

# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

## 27<sup>th</sup> MNO Annual General Assembly to be held in Toronto

The Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) is pleased to announce that the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) 27th Annual General Assembly (AGA) will be held in the City of Toronto from August 21st-23rd, 2020.

The Toronto and York Region Métis Council will be working in close partnership with the Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council and the Credit River

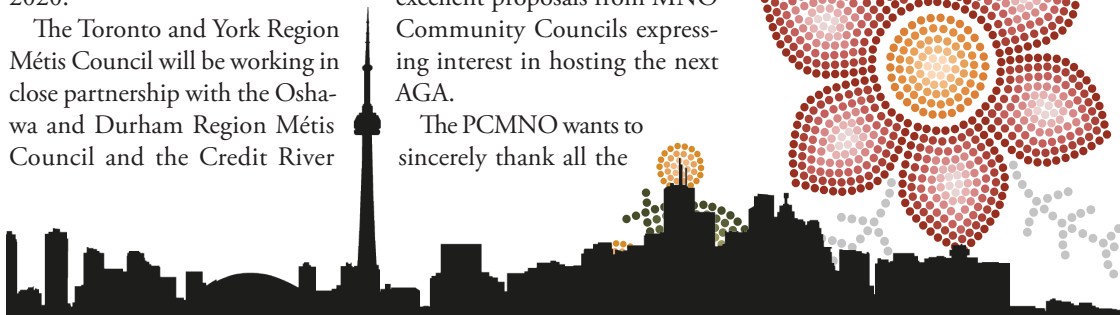
Métis Council to host next year's Assembly.

This past spring the MNO put out a call encouraging all chartered MNO Community Councils interested in hosting the AGA to consider submitting a business plan. The PCMNO reviewed two excellent proposals from MNO Community Councils expressing interest in hosting the next AGA.

The PCMNO wants to sincerely thank all the

MNO Community Councils that submitted expressions of interest.

More information on AGA 2020 will be coming in the new year.



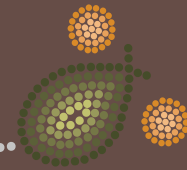
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## UPDATE ON NATIONAL MATTERS

There have been several developments that have taken place over this past year at a national level that have been reported on the MNO website, in the *Métis Voyageur* and shared via social media.

As one of the governing members of the Métis National Council (MNC) the MNO has continued to work with every other Métis government from Ontario westward to advance shared priorities and issues. MNO has been actively engaged in advancing and developing policy and realizing new and enhanced investments in key areas such as housing, employment and training, education, and early learning and

childcare through the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord*. Given the results of the most recent Federal election and priorities outlined in the Speech from the Throne it is expected that the work to collectively address key policy priorities will continue in 2020. In many areas further engagement with regions, communities and citizens will be required to inform new program development. More details will be shared with communities and citizens in the New Year.

Further, in June 2019 the MNO signed its historic *Métis Government Recognition and Self Government Agreement* with Canada alongside the governments of Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MNS) and the

Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). These three Métis governments are the first to have ever signed Métis Self-Government Agreements and since the signing have continued to work together on shared priorities.

As it has also been reported there have been other political matters underlying the work of the MNC. This included a resolution being narrowly passed at a meeting of the MNC General Assembly last November putting MNO on probation within the MNC.

Since that time there have been numerous written requests made by the MNO's President, as well as the Presidents of MNA and MNS to call for a meeting of the MNC Board of Governors to not only discuss the

probation resolution but to address many other pressing governance priorities. To date those requests have been repeatedly denied.

On November 6, 2019 Clem Chartier sent a letter to the MNC Board of Governors indicating he was removing himself from his "active role in national leadership" and indicated that the MMF President David Chartrand would assume the duties of national spokesperson for MNC. The letter also references a recommended date for a MNC General Assembly and election of April 28-29, 2020.

The most recent update on national matters can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2PM3oQI>

# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO REGISTRY UPDATE

**M**NNO Registry's Client Service Advocates are committed to returning client calls or emails within 5 days. All inquiries are tracked with a case number and have detailed notes on issues from personal updates, to harvester inquiries, to questions about how to apply.

The Harvester Application backlog was cleared by September 2019 and by October, 218 citizens were approved and sent Harvester Certificate letters. MNO Registry is testing in-house Harvester Certificate card printing this month, and aims to generate cards as soon as possible this way, to speed up card delivery times.

Research into Verified Métis Family Lines continues, with one recently approved, four more are close to being submitted for approval, and another 10 currently in progress.

## Community Council Lists:

The Registry has been working with MNO staff and Communities to develop a digital map that will illustrate council boundaries and map citizen locations. Updated Council lists have been generated and shared with each Council President on October 25, 2019.

Where gaps or issues have been identified the Registry will be working with MNO communities and staff to address corrections or gaps.

Moving forward, council lists will be created and shared twice yearly (January/July). Council Presidents or PCMNO Councilors who require lists outside of those dates can email the MNO Registrar directly, and will receive a list as soon as possible.

## Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (RSRP) Update:

In 2017 the MNO launched a review of every MNO citizenship file. As of the end of November 2019, 74% of the MNO's existing Citizenship files are either fully complete or will be with the provision of additional documents and as such meet the MNO's rigorous citizenship requirements. At this time 26% of the files remain incomplete.



**Decrease  
in Calls**



**Increase  
in Updates**



**Fewer card  
inquiries**

## File Reconsideration:

Citizens and applicants may submit additional documents for reconsideration to complete their files. In September and October 2019, file reconsideration led to an additional 252 complete files.

## Forms:

As policies develop, forms require updates to reflect changes. Updated applications will also help streamline processes for applicants and families. MNO Registry is currently reviewing all its forms: *Citizenship Application*; *Harvester Application*; *Oath of Allegiance*; *Registry Genealogical Chart*; *Change of Address*; and *Request for Replacement Card*. Forms that are no longer required include: *Declaration of Relationship*; and *Consent to Collect and Use Information*.

## Client Services - Staff:

Four new team members were trained this fall, and we now have six full-time Client Advocates who answer phones, process inventory, and return calls to citizens, applicants, harvesters and others within five business days. Two administrative staff process personal information updates, scan mail, manage documents, and ensure letters are sent on time. One client service manager ensures staff are following guidelines and meeting timelines.

Our team of nine genealogists check administrative and supporting documents attached to Citizen and Harvester Applications, review additional documents sent to the MNO Registry for reconsideration, undertake research, and advise whether citizen or harvester files are complete, incomplete or missing documentation. Team leads provide assignments and support to team members to ensure quality control.

Our two digital historians provide council lists, database support, and statistics for the MNO, among other things. The Registrar establishes guidelines and procedures, communicates with clients, manages the Registry Team, creates reports, and liaises with MNO staff as needed.

## Harvesters:

There is currently no backlog of Harvester Applications, which are being processed (along with renewals) within the 90-day timeline. In the new year, we will begin sending harvester card renewal reminders four months ahead of expiry.

## Citizenship Applications:

We continue to process new applicants within the 90-day timeline (five days for priority applicants).

You can reach a MNO Registry Client Advocate can be reached at **1-855-798-1006** or **info@mnoregistry.ca**.



Elina Hill

## Meet our MNO Registrar

Elina Hill is pleased to be working with MNO citizens and communities in her role as MNO Registrar, as part of the MNO's ongoing commitment to improving Registry systems and services for citizens and applicants.

Prior to this role, Elina led the Know History team in completing file review on over 20,000 citizen files for the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (RSRP), and over 3,000 applicant files in the effort to clear the MNO Registry backlog. She worked closely with the MNO to develop and implement clear systems and standards for file review to ensure quality and consistency.

Elina also conducted genealogical research and quality assurance as part of the MNO's Métis Root Ancestors Project in 2017. Combined with her work on various MNO Traditional Knowledge and Land Use (TKLU) studies and other technical reviews and reports, Elina's experience has given her a deeper understanding of MNO citizens' way of life and the organization's goals. Prior to her role with Know History, Elina researched TKLU and wrote cultural heritage overviews for several other Indigenous organizations in Canada, and led workshops on oral history practice and qualitative research.

Elina has a Master's degree in History and Cultural, Social, and Political Thought (CSPT), and a BA with majors in both English and History from the University of Victoria.



## Louis Riel Day

### Commemorative ceremony held at Provincial Legislature at Queen's Park in Toronto

Every year on November 16, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens and communities hold events across the province to commemorate the life and legacy of Métis leader Louis Riel.

A special ceremony is always held at the Provincial Legislature at Queen's Park in Toronto. Riel's execution in 1885 is one of the great tragedies of Canadian history, but it has also become a day to celebrate Métis culture and the continuing progress that Métis people are making in fulfilling Riel's dream of Métis taking their rightful place within Confederation.

Attending this year's provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony MNO were citizens and leaders as well as dignitaries from both the Ontario and federal government. President of Métis Nation–Saskatchewan, Glen McCallum also made remarks celebrating the achievements of the Métis

people in Canada, including the recent signing of historic Self-government Agreements earlier this year.

If you were unable to attend the ceremony in Toronto, see this year's video for highlights and comments regarding the 2019 Louis Riel Day celebration.



Watch a video on this year's Louis Riel Day events at Queen's Park at our website:

<https://bit.ly/2PGxMv7>

# The Path to Self-Determination, Se

## Métis Government Recognition and Self-

Until now the **Métis Nation of Ontario** has relied on corporate structures to act as it's legal and administrative arms

Métis Nation  
of Ontario 

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### Internal MNO Work

Some of the internal Self-Government readiness work the MNO will have to do includes: extensive consultation with citizens, build a Constitution, draft a core set of laws, and ratification

## UPDATE

# The Path to Self-Government

**A**s it has been widely reported, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) signed the historic Métis Government Recognition and Self Government Agreement (MGRSA) with Canada in June 2019. The MGRSA is a core self-government agreement that sets out a series of steps that must be taken to effectively move the MNO to becoming a Métis Government recognized in Canadian Law.

The MNO has been working with each of the MNO's nine Regions to discuss and negotiate Regional Implementation Agreements (RIAs).

These RIAs are similar to the Regional Consultation Protocols the MNO have with each region (which set out how the MNO approaches the general duty to consult), in that they contain consistent principles that are being customized to meet the needs of each MNO Region. The RIAs are intended to provide more detail on how MNO's levels of governance will work together to implement the MGRSA. The RIAs also include a provision to develop and negotiate an agreed upon work plan that sets out next steps, timelines for how the Secretariat and Regions will build core governance capacity within the Métis

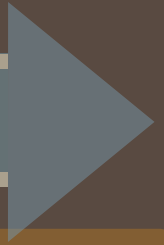
Community. To date, three regions have signed RIAs.

At the same time as these regional discussions are taking place the MNO is working to develop a province-wide communications and consultation engagement process for Constitution development that will ensure all citizens receive consistent and frequent updates and have every opportunity to provide their input as we collectively move forward together.

Further updates can be expected early in the New Year and in the upcoming edition of the *Métis Voyageur*.

# Self-Government and Reconciliation

## Government Agreement implementation



2

### Negotiations with Canada

Trilateral negotiations between **MNO, Canada** and **Ontario** based on existing Framework Agreements and the Self-Government Agreement will have to be undertaken

### Outcome

**A Democratic, Self-Determining Métis Government** with stable funding and capacity to improve the quality of life of its citizens, advance and protect Métis rights that is recognized as Indigenous Government in Canadian law

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**Internal MNO Work**

Internal work the MNO will have to do in the Self-Government process





Métis WWII Veterans George Ricard and Guy Lafreniere

## Ontario Métis Veterans of WWII honoured in Ottawa

On a frosty November 8th morning in Ottawa dozens of individuals gathered at the base of the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument to await the arrival of two honoured guests: Métis World War II veterans George Ricard and Guy Lafreniere.

Métis citizens, leaders and delegates from across Canada met at the monument for the special ceremony and formal acknowledgment of Ricard and Lafreniere's wartime contributions. A third veteran, Joseph Willmer Gagnon, was recognized the following afternoon at Port Hope's Royal Canadian Legion Branch 30 on November 9th.

The ceremony followed in the wake of the Federal Government's formal apology in



Joseph Willmer Gagnon (left) and MNOVC President Brian Black.

September that acknowledged Canada's history of neglect in responding to the needs of returning World War II Métis veterans.

In attendance at the Ottawa ceremony were Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh, MNO Veterans

Council President Brian Black, Métis National Council Minister of Veterans Affairs David Chartrand, Federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennett, and the Minister of Indigenous Services Seamus O'Regan.

In addition to receiving an official apology from Canada, each of the veterans were awarded cheques to the amount of \$20,000—a gesture of reconciliation and outlined in the *Canada-Métis Nation Métis Veterans Recognition Payment Agreement*.

This agreement also sets in motion plans to ensure that the legacy of our Métis Veterans will continue.

**Read the full story at:**  
<https://bit.ly/2MgoXX0>

## MNO ready to work with new federal cabinet

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his government's new federal cabinet on Wednesday, November 20. The new cabinet includes 36 ministers, half of which are women.

As promised by the Liberal government, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples remains a priority, which will include working closely with the Métis peoples to address critical issues affecting their communities.

The new cabinet includes the re-appointment of Minister Carolyn Bennett, who will continue as Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. Minister Bennett was signatory to the history-making Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement signed on June 27 of this year. The first agreement of its kind in Canada, the Agreement provides the MNO with long-sought-after federal recognition and a clear path forward towards realizing full recognition as a government.

The MNO expects to maintain close and productive working relationship with Minister Bennett and to continue to work together to address the needs of Métis communities and citizens.

The MNO also welcomes the appointment of Quebec MP Marc Miller, who will be joining cabinet as the new Minister of Indigenous Services.

## MNO Early Learning Camp

January 23-26, 2020 • Canadian Ecology Centre, Mattawa

The Métis Early Learning Camp is an opportunity for Métis early learners (between the ages of three and six), their siblings, and parents to experience Métis culture and way of life from an early learning perspective. Children will participate in hands-on play-based indoor and outdoor cultural activities in a safe and engaging manner. Parents will be able to learn more about programs and services offered by the Métis Nation of Ontario.

**Application available at:** [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org) **Deadline:** January 10, 2020





# Métis culture alive and well

MNO Fall Cultural Gathering in Muskoka brings MNO Community reps together to learn and share

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens, council representatives and leadership were at Lake Rosseau in the Muskoka region in December for the MNO Fall Cultural Gathering. Over four days, attendees participated in self-governance discussions, cultural activities and workshops, sharing stories and learning more about exciting developments in MNO's programs and services.

Members of the PCMNO were in attendance, including MNO President Margaret Froh who greeted attendees Monday morning with an update on self-governance and the road ahead and gave big thanks to the leadership and citizens throughout Ontario as well as all MNO staff for putting the Fall event together.

Over the course of the week, various

MNO branches held presentations and program booths were established for individuals seeking information on MNO programs and services.

Cultural activities and workshops offered throughout the week allowed attendees to try their hand at finger-weaving, beading, embroidery, fiddling, pemmican-making and more. Award-winning Métis author of *The Marrow Thieves* and *Empire of Wild* Cherie Dimaline, as well as artist, activist, and scholar Dylan Miner, the Director of American Indian and Indigenous Studies at Michigan State University provided keynote speeches.

**Check our Facebook page for more photos from the event!**



Best-selling Métis author and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Cherie Dimaline was a featured speaker at this year's Cultural Gathering. Widely recognized and acclaimed for her young adult novel *The Marrow Thieves*, Dimaline is a descendant of the historic Georgian Bay Métis Community and grew along the shores of Georgian Bay.

In her presentation, Dimaline shared an excerpt from her new book, *Empire of Wild*, which tells the story a Métis woman's search for her husband while a fearsome 21st century version of the 'Rogarou' lurks and threatens. Dimaline reflected on the importance of stories and how they can "carry home" for dispossessed peoples who have to move at a moments notice.

**Watch Cherie Dimaline's keynote speech:**  
<https://bit.ly/2SaSe9i>

## PCMNO REPORT

# Thanks Ernie!

Region 4 PCMNO Councillor stepping down to enjoy “second retirement”

At the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) meeting on November 18, 2019, Region 4 PCMNO Councillor Ernest Gatien submitted his resignation from the PCMNO, effective December 31, 2019. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) wishes to acknowledge Ernie for his contributions and years of service to MNO citizens from Region 4 and across Ontario.

Ernie was served on the PCMNO as Region 4 Councillor since 2012 and has served on several PCMNO committees. He has been a strong advocate for advancing the interests

and aspirations of MNO Citizens in Region 4 who have noted Ernie’s generosity with his time and knowledge.

Ernie was the recipient of the 2015 Suzanne-Rochon Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award and also acted as an Assistant Captain of the Hunt for before being acclaimed to the PCMNO in 2012.

In Ernie’s own words “It is time for me to leave and take some time to enjoy my second retirement, my family, trapping and motorcycle riding.” The MNO extends sincere thanks to Ernie for his service and wishes him the best.

## Region 4 PCMNO Councillor position vacancy

This notice, posted on behalf of Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Chair France Picotte, is to inform Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens residing in Region 4 that the position of Region 4 Councillor on the PCMNO will be vacant as of December 31st, 2019 due to the notice of resignation of Regional Councillor Ernie Gatien.

Section 23 of the MNO Bylaws defines the subsequent action to be taken:

*“If any vacancy occurs the PCMNO may appoint as a replacement, a citizen of the MNO who would be eligible for that office and that person shall hold office until the next election.”*

A complete copy of the MNO Bylaws can be viewed at the MNO website ([metisnation.org](http://metisnation.org)).

Accordingly, the PCMNO intends to fill the vacancy at its upcoming

meeting, scheduled in January 2020.

MNO citizens residing in Region 4 interested in holding the position of Region 4 Councillor until the next MNO election in May 2020 should write a letter describing why they would like to serve as the Region 4 Councillor, and indicating what they can bring to the position, and send the letter along with their current résumé to:

Palwasha Asey  
Executive Assistant  
Métis Nation of Ontario  
66 Slater Street, Suite 1100  
Ottawa, ON, K1P 5H1  
e: [PalwashaA@metisnation.org](mailto:PalwashaA@metisnation.org)

The letter and résumé must be received on or before, **4:30 pm, Friday, January 3, 2020**. Please share this information with other citizens in Region 4 especially those who you think would represent the Region well.

# Métis Governments of Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan to hold Tri-Council meeting

An historic Tri-Council Meeting of the Métis governments of Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta will take place in Edmonton, Alberta from January 14 to 16, 2020.

The Tri-Council Meeting will bring together the three democratically elected councils of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MNS) and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) along with other key representatives to discuss best practices and shared policy and governance priorities.

As signatories to *Métis*

*Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreements* with Canada, the MNO, MNS and MNA represent a collective body of more than 200,000 Métis citizens and have increasingly been working—together—to advance these Agreements, and strengthen their respective government to government relationships.

This meeting will function as a collaborative forum for the three Métis governments who signed Self-Government Agreements to share information and outline joint priorities going forward.

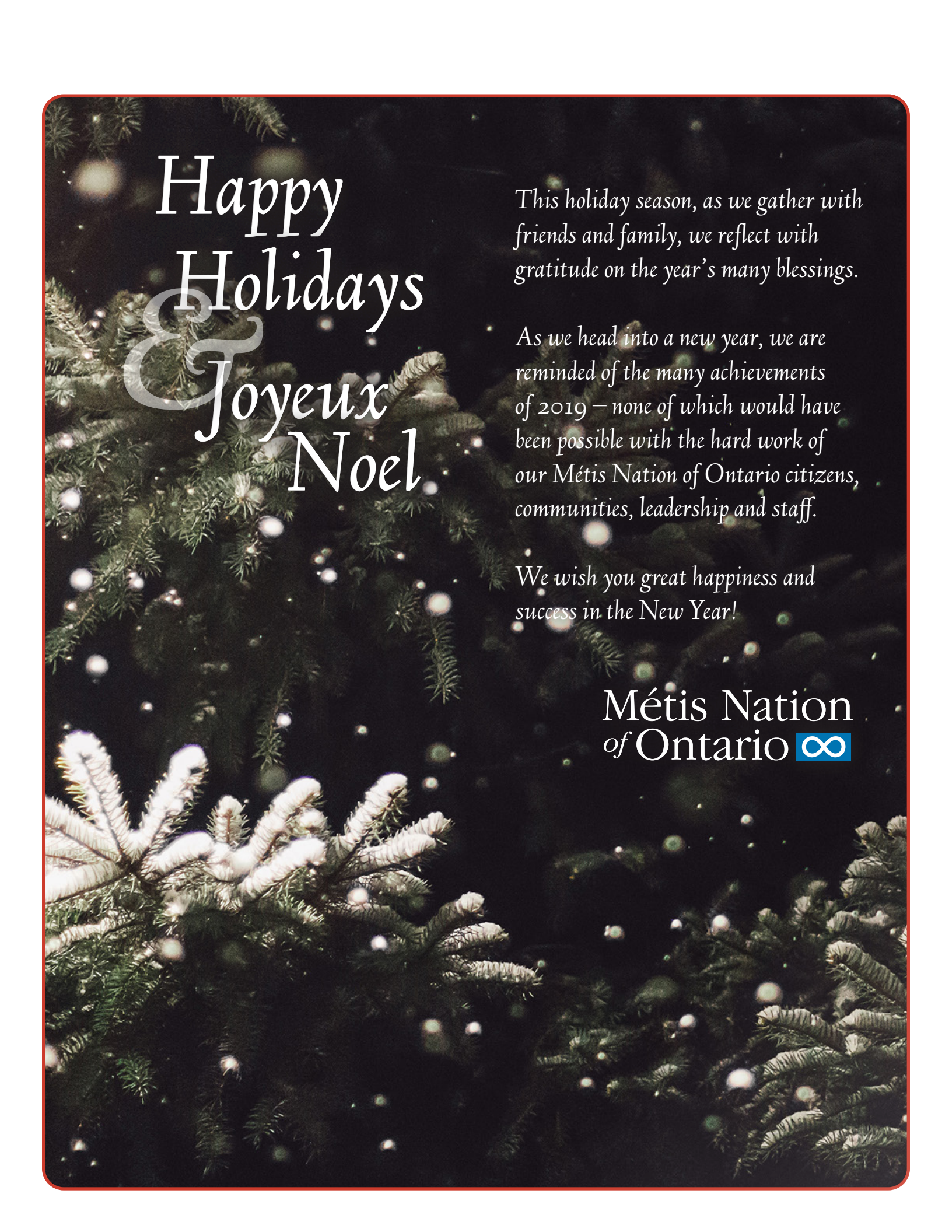
## Next PCMNO meeting scheduled for January 2020

As the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) will be travelling to Edmonton for the historic Tri-Council Meeting, a meeting of the PCMNO has been scheduled immediately follow-

ing from **January 17 to 18, 2020**.

In addition the next groupings of all adopted PCMNO Meeting Minutes for 2019 will be sent out to MNO leadership prior the January meeting.

There is still time to get your stories into the Jan/Feb 2020 issue of *Métis Voyageur*. Please send submissions to [CommOps@metisnation.org](mailto:CommOps@metisnation.org) by January 10th, 2020.



*Happy  
Holidays  
&  
Joyeux  
Noel*

*This holiday season, as we gather with friends and family, we reflect with gratitude on the year's many blessings.*

*As we head into a new year, we are reminded of the many achievements of 2019 – none of which would have been possible with the hard work of our Métis Nation of Ontario citizens, communities, leadership and staff.*

*We wish you great happiness and success in the New Year!*

Métis Nation  
of Ontario 