Mitch Case  
**Seconder:** Kelly Duquette

**WHEREAS** the MNO has always put youth as a top priority. **AND WHEREAS** the future of the Métis Nation depends on a strong and healthy youth population who are engaged and involved in the nation and have the necessary skills to carry on the legacy of the Métis Nation. **AND WHEREAS** most if not all other provincial aboriginal organizations already have an annual provincial youth conference.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that MNO seek funding to support a Métis youth leadership conference;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the MNOYC be engaged in and direct the process of planning the content of the conference;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the conference be geared towards building leadership capacity, culture, skills development;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the conference should be aimed at being an annual event; and,

**AND FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED** that the community councils be called upon to sponsor youth where possible.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
(AGA-RES2015-017)

**Resolution #:** AGA-RES2015-018  
**Title:** ETHICAL INVESTMENT  
**Mover:** Mitch Case  
**Seconder:** Ernie Gatien

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation was born from the land on which we now call he homeland **AND WHEREAS** as Indigenous people we have a special relationship with the land **AND WHEREAS:** our land has always provided for our people, even in the darkest times of colonization and loss of land. **AND WHEREAS** we as Métis people have rights which stem from our indigenous connection to land and our prior use of and connection to land prior to “effective control.” While these rights are enshrined in Canadian law, our customary law of the Métis Nation emphasize not only our rights, but our responsibilities, to land. **AND WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario has established Infinity Investments to facilitate the MNO to benefit from our rights and land. **AND WHEREAS** climate change, caused by human activity and carbon emissions is the biggest threat humanity has ever faced, and **AND WHEREAS** to deny the science behind Climate Change is unethical and is becoming a more well known issue for humanity to deal with. **AND WHEREAS** many Canadian universities and other organizations and institutions are divesting themselves of heavy carbon emitting investments.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2015 MNO AGA direct the PCMNO to work with MNO legal counsel to develop a policy to direct Métis Infinity Investments on what types of investments we find to be socially and environmentally responsible. This is not intended to bind Infinity from doing their job or generating profit but it is intended to create guidelines of the types of industry that simply do not fit with our Métis Worldview. For Greater certainty, the goal of this resolution is limit MNO investments from investing in heavy carbon emitting industries.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
(AGA-RES2015-018)

**Resolution #:** AGA-RES2015-019  
**Title:** COMMUNITY MÉTIS SPORT AND GAME INITIATIVE  
**Mover:** Anita Tucker  
**Seconder:** Jennifer Henry-Nicholson

**WHEREAS** the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose states that it guiding principles are to:

- To promote the history, values, culture, languages and traditions of the Métis Nation and to create an awareness of our proud heritage;
- Promote and foster community development; and
- To promote the improved health and wellness

of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community;

**AND WHEREAS** sport has been shown to play a primarily positive role in youth development, including improved academic achievement, greater confidence and self-esteem, stronger peer relationships and family attachment, fewer behavioural problems, better psychosocial development and greater involvement in volunteer work;

**AND WHEREAS** the playing of sports has repeatedly been shown to improve critical components of positive youth development such as competence, confidence, connections, character, and caring;

**AND WHEREAS** sports provide lifelong skills for those that play, such as the discipline of training, learning teamwork, following the leadership of coaches and captains, and learning to lose;

**AND WHEREAS** the MNO is committed to improving the health of all its citizens by encouraging healthy weights, active living and culturally appropriate interventions to achieve these goals;

**AND WHEREAS** a growing body of research points to community sport’s fundamental role as a primary generator of social capital within communities including improved social inclusion, crime prevention, fostering economic development and environmental sustainability;

**AND WHEREAS** sport and traditional Métis Voyageur games have always been a significant community activity for the Métis people;

**AND WHEREAS** MNO citizens are represented at the local level through MNO Chartered Community Councils;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the MNO develop a strategy to foster, develop and initiated both organized and traditional sport at the community and regional levels within the province of Ontario.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**  
(AGA-RES2015-019)



TD celebrates the 22<sup>nd</sup> MNO Annual General Assembly

Whether it’s help with your personal banking or more complex Aboriginal trust and lending advice – we are here to help.







# Thoughts from the AGA

We asked people to share what really stuck with them at this year's AGA. Here's what some of them said:



“What’s happening right now [with the SYCP facilitators at the fur trade camp], that’s a highlight for me: all of us here together, having a good time, sharing our knowledge and passing it on.”

**Alicia Blore**  
MNO SYCP Facilitator



“Every year, I always look forward to listening to the legal updates: where the Métis Nation is and where the Métis National Council is, the court cases and the advancing of Métis rights.”

**Derrick Pont**  
President, MNO Niagara Region Métis Council



“I want to know everything there is right now...I can't tell you how happy I am to be at this meeting today. This is exactly what I wanted – to meet all of you.”

**Wendy Elliott**  
Women's Representative for MNO Credit River Métis Council, speaking at the WSMNO meeting



“Sometimes, once a year, you get to see everybody and it's great. It's family!”

**Brenda Powley**  
Senator, MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council



“My ancestor was actually a guide for Samuel de Champlain...voyageur games, canoeing, they connect me to my culture and my ancestors.”

**Gerald Lavallee**  
MNO SYCP Facilitator



“It's nice to connect to everyone and connect to the elders I don't see often.”

**Kelly Duquette**  
Region 1 Representative on MNO Youth Council



“Seeing all the culture happening with so many young people is inspiring for me...There's an ebb and flow, where youth were kind of dormant but now we're coming back. Youth are taking a leadership role in every aspect of the MNO.”

**Mitch Case**  
PCMNO Youth Representative



“With the loss, first of all because she was ill, and then with the ultimate passing of, Barbaranne [Wright], we weren't always able to have meetings or get things accomplished. As we're here today, she's with us, and we're going to accomplish and get ahead and that's good.”

**Pearl Gabona**  
WSMNO Representative for Regions 5 and 8, speaking at the WSMNO meeting



“The highlight of this AGA was the Veterans' Book. I saw my late brother's picture in there and they're going to go to Vimy. I just hope the people get behind us for this!”

**Reta Gordon**  
PCMNO Executive Senator





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

PRESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# Annual Report 2014 -15

*“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 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

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 2014-15 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 towards 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 its direction from MNO citizens at the Annual General Assembly (AGA) and works closely with the 29 chartered community councils and their democratically elected leadership. At each AGA, you the citizens review the work of the MNO leadership and consider the MNO’s direction for the future. That is because for all the lists of achievements in this highlight of the current Annual Report and all the work done for the last 22 years; everything done in the past is ultimately to build a stronger future.



GARY  
LIPINSKI

MÉTIS NATION OF  
ONTARIO  
PRESIDENT

## SIGNING THE NEW MNO-ONTARIO FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Before discussing this year, however, 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 had a five-year term and was 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 well-being 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



▲ MNO Chair France Picotte at the 2014 AGA in Thunder Bay.





(left to right) MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson, MNO President Gary Lipinski, Premier Kathleen Wynne, MNO Chair France Picotte, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer and Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David de Launay.

“I am pleased to report that in the last year, the MNO moved forward on the objectives of the Statement of Prime Purpose and will see even more success in the years to come.”

— Gary Lipinski

Ontario entered negotiations for a new agreement and in November 2013 were able to sign an extension. Shortly afterwards, our two governments were 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.

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. MNO staff have facilitated community council charters and regional consultation protocols, which are now 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.

### ADVANCING MÉTIS RIGHTS

As always, the protection and advancement of Métis rights and self-government are front and centre in the MNO’s agenda. In early 2012, the Federal Court of Canada ruled 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 intervener status and Métis lawyer Jean Teillet represented the MNO. The Court released its decision on *Daniels v. Canada* on April 17, 2014, and upheld key aspects of the lower court rulings 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, 1867*, in the same way as First Nations and Inuit are recognized, and therefore the federal government should move to negotiate similar rights and benefits with Métis governments.

In a related matter, on May 15, 2014, *Keewatin et al. v. Ontario* appeal at the Supreme Court of Canada. The MNO intervened because it concerned Treaty 3, which is the only historic treaty negotiated with First Nations where Métis - as a distinct Aboriginal group - collectively adhered to a treaty. This appeal also has broader implications with respect to Canada’s ongoing jurisdiction and responsibility to protect treaty and Aboriginal rights under s. 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867* as also established in *Daniels v. Canada*.

The federal government has now appealed our lower court victories in *Daniels v. Canada* to the Supreme Court. A tentative hearing for the *Daniels* appeal has been set for October 8, 2015. We will continue to keep citizens updated on developments with respect to this crucial case. The *Daniels* case is critical because by and large, Métis communities have been excluded from federal land claim, self-government and reconciliation policies and negotiations. This is unacceptable to Ontario Métis. From the *Powley* case to the Manitoba Metis Federation case to the *Daniels* case, the message from the courts to federal government has been clear: reconciliation in Canada cannot continue to exclude the Métis people. Negotiation processes to address Métis rights, interests and claims are the only way forward.

Accordingly, the MNO has been actively involved in federal consultation processes. I met with Doug Eyford, the Federal Government’s Special Representative on the Comprehensive Claims Process, in November 2014. We were very pleased when Mr. Eyford released his recommendations on April 17, 2015, that he called for Canada to develop a process to support the exercise of Métis rights under section 35 (1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*



THE MATTAWA REPORT



## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO • ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



▲ 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.

◀ (left) MNO President Gary Lipinski (centre) at the Supreme Court on May 15 with (left to right) Nuri Frame from 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.

◀ (far left) President Lipinski and Benoit Pelletier, the federal government's Special Representative on the Specific Claims Process.

and for the reconciliation of Métis interests.

In addition, I also had the opportunity to meet with Benoit Pelletier, the federal government's Special Representative on the Specific Claims process on March 13, 2015. I am optimistic that the Special Representative will also recognize the need for the existing policies to be modified to include Métis and that a distinct Métis claims process be established.

Very likely, changes to these policies will not occur immediately, however, the writing is on the wall and at some point in time, Métis rights, interests and claims will finally be addressed by the federal government.

While we have been very vigilant concerning federal Métis issues, the MNO continues to work with the Ontario government on Métis rights issues as well. This important work has informed our negotiations with respect to the removal of the current 1,250 cap on Harvester Cards, Crown consultation and other rights-related issues.

Notably, in December 2014, the historic research project on the Mattawa-Nipissing region, which was overseen by a tripartite steering committee consisting of the MNO, Ontario and the federal government, was completed. This report is now available on the MNO's website under the Registry/Historic Research section.

Based on our interventions and positive relationship with the Ontario Government, we now have confirmation that the MNO will be included within Ontario's recently announced Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Strategy. This is a very positive development and will provide the opportunity to tell the Ontario Métis story, as a part of the history of treaty-making in this province as well as the contemporary recognition of Métis rights. In this fiscal year, we have received funding to consult with our citizens and communities on what initiatives we would like to see undertaken as a part of the Strategy. In addition, we continue to move towards finalizing joint assessments of the existing historic research on Ontario Métis communities.

## 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 think 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 post-secondary education, which 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 the responsibility of MNO staff that facilitates programs and other supports. Every MNO citizen needs to step forward and encourage young people to be their best. This may mean helping them save for a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) or simply communicating to our sons, daughters, nieces, nephews and grandchildren that completing high school and going on to post-secondary, the trades, or business is not only possible but something they should expect. Our youth should be encouraged to "go for their dreams," and know that with hard work anything is possible.

This year, MNO citizens and staff continued to respond very positively to my challenge and there are many indications that we are achieving success. The highest profile symbol of that success was the amazing MNO Canoe Expedition. On May 26, 2014, eight young Métis from across the province set out from Ottawa on an over 2,000 km canoe trek to Thunder Bay, where they arrived on August 22. It was the adventure of a lifetime but was also a great example of how the MNO helps young Métis become all they can be. The MNO Canoe Expedition provided the young voyageurs with experiential learning and taught them leadership and employability skills that will help them build their future careers. The MNO Canoe Expedition also promoted Métis heritage and pride as our modern voyageurs were dressed in authentic Métis clothing from the fur trade era and as they stopped at Métis communities throughout their journey, they participated in community festivals, events and demonstrated Métis cultural practices. I was filled with pride when along with a large number of other MNO citizens, I welcomed the Expedition members in Thunder Bay prior to last year's AGA.

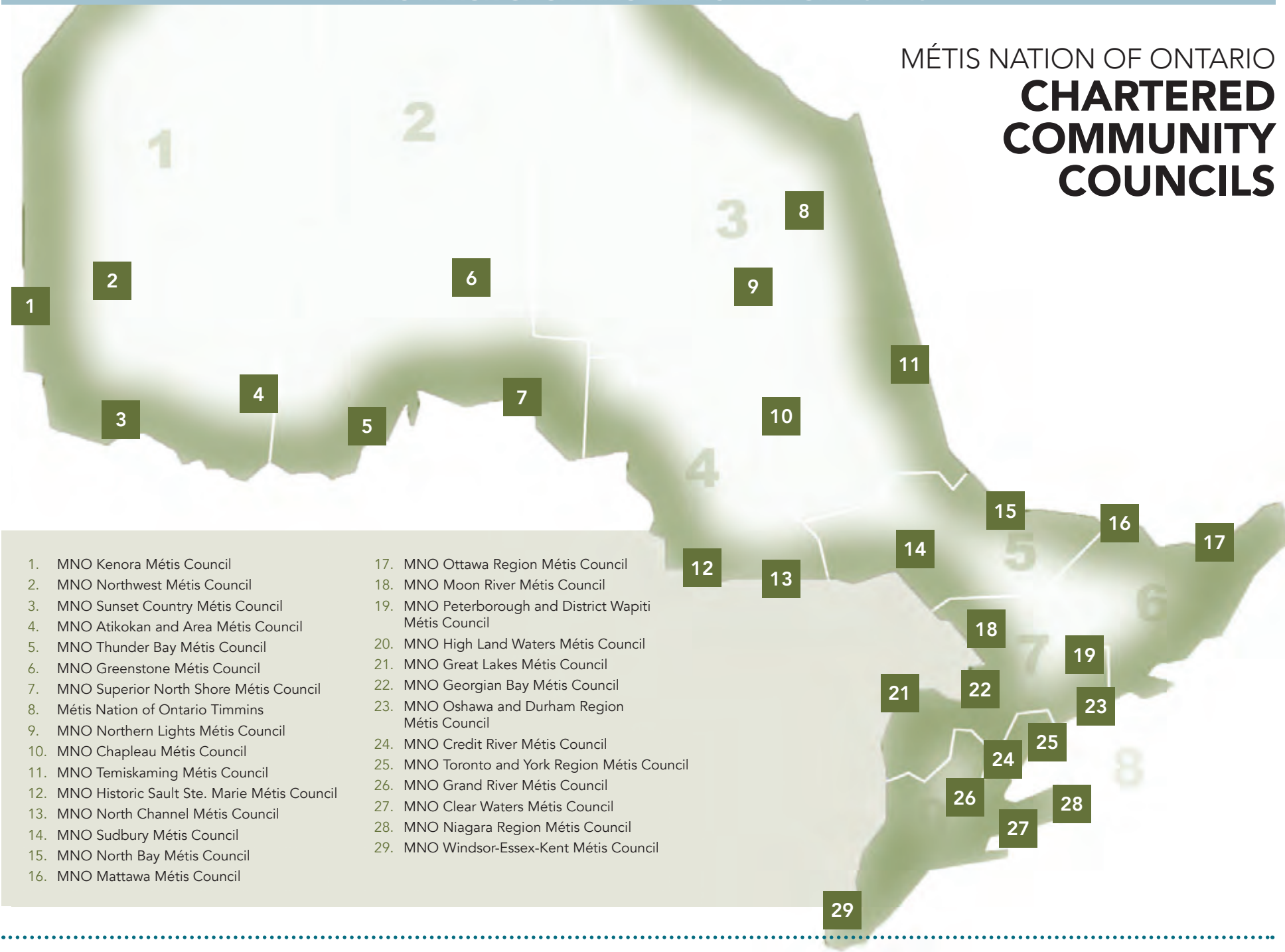
Even with the MNO Canoe Expedition complete, our young voyageurs continued to be a source of pride for the Métis Nation. On February 27, 2015, the members of the Expedition received the Lieutenant-Governor's Ontario Heritage Award. In the Fall of 2014 they were invited to speak to thousands of students at the Kitchener We Day. They were so well-received at that event that they were then invited to speak at the National We Day event in Ottawa on April 1, 2015. There in front of an audience of 15,000 young people and broadcasting to a national audience, they spoke



In 2014 the MNO introduced new wallet-sized Harvester's Certificate cards for citizens.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO  
CHARTERED  
COMMUNITY  
COUNCILS



of their pride in their Métis culture and heritage. They are a living example of the vision of the *Statement of Prime Purpose* being realized through the work of the MNO.

While the achievements of the MNO Canoe Expedition were impressive to say the least, it is only one element of the MNO’s continuing efforts to assist Métis youth. As we have in the last several years, this summer the MNO trained a strong contingent of facilitators through the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP). Located at MNO offices across the province, these young people promoted Métis heritage and culture at events and workshops while also learning valuable skills that will help them in their future careers.

The MNO Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network is another highly successful MNO youth project. Twenty-eight 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. The 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 was the largest ever, attracting 30 students from across Ontario.

Along with these exciting youth projects are the MNO’s long-standing employment and training programs that are supported by the federal government’s Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). ASETS funding supports a wide range of employment services for Métis people across Ontario including job training programs such as 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. Through these programs and services the MNO has helped so many Métis people. In 2010, the MNO signed a five-year \$30.6 million employment and training agreement through ASETS. The MNO’s solid employment and training delivery foundation combined with an ongoing commit-

ment to partnership and skills development resulted in the MNO being the first ASETS agreement approved in Ontario. The ASETS agreement was scheduled to end on March 31, 2015, however on November 17, 2014, the agreement was renewed for one year. We expect this will be long enough for the federal government to launch a new version of ASETS or announce new ASETS funding sometime in 2015-16.

One of the clearest indications that the MNO is successfully reaching young people is the large number of youth who are now attending MNO AGAs. Not that long ago we had only a handful of youth delegates at most AGAs but we have seen impressive numbers at both the 2013 and 2014 assemblies. I was very touched at the 2014 AGA when the sizable youth contingent at that assembly presented me with a beautiful beaded vest.

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 in Ontario.

WORKING TOWARDS ECONOMIC  
SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The future our young people will build is all the more promising because of the strides the MNO has made over the last several years towards economic self-sufficiency. Key elements in building self-sufficiency so far included the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Economic Development with the Ontario government in 2011, at the same time as the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) was established. In its first 15 months of operation the MVDF became the fastest growing Aboriginal financial institution in Canada and is already the second largest in Ontario.

The MNO took one of its most important steps towards economic self-sufficiency at the 2013 AGA when it passed its first



▲ MNO James Bay/Abitibi-Témiskamingue Consultation Committee and MNO staff during their site visit of the Detour gold Mine near Cochrane, Ontario.



▲ Jigging at the Halfbreed Hustle in Ottawa.



## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO • ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



▲ PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case presented President Lipinski with a beaded vest at the 2014 AGA.



◀ President Lipinski (R) with the Hon. Tracy MacCharles, Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services (L).



▲ President Lipinski welcomes the MNO Canoe Expedition as they arrive in Thunder Bay for the 2014 AGA.



▲ MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp participants (L-R) Brittany Bazinet, Gabe Picard, Paul Robitaille, and Heather Van Wyck.

law; the MNO Advancing Prosperity and Economic Self-Sufficiency Law. This law is advancing Métis self-government and is proving to be a significant landmark in Métis history along with other watersheds such as *R. v. Powley* and the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement. The MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law mandated the MNO to create Infinity Investments Limited Partnership (LP) as an independent and arms-length corporate structure to pursue business and economic development opportunities on behalf of Ontario Métis at the provincial, regional and local levels. Infinity Investments LP will consolidate all of the MNO's business operations and opportunities under one corporate structure. These MNO business ventures and opportunities already include over 50 rooftop and ground mounted solar projects throughout Ontario through MNO-Brightroof LP, impacts and benefits agreements with the Detour Gold and New Gold as well as several strategic joint ventures with other industry partners. In December 2014, Scott Patles-Richardson, a seasoned senior executive with over 20 years of experience in finance, corporate development and leadership was selected as Chief Executive Officer of Infinity Investments LP.

Infinity Investments LP will complement the mandate and work of the MVDF, which provides funding and support for resource or related sector Métis businesses. With Infinity Investments LP, the Métis Voyager Development Fund and our positive relationships with both government and industry, I believe the MNO is building a solid foundation that will enable our nation and communities to create wealth and become economically self-sustaining in the future. I look forward to Scott helping Ontario Métis in achieving that goal.

## LEADING THE WAY IN HEALING AND WELLNESS

The MNO enjoys a strong reputation as a leader and a strong partner that follows best practices in the field of Aboriginal healing and wellness. Three key areas where the MNO led the way this last year were in the development of a provincial Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy; taking action on the critical issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women; and continuing our

ground-breaking research on chronic diseases within the Ontario Métis population.

On January 21, 2015, I, along with MNO Chair France Picotte and MNO senior staff, participated in the third Métis and Urban Aboriginal Leadership Roundtable focused on the issue of developing an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy. Other participants in the meeting included the Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs and Children and Youth Services as well as representatives from the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) and the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA).

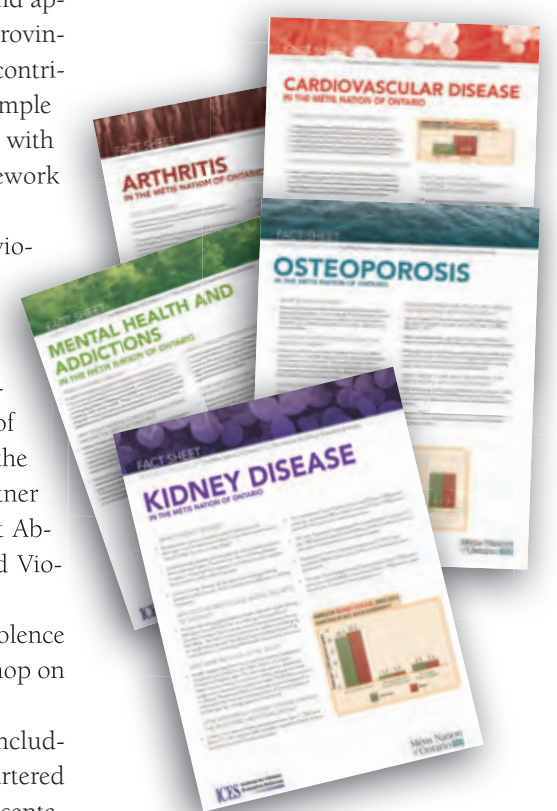
This meeting marked the final stage in an 18-month process of developing an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy and approved a framework proposal that will now go before the provincial Cabinet for consideration. The MNO made a valuable contribution to the creation of the proposal, which is another example of the importance of the positive relationship we have built with the Ontario government through the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement.

The 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, 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 2014 AGA.

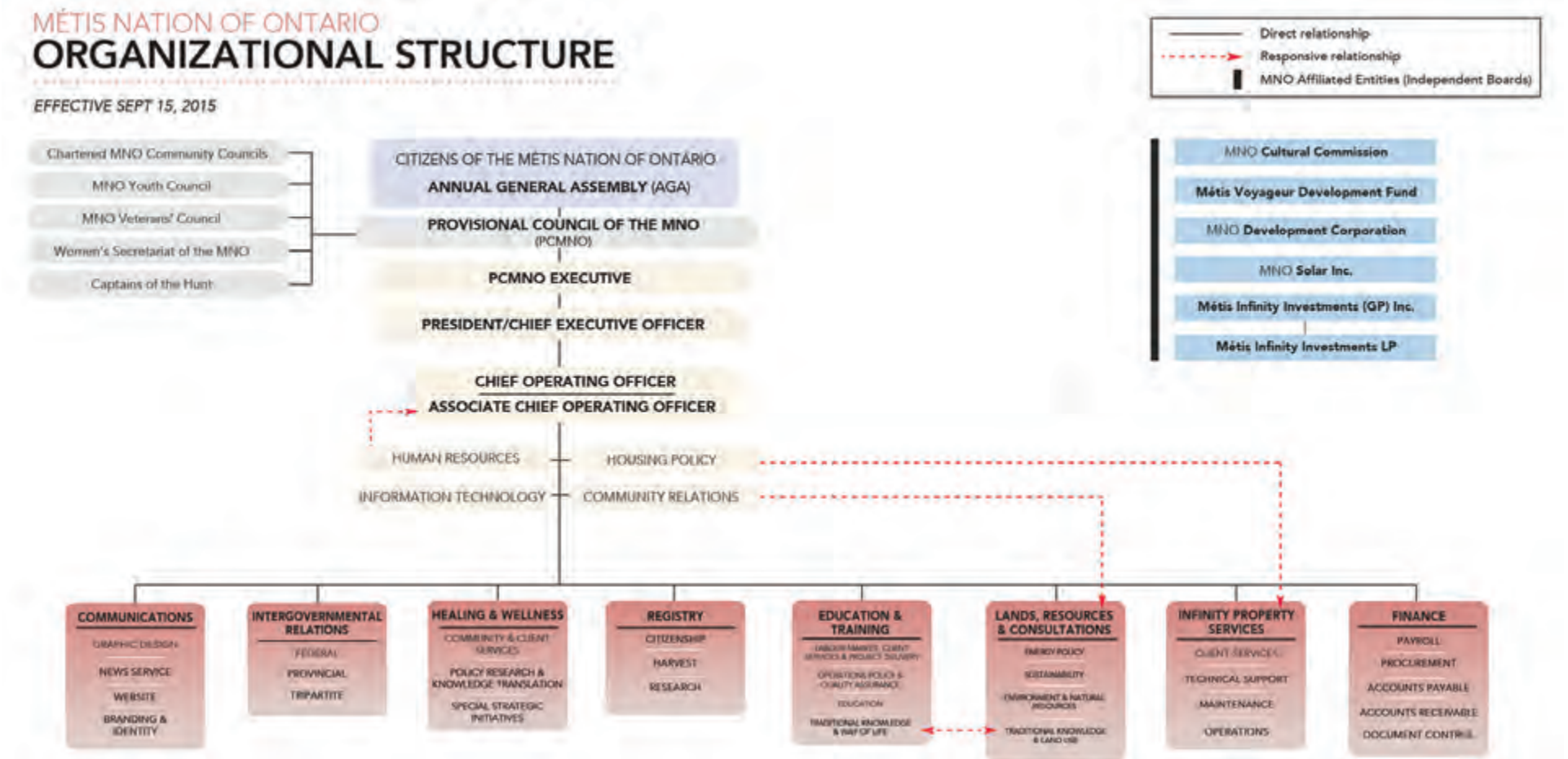
During the workshop, the MNO provincial leadership including the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO), chartered community council presidents and other community representatives, Captains of the Hunt and MNO staff were familiarized with all aspects of the violence against Aboriginal women issue as well as the efforts currently underway by the MNO to take action.

During the AGA itself, I brought forward a resolution, seconded by Sharon McBride, the Spokesperson for the Women's Secre-



In 2015, the MNO Healing and Wellness branch released fact sheets on chronic diseases affecting Métis in Ontario.





◀ 2012-16 PCMNO members: President Gary Lipinski; Chair France Picotte; Vice-Chair Sharon McBride; Secretary/Treasurer Tim Pile; Executive Senator Reta Gordon; Region 1 representative Theresa Stenlund; Region 2 representative Cameron Burgess; Region 3 representative Marcel Lafrance; Region 4 representative Ernest Gatien; Region 5 representative Juliette Denis; Region 6 representative Tom Thompson Jr.; Region 7 representative Pauline Richardson; Region 8 representative Anita Tucker; Region 9 representative Peter Rivers; Senator Rene Gravelle; Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle; Senator Joseph Poitras; Youth Representative Mitch Case; Post-Secondary Representative Jennifer Henry.

tariat of the MNO (WSMNO), calling for a national inquiry on the epidemic of murdered and missing Aboriginal women and for the adoption of The Declaration to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women. The resolution passed unanimously and as required by the resolution, I wrote Prime Minister Harper to call for a national inquiry on the issue.

Throughout 2014-15, MNO Victim Services staff members have developed resources to help individuals and communities address the issue of violence against women and I have been very pleased with the response of MNO citizens and communities. We have seen large numbers of Healing Blanket and Faceless Dolls workshops, as well as support for the Walking With Our Sisters campaign and other similar programs and events.

In cooperation with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Science (ICES), the MNO continued our ground-breaking research on chronic diseases within the Ontario Métis population. To date the MNO Chronic Disease Surveillance Program has done impressive work on the preponderance of diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular, respiratory and kidney diseases, asthma, arthritis, osteoporosis, mental health and addictions and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in the Ontario Métis population.

The full range of this research was showcased February 22-24, 2015, when over 200 health researchers and other professionals from 42 different agencies gathered in Toronto for the 2015 MNO Health Summit. Delegates represented non-profit organizations dedicated to disease prevention and cures, hospitals and other health institutions, government ministries and agencies, universities and colleges, Local Health Integration Networks, Aboriginal organizations and consulting groups. These representatives included medical doctors, university professors and researchers, government policy makers and elected officials.

The Summit included sessions on the latest data on coronary heart disease, diabetes, cancer, respiratory disease, musculoskeletal disease, renal disease, mental health, and health risk factors in the provincial Métis population. The data demonstrates that significant health disparities exist between Métis and the general Ontario population. The Summit also provided insight on community practices being developed by MNO staff and their part-

ners that aim to bring about measurable improvements in Métis health outcomes.

We are seeing high rates of modifiable risk factors in the Métis community like non-traditional tobacco use, diet, obesity, inactivity, sedentary living and alcohol consumption. We know from our citizens and from MNO client and community services that access to health services continue to be a major concern, which is why the MNO's Healing and Wellness programs and services are essential. All of this points to the importance of the MNO continuing its work on chronic diseases as well as its many other Healing and Wellness programs.

One of the pillars of the MNO's Healing and wellness programs over the last several years has been 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 with the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA), Nijikiwendidaa Anishinabe-kewwag Services Circle, the Native Women's Resource Centre (NWRC), Aboriginal Peoples Alliance of Northern Ontario (APANO), Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre, and the Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre in Peterborough.

## KEEPING THE MNO FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER

When I accepted the position of President, one particularly important commitment I made 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 proud to have been able to report ongoing improvements in this area at every AGA. I know that we all felt a great deal of satisfaction at the 2014 AGA when 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 a financial statement to indicate that conditions exist within an



▲ MNO citizens posing with their Métis healing blanket created during the MNO Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women workshop.



▲ Katelnye Stenlund plays the fiddle during the MNO Community Information Session held in Fort Frances.



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▲ MNO Community Council Presidents at the 2014 MNO AG. (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.



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

▼ MNOYC members (back row) Nicholas Delbaere-Sawchuk, Region 8; Kyle Grenier, Region 7; Alex Young, Region 9; Mitch Case, PCMNO Youth Representative (front row) Kelly Duquette, Region 1, Brianne Gosselin, Region 3; Janine Landry, Region 2. Not pictured: Sylvie Forest, Region 5; Phoebe Mandry, Region 6.



◀ 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).



▼ WSMNO committee members (back row) Barbaranne Wright, Pearl Gabona, Shirley Lynn Pantuso (front row) Rosalyn Calder, Sharon McBride.

audited organization that could potentially threaten its ability to remain “a going concern,” meaning to continue to operate. While the MNO has been steadily improving its financial picture since 2008, the 2013-14 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.”

I am pleased to report that in the past year we have continued to keep the MNO’s fiscal house in order.

As reported last year the MNO has already completely paid off its Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) debt and Employer Health Tax (EHT) debt. The repayment of this debt took only three years and four years respectively rather than the original 25 years the 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 with an es-

timated 24 years for repayment, but as of March 31, 2015 this has been reduced to \$592,011 with only three years left to repay. The amount owing to Health Canada was originally \$261,000 in 2008, but as of March 2014, it has been reduced to \$138,527.

While we continue to receive accolades and acknowledgement from 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 remain strong for the future

## MEETING THE 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





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▲ Community members from the MNO Credit River Métis Council enjoy a feast on Louis Riel Day 2014.



▲ Drummers take part in a vigil for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Thunder Bay.



▲ Gracie Masulka (front) jigs her feet to the music, at the Timiskaming Métis Council Harvest Gathering.



▲ Rajan and Kim Anderson perform at a Credit River Métis Council event.

▲ MNO Veterans' Council: President, Joseph Paquette; Chair, Guy Mandeville; Treasurer, Christopher Plummer; Sergeant-at-arms, Robert Baskey; Secretary, Greg Garratt; Senator for Veterans, Dr. Alis Kennedy; Women's Representative, Lisa Tessier.



▲ Métis youth from the MNO Clear Waters Métis Council ride in a float in the Tilsonburg Christmas parade.



▲ Participants hold the Métis flag at the Louis Riel Day celebration in Fort Frances.



▲ MNO Senator Carol Lévis models a capote wraparound coat in Guelph.

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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 interests. This is a testament to the firm commitment we hold as citizens of the MNO, that we all are committed to advancing the Métis agenda and helping our fellow Métis.

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 in our government. Nothing that took place in the last year could have been achieved without their selfless dedication and vision. I would also be remiss if I did not give a standing ovation to our dedicated, hardworking 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.

Considering the incredible contributions of all our volunteer leaders and citizens, it is very appropriate that on April 10, 2014, all of our MNO volunteers were acknowledged with the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism. This award recognizes individuals and groups for superlative volunteer contributions to their communities and to the province of Ontario. The award is named after the late June Callwood, a Canadian

journalist, author and social activist. She committed her life to action on social justice issues, particularly those related to women and children. She founded, or co-founded, more than 50 Canadian social action organizations. The award recognizes dedicated individuals and organizations who, like the late June Callwood, demonstrate exceptional leadership, creativity and innovation in their service to their communities and others.

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

Following in the footsteps of our founders and early leaders, we all continue to move forward together guided by the *Statement of Prime Purpose* and directed by MNO citizens at every AGA. With ever increasing attention from governments at all levels, industry proponents and the public, there may never be a better opportunity to capitalize on the gains made to date. "We aspire to attain our highest potential," is a worthy goal that I challenge all MNO citizens to embrace. ∞

*"We aspire to attain our highest potential," is a worthy goal that I challenge all MNO citizens to embrace."*

— Gary Lipinski  
President  
Métis Nation of Ontario