The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) welcomed Citizens to the 27th, and first-ever, virtual Annual General Assembly (AGA) on Saturday November 7, 2020. More than 560 MNO Citizens, leadership and guests from around the province attended the highly anticipated annual event. The AGA is Métis self-government in action, as it offers an opportunity for MNO Citizens to meet, discuss and evaluate the preceding year and set direction for the future. Traditionally held in-person, this year’s AGA moved online to ensure the health and safety of its participants during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

PCMNO Senator Joe Poitras led an opening prayer, and then PCMNO Chair Hank Rowlinson and Vice-Chair Sharon Cadaire began the proceedings that would run smoothly throughout the day.

“We have a very busy day ahead of us,” said MNO President Margaret Froh in her opening remarks. “We’ll be hearing greetings from our partners, federal and provincial government leaders, and leaders from within the MNO – and honoring and recognizing those relationships is important.”

Welcomes and Greetings

Video greetings were shared by representatives from Ontario and Canada, including Premier of Ontario Doug Ford; Minister of Indigenous Services, Marc Miller; Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras; and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Glen McCallum.
The Best is Yet to Come

Together, we accomplished a great deal in 2020, despite unprecedented challenges.

I would first like to thank all of our Citizens, staff, and leadership for their incredible, tireless efforts over the past year. It hasn’t been easy work, but together we’ve witnessed the true strength of our communities through a continued show of support, a dedication to our cause, and consistent acts of kindness taking place every day across our communities.

I’m incredibly proud of the work that has been accomplished, at all levels, despite the challenges we’ve faced this year. There are so many things worth recognizing and celebrating, and I’d like to share some of the highlights from this past year.

Covid-19 Response

It would be impossible to include a review of this past year without acknowledging the challenges presented by Covid-19. In spite of the challenges, we’ve also seen truly inspiring work from our communities, Councils and staff. I would like to acknowledge the swift response of MNO staff, who adapted quickly and safely to this new environment.

I’d also like to acknowledge the actions taken by our Community Councils and Advisory Councils for their contributions as well. We’ve received reports from so many citizens of their gratitude to the Councils and their outreach efforts.

We’ve also received an impressive response from Federal and Provincial partners to ensure the MNO has the resources to expand programs and manage Covid-19 within our communities. Thanks to these collective efforts, an entire system of services and programs for Covid-19 were quickly developed and rolled out to our communities.

Self-Government, Tri-Council and National Update

We continue work to advance the historic Métis Government Recognition and Self Government Agreement (MGRSA) we signed in 2019 alongside our Tri-Council partners, Métis Nation of Alberta and Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. The Tri-Council held its inaugural meeting in Edmonton in January 2020, where our three governments shared key priorities, established joint declarations, and discussed aspects of our respective Registry systems.

The Tri-Council met again in March for Oti-pemisikwak, the first ever conference focused on Métis self-government, and provided an opportunity to connect leadership and communities. This year, we’ve hired a Director of Self-Government Strategy, Brian Black, who will coordinate a respectful process for engagement with MNO regions and Community Councils to advance the MGRSA.

You might have seen a recent Open Letter to Métis Nation Leaders and Citizens, as we continue to respond to challenges occurring at the national level, and call for reform of the Métis National Council (MNC).

New and expanded MNO programs

In addition to new Covid-19 Supports, the MNO has continued to create and expanded upon other programs and services.

• Early Learning and Childcare introduced a new Child Care Subsidy Program, Early Learning Family Camps, Back-to-School Kits and many more.
• Seasonal Métis Youth Culture Camps for secondary students have moved online but continue to be an incredible learning opportunity for youth.
• The MNO Post-Secondary Education Support Program was introduced to help Métis students access education and achieve their dreams.
• MNO Housing & Infrastructure Branch, introduced a Housing Stabilization Program, and homelessness supports.
• MNO’s Healing & Wellness branch now offers Enhanced Diabetes Support; and launched a 24-hr Mental Health Crisis Line.
• MNO has launched a project to improve the Children, Youth, and Family Services System for Métis communities by working to build a Métis-specific system.

Since the election in June, the PCMNO have held five full weekends of meetings as well as numerous evening sessions to discuss and debate the business of the MNO and make decisions to drive the MNO forward. Key decisions include:

• Permanent waving citizenship and harvest certificate application and renewal fees.
• Appointments to the MNO’s Economic Development Working Group.
• Establishing the MNO Children & Youth Family Services Advisory Group.
• Approving a distribution plan for the New Relationship Fund (NRF).
• Launching a community engagement process to get feedback from citizens on the establishment of an MNO Ethics & Integrity Commissioner and new MNO wide Code of Conduct.
• Regular Town Halls with Leadership. (look for more All-Citizen Town Halls in the new year).

2020 Virtual AGA

As you all know, the 27th annual and first ever virtual AGA was held in November, and allowed the MNO to move ahead with critical business, test out new technology, and connect with Citizens. Several elections also took place virtually at the AGA, including the MNO Women’s Council and Senators. A recording of the AGA is available online and on the MNO YouTube channel.

Together, we have accomplished a great deal in 2020, despite it’s unprecedented challenges. Again, I thank all of our Citizens, Communities, Staff and Leadership for their ongoing efforts and support throughout this last year. We have so much to be proud of, and I’m looking forward to many more exciting developments in 2021.

Thank you, mari’s and mugs!tch.

Margaret Froh
President
Métis Nation of Ontario
Métis Nation-Living in the year 2021

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNO) is a sovereign nation recognized by Canada and the United States as a distinct Indigenous nation. The MNO is committed to advancing Métis rights in Alberta and ensuring that Métis people have access to their own land and resources.

During the January 30–31, 2021 meeting of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), the PCMNO agreed to move forward with a two-day Virtual AGA on September 18–19, 2021, which will incorporate more information updates, cultural events and workshops. Watch for more information in the coming months.

Accessibility is our New Year’s Resolution: MNO launches new accessible and mobile-friendly website

Just in time for the New Year comes a new look for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) website! And as we head into 2021, our resolution is to make sure our website is accessible to all of our Citizens by working to eliminate potential barriers. We hope for your support and feedback as we get to work implementing this resolution to the best of our abilities!

With this new website, we hope that all Citizens will be able to access timely news and information about the MNO and our programs and services, regardless of potential disabilities. As we aspire to make the website the best it can be, we ask for your support and feedback during this significant transition. A survey will be circulated early in the New Year, and we invite you to be a part of our redesign process by providing us with your recommendations and input.

The MNO Communications team will endeavour to incorporate as much feedback as possible. However, it is important to note that some features of the old site cannot be replicated within the new site because of Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act requirements, mobile requirements, and technological updates that have occurred since the original site was first launched.

We look forward to hearing about how the MNO community likes our new look and hearing your feedback! We also thank all Citizens, staff, community members, and members of the public in advance for their patience as we carry out this exciting transition!

To learn more about the accessibility requirements for government and non-profit organizations in Ontario check here: bit.ly/371wgwD.

If you have any comments or questions about the new MNO website please contact:
Marc St. Germain
MNO Director of Communications
marcs@metisnation.org
Tel: 613-314-9402

www.metisnation.org
The MNO Women’s Council (MNOWC) held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) and elections virtually on Sunday, November 8. Women attending the online AGM reviewed the morning’s agenda, meeting minutes, rules for decorum, and financial reports. A new website dedicated exclusively to the MNOWC (mnowc.com) was unveiled and features a leadership toolkit among other resources. The AGM also discussed criteria for the Métis Women Honouring Women Award, whose nominations must be in by July.

Candidates running for regional women representatives were provided an opportunity to introduce themselves and their platforms for the MNOWC election that also took place on Sunday. All election results are available on the MNOWC elections website.

Results from the Métis Nation of Ontario’s Women’s Council (MNOWC):

- **Suzanne Jackson** President
- **Collette Surovy** Region 1 Representative
- **Kelly Camacho** Region 2 Representative
- **Liliane Ethier** Region 3 Representative
- **Lisa L. Lewis** Region 4 Representative
- **Lynne Goulquier** Region 5 Representative
- **Cora Bunn** Region 6 Representative
- **Patricia Taylor** Region 7 Representative
- **Teresa (Tera) Beaulieu** Region 8 Representative
- **Colleen Brunelle** Region 9 Representative

MNO Veterans who registered for MNO AGA 2020 were eligible to vote to fill vacancies on the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans’ Council (MNOVC). On Sunday, November 8, Veterans who registered for MNO AGA 2020 received an email from One Feather, an election services company contracted by MNO’s Chief Electoral Officer. Results from the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans’ Council election on June 1 and the MNO AGA are below:

- **Suzanne Jackson** President
- **Collette Surovy** Region 1 Representative
- **Kelly Camacho** Region 2 Representative
- **Liliane Ethier** Region 3 Representative
- **Lisa L. Lewis** Region 4 Representative
- **Lynne Goulquier** Region 5 Representative
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- **Jordyn Playne** MNOYC President / PCMNO Youth Rep
- **Jeffrey Dusome** Chair
- **Emily O’Connor** Region 1
- **Vacant** Region 2
- **Samantha Picotte** Region 3
- **Warren McFadden** Region 4
- **Janna Rose** Region 5
- **Kelly Duquette** Region 6
- **Dalton Latondress** Region 7
- **Gabrielle Moreau** Region 8
- **Paige Coture** Region 9

MNO Senators attended a virtual meeting on November 8, 2020. The meeting agenda included the election of the four Senators that sit on the PCMNO, as well as electing one Senator to sit on the Executive Committee of the PCMNO. MNO Chief Electoral Officer Paul Devillers and MNO President Froh were on hand to review the roles of the PCMNO Senators and the Executive Senator. Candidates who put their names forward were given the opportunity to address the other Senators. The election appointed four Senators to the PCMNO. Then a second poll took place and an Executive Senator was selected from those four. Those elected to Senator positions include:

- Shelly Claus
- Rene Gravelle
- Joseph Poitras
- vacant (Executive Senator)

MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS AGA SPONSORS
T he Métis Nation, like other Indigenous peoples ravaged by the long-lasting ef-fects of colonization, is held together by the love, care and dedication of its citizens. The Métis Nation of Ontario is an idea – an idea that so many have believed in since the founding of the MNO nearly 3 decades ago. It is an idea, that is rooted in a firm belief that we, the Métis people in Ontario have the right to self-determination, and the right to speak up for ourselves, an idea we have held dear since the earliest days of the formation of our Nation.

Volunteerism has been the cornerstone upon which the MNO has been built, and it remains key to the progress that we are making today. We may, from time to time take for granted those who give of their own time to the nation. We may occasionally forget that those who give their time to the nation, are taking that time away from their families, and away from themselves. In our collective busyness, our focus is on reaching our collective goal – but sometimes we are faced with a challenge that brings it all into focus.

From the early days of the pandemic, we looked inward and we knew that if we were going to get through this it would be through pulling together. It would be from each of us giving what we could, and each of us reaching out for the support they needed in this time. Each of us knowing that our community was there for us. This is the meaning of community, that is what makes us a Nation.

With this in mind, the 2020 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award goes to: "COVID-19 Volunteers"

In 2014, the Métis Nation of Ontario Accepted the June Callwood Award for Volunteerism on behalf of all of the thousands of volunteers in the MNO, in much the same way, the 2020 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett award is awarded to the Métis Nation of Ontario Community Councils, the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council, the Métis Nation of Ontario Women’s Council and the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council.

When the pandemic hit, hundreds of MNO citizens – some in leadership positions, many not, stepped up to give their time, skills and talents to helping their community members through this unprecedented time. Outstanding acts of volunteerism were seen in all corners of the MNO.

- Harvesters put on their orange and secured traditional food for our community freezers.
- Women put their sewing machines into high gear and distributed thousands of masks across the Métis homeland.
- Artists and performers came forward and kept our communities connected through our art and culture.
- Youth stepped up to organize Virtual Kitchen Parties and held online workshops to connect those who were struggling to finish school in the middle of the lockdown period.
- Senators took to the phones to provide support to those struggling with the stress of the pandemic and through their weekly prayer protected the nation.
- Community Council members and volunteers delivered groceries, medicine, and other supplies to those who could not get out, our most vulnerable who needed to be shielded from the virus. They arranged food hampers, children’s activities and worked tirelessly to connect citizens with the MNO staff who could administer one the MNO COVID-19 relief programs.
- Veterans stepped up and delivered groceries, made masks and connected with those in quarantine.
ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION

IT’S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

We are taking responsibility to protect the environment now and create a cleaner future with enduring solutions for our wastes.

Nuclear Power Demonstration Closure Project
We are proposing to complete the decommissioning of the Nuclear Power Demonstration (NPD) facility. Since the reactor is mostly below grade in bedrock, the safest technique is in-situ disposal, which ensures people and the environment remain protected. Right now this project is in the midst of a federal environmental assessment. We’ve been talking to the MNO about this project, learning more and incorporating Métis traditional knowledge into the project.
Interested in learning more about the NPD Program or upcoming engagements? Visit cnl.ca/NPD

Near Surface Disposal Facility Project
Canadian Nuclear Laboratories is proposing the construction and operation of the near surface disposal facility for the permanent disposal of solid, low-level radioactive waste at the Chalk River Laboratories. The specifically designed facility will enable the remediation of historically contaminated lands to reduce environmental risk as well as enable the decommissioning of outdated facilities to ensure revitalization of the science and technology mission at the Chalk River Laboratories site. We’ve been talking to the MNO about this project, learning more and incorporating Métis traditional knowledge into the project.
Interested in learning more about the NSDF Program or upcoming engagements? Visit cnl.ca/NSDF

Douglas Point Decommissioning
The Douglas Point Nuclear Generating Station was Canada’s first full-scale nuclear power plant. The partially decommissioned facility is currently in a safe shutdown state and we are planning to complete decommissioning through completely removing all structures and associated waste. We’ve reached out to the MNO to learn more about Métis perspectives and how we can incorporate Métis values into the project.
Interested in learning more about the DP Program or upcoming engagements? Visit cnl.ca/DP

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COVID PROGRAMS & HOTLINE

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

*NEW*
COVID-19 HOUSING STABILIZATION
The MNO has launched a housing stabilization program to provide aid to those: facing eviction and have received an eviction notice from their landlord; who are precariously housed and need short term shelter support (e.g motel stay); who are homeless. For more information please contact: 
housingstabilization@metisnation.org or phone at 1-800-263-4889 Ext. 350

*NEW*
COVID-19 CARE KITS
Interested MNO Citizens can request kits for individuals, families of 2-4, and families of 5+. Included in the kits are personal protective equipment (PPE) and other resources to help your family manage during the pandemic. To request a COVID-19 Care Kit apply at: 
https://metisnation.smapply.io/prog/covid_ppe_family_kits If you require assistance completing the application, please contact Sharmaine Barnes at 905-991-4467.

COVID PROGRAM

CHILD CARE SUPPORT
The MNO COVID-19 Child Care Support Program helps Métis families access safe high-quality child care during the pandemic. All Métis families who meet the qualifications are encouraged to apply. To learn more or apply: 
www.metisnation.org/covid-19

COVID PROGRAM

INCOME AND RENT RELIEF
The MNO Income Relief Benefit and the MNO Rent Relief Benefit. These two benefits are available to MNO Citizens who have lost income since March 2020 as a result of the pandemic. Learn more: www.metisnation.org/covid-19

FOR MNO CITIZENS WITH CHILDREN AGED 0-12
EMERGENCY FAMILY SUPPORTS
MNO Emergency Family Fund. Families may be eligible to receive a one-time benefit of $500 per child, to a maximum of $2,000.

MNO Food Security Fund for Children. Families can receive up to $600 ($200 monthly for three months) to support child nutrition.

MNO Technology Fund for Children. A one-time benefit of $500 to assist in the purchasing of technology for children aged 0-12 to support learning at home.

To learn more or apply: www.metisnation.org/covid-19

BUSINESS
Métis Emergency Business Financing
Available to past and current clients of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund, the Métis Emergency Business Financing (MEBF) program offers a combination of an interest-free loan and a grant to help with operating costs if revenues have been negatively affected by COVID-19. To learn more: www.mvdf.ca

COVID-19 PROGRAM

SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT
Through the Special Needs Support Program MNO Citizens with children aged 0-21 years with special needs can receive a one-time benefit of $500 per child up to a maximum of $2,000 per family to provide assistance during this time of physical distancing. Limited to one per household. Apply at: 
www.metisnation.org/covid-19

If you have COVID-19 related concerns, need help accessing supports, or have questions regarding the MNO’s response to the pandemic contact:
Email covidhelp@metisnation.org
Phone (Toll Free) 1-800-263-4889
Please select the applicable extension:
Mental Health & Addictions: 275
All Other Health Concerns: 276
Education and Training: 169
Financial Support: 277
Housing: 278

We are still here to help!
MNO COVID-19 Hotline

COMING IN
2021
COVID-19 SURVEY
How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you, your family and community?
Watch for a survey invitation coming in mid-January from the Métis Nation of Ontario. Participation is voluntary. Information will be used to inform programs, services and to respond to the needs of MNO Citizens.

MNO Mental Health and Addictions Services
Let Us Help!
The Métis Nation of Ontario is offering access to Métis culturally-specific mental health and addiction supports for adults, youth and families in Ontario. Delivered in person where possible or via videoconference or telephone, this program connects Métis people to specialized mental health and addictions professionals in French and English.
For non-urgent matters or help navigating mental health and addictions supports contact: 
613-549-1674 x.307 or 1-800-263-4889 (toll free) or via email video@metisnation.org

24 hr CRISIS LINE
1-877-767-7572

www.metisnation.org

Your Métis Government is here to assist with emergency financial supports to help MNO Citizens and families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

For more information please contact us at:
1-800-263-4889
covidhelp@metisnation.org

www.metisnation.org
November 16th is a somber day for the Métis people, as it marks the anniversary of Louis Riel’s execution. However, it is also an opportunity to come together and celebrate Métis culture. This year, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) marked Louis Riel Day with virtual celebrations across the province. Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, a number of MNO Community Councils opted to honour the Métis leader and visionary with online celebrations in addition to traditional flag-raising ceremonies.

North Bay Métis Council
Due to increased safety measures in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the North Bay Métis Council (NBMC) was unable to hold its traditional in-person gathering. However, North Bay city officials ensured the Métis flag was flown at City Hall on Riel Day. NBMC Senator Luci Moncion also shared her remarks with a letter commemorating the Métis leader. North Bay Mayor Al McDonald issued a proclamation that formally recognizes November 16 as Louis Riel Day in the city. Additional letters of proclamation were also submitted from Nipissing MPP and Minister Vic Fedeli, and Honourable MP Anthony Rota.

Niagara Region Métis Council
In honour of Louis Riel Day, the Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC) released a series of Louis Riel Day videos on the NRMC Facebook page. The videos published featured a brief history of the Métis leader Louis Riel, in addition to the NRMC Métis flag raising tribute and personal remarks from NRMC President, Derrick Pont.

Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council
The Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council (ODRMC) and City of Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter invited the Métis community to meet at City Hall at November 16 for the traditional flag-raising ceremony in honour of Louis Riel. The socially-distanced gathering took place outdoors and was limited to 25 individuals and included dignitaries and Métis Citizens. In recognition of the ODRMC’s many contributions to the community, Mayor Carter issued a proclamation formally recognizing November 16 as “Louis Riel Day” in the City of Oshawa.

Ottawa Region Métis Council
The Ottawa Region Métis Council (ORMC), in partnership with MNO Community Wellness program, celebrated Louis Riel Day with a virtual event November 15. Guest speaker, past MNO President Tony Belcourt, addressed Métis Citizens and engaged in a Q&A session. The ORM&C virtual line-up also featured Métis music, jigging, crafting, stories and more. A flag-raising ceremony was also held Monday morning with ORM&C President Erik Gjos at Ottawa City Hall.

Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC)
Métis youth in the Georgian Bay region donned their best Métis apparel for a Louis Riel Day photo contest. Organized by GBMC Youth Rep Robert Pinkney, the contest was a way to break up the monotony of Covid-19 while engaging the community in something culturally relevant fun! Ryder Grenier (left) claimed first place and the $250 prize, runner-up, Cole Scott (right), received a $50 prize.

Thunder Bay Métis Council
The Thunder Bay Métis Council (TBMC) held a Riel Day flag-raising ceremony at Thunder Bay City Hall on Monday on Nov. 16. In attendance were Thunder Bay Mayor Bill Mauro, TBMC President Kevin Muloin, and local Métis community members.

Laurentian University
Métis Flag-raising
Laurentian University, with support from Indigenous Student Affairs staff and MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator Desiree Fortin, found ways to celebrate Riel Day on campus in a safe and socially distanced way. Desiree gifted the University staff with their own Métis flag, which was raised in an on-campus socially-distanced ceremony and as tribute to the Métis leader.

Toronto Region Métis Council
In addition to raising the flag-raising (top of page), the City of Toronto proclaimed November 16 as “Louis Riel Day” in the city. Mayor John Tory issued a video of the acknowledgment and proclamation, which can be viewed at: https://fb.watch/1B068A06k/

Thunder Bay City Hall
Thunder Bay City Hall served as a backdrop for the flag-raising ceremony. The Métis flag was raised with pride, and the crowd sang along to Métis music and traditional songs.

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Our future is Bright

Métis people have long had their own systems of self-governance and are known as the Otipemisiwak - the people who rule themselves.

On June 27th, 2019, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the government of Canada signed the historic Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement that sets out a government-to-government relationship between Onta-
or Métis and Canada. The Agreement provides the MNO with long-sought-after federal recognition of its self-government by immediately recognizing that the Métis communities represented by the MNO have the right of self-government.

Self-governance means making our own Constitution, created and supported by Métis citizens. A Constitution outlines a nation’s defining principles: who we are, how we are structured, our decision-making process and our rights and freedoms. As we have done in the past, we must come together to develop a constitution that is anchored on Métis rights to solidify our self-governance for future generations. When our Constitution is developed and drafted, it needs to be ratified in a province-wide vote known as a referendum.

The recognition of the MNO’s right to Self-Government will also allow us to make laws for certain subjects. A constitution will help Métis peoples honor our past and create a new system that will benefit the future generations of Métis citizens. This next step is now rightfully in our hands and it will be up to all of us here in Ontario to keep moving this forward.

If you have any questions, please reach out:
self.government@metisnation.org

NEW STAFF
MNO welcomes New Director of Self-Government Strategy

The Métis Nation of Ontario is pleased to welcome Brian Black as the Director of Self-Government Strategy.

Brian is proud to serve Ontario Métis citizens, and he is committed to representing MNO interests in all areas of this work. He strongly believes in the importance of this work as fundamental to the MNO’s mandate and an expression of the inherent right to Self-Government of Métis Communities within Ontario. Brian plans to dedicate himself to working with colleagues, communities and citizens and fulfill his duties with integrity and respect.

In this new strategic role, Brian will be working in collaboration with the PCMNO, MNO Leadership at all levels, Citizens, MNO Senior Staff and key advisors to navigate the next steps to advance Self-Government. Brian will be developing a committed team, but recognizes that this journey to Self-Government is beyond the scope of any one person or unit and that it will require relationship-building, open communication and respect for the many perspectives and voices of MNO Citizens. He knows there is much to do and is prepared to develop, implement and move forward on a solid operational, engagement and communication plan that will ensure MNO remains focused on the work ahead.

Brian is a seasoned leader and business professional. He started his career in the Canadian Navy. He was awarded the Gulf Kuwait Medal for his participation in the First Gulf War. He was also awarded the U.N. Peacekeeping Medal for his participation in Operation Forward Action off the Coast of Haiti in 1994. A proud Métis Veteran Brian circumnavigated the globe and served on 47,000 nautical miles in his service to Canada.

Subsequently, Brian worked in global trade, establishing standard loading inspection procedures and frameworks for Port and Canada Border Services and preparing container traffic security measures. Most recently, Brian has worked as a Project Manager leading engineering and sales teams to develop new processes and procedures. He brings over 25 years of well-rounded business experience to this new role.

Brian brings a strong work ethic and a deep sense of ownership for initiatives that he is responsible for. He is team-oriented with a positive outlook, strong-held values, the ability to build solid relationships, and unyielding integrity. Deeply involved in his community, Brian has participated for decades in coaching minor sports in baseball and hockey. Participating in these activities has helped give him opportunities to mentor youth in their development of being upstanding Canadians. Brian also made a mission trip to Uganda in 2008 for a two week village stay to help build a school building.

Before joining the Métis Nation of Ontario’s public service, Brian was the serving President of the Métis Nation of Ontario Veteran Council. Brian lives in the Oshawa-Durham community with his wife and a school-aged child.

MNO Region One Community Councils steps up to support Red Lake forest fire evacuees

A s forest fires raged across Northwestern Ontario this summer the Métis Nation of Ontario’s (MNO) Region One leadership sprang into action to assist MNO citizens in need.

On Wednesday, August 11, 2020 the announcement was made to evacuate the Red Lake area. The majority of evacuees were sent to Dryden and Kenora, some evacuated to Thunder Bay and others chose to stay closer to home in Ear Falls or other areas of Northwestern Ontario.

Regional Councillor Theresa Steenland immediately called together the leadership of the four MNO Community Councils in the Region: Northwest Métis Council, Kenora Métis Council, Sunset Country Métis Council, and the Atikokan Métis Council to form a plan of action. The leadership in Dryden and Kenora worked closely with the local municipal authorities to support evacuees in their time of need. The City of Dryden worked with the MNO leadership in Dryden to assist evacuees in any way they could.

The four Councils agreed to commit emergency funds to assist MNO citizens that were displaced. When Regional leaders advised the MNO of the evacuation and updated them on their response plan, the MNO committed further funds and staff support to assist. Point persons were established for quick responses to rapidly changing circumstances.

“Our region came together as a whole to ensure our citizens were looked after. There was no hesitation from any of the four Northwestern Ontario councils to be ready to assist our northern neighbours, friends and family in their time of need. The councils were on standby, waiting to provide any assistance they could,” said Theresa Steenland.

“Our Northwest Métis Council was happy we were able to connect with some of our Red Lake citizens,” said Northwest Métis Council President Janer Hippsner. “We were able to share some hugs and were grateful to hear some of their stories. I would like to thank Linda Robinson for assisting me with contacting the citizens and aiding in gathering the supplies.”

“I want to thank and commend the leadership of our Northwestern Ontario Regional Métis Community for their quick response in assisting the Métis families affected by this evacuation in their time of need” said President Margaret Froh, adding, “in stressful times like these, having community members be there for each other truly makes all the difference.”

As of August 16, 2020, evacuees have been advised that they are able to return home to Red Lake.

Brian Black
In 1875, the Métis of Rainy River and Rainy Lake signed an adhesion to Treaty No. 3. This is the only time a Métis community has been recognized through Treaty in Canada.

The Métis of Rainy River and Rainy Lake lived, worked, and harvested on the lands that were acquired by the Canadian government when Treaty No. 3 was signed in 1873. Fearful that they may be pushed off their land, they repeatedly pressured the government to allow them entry into Treaty.

The 1875 adhesion entered the “Half Breeds” of Rainy River and Rainy Lake into Treaty, promising them two separate reserves, annuity payments, and harvesting and hunting rights.

Ultimately, the Métis never received their reserve lands and the government failed to fulfill its Treaty obligations. However, though their success was fleeting, the Treaty No. 3 Adhesion represented the rightful acknowledgement of Métis as a distinct people.
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What Was Promised

Nicholas Chatelaine Signature on Treaty 3 Adhesion

Nicholas Chatelaine signed the adhesion on behalf of the Métis of Rainy River and Rainy Lake. Records suggest that over 90 individuals were included in the adhesion. Although their names were never listed.

Credit: Library and Archives Canada, RG10, Vol 1846, IT 270, Indian Affairs, Consecutive Number 131, 132 (a)

George McPherson and Family

Treaty No. 3 was signed in the home of George McPherson at the North West Angle. McPherson, pictured here with his family, was an HBC trader who served as an interpreter during Treaty negotiations. Métis were particularly suited to act as interpreters because of their unique ability to bridge European and Ojibway customs and languages.

Credit: Library and Archives Canada / C-079642

Adhesion by half-breeds of Rainy River and Rainy Lake

Nicholas Chatelaine was present as a witness at the signing of the North West Angle Treaty (Treaty 3) in 1873. His signature can be seen down the left-hand side of this page, alongside the names of other prominent Métis residents of the region, including Charles Nolin and George McPherson (Sr.).

Credit: Library and Archives Canada, RG310, Vol 1946, 6730, Indian Affairs, Consecutive Number 177, 182 (a)
Impala Canada’s Lac des Iles Mine northwest of Thunder Bay, Ontario, is a proud producer of palladium, an important metal in our transition to a green future.

We are committed to maintaining open and respectful dialogue with the Métis Nation of Ontario and all our Indigenous partners as we innovate and grow sustainably.

We are hiring - to learn more about the opportunities available, please visit www.impalacanada.com/careers.

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**POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM**

If you are a MNO citizen attending a post-secondary school, the MNO wants to help you reach your goals with financial support through the Post-Secondary Education Support Program!

**Who can apply:**
- Current Métis students attending or accepted into an accredited post-secondary program at a recognized University or College
- MNO Citizen (or in the process of applying for MNO Citizenship)
- Residing in Canada

**Where:** for more information on the program and to access the application visit: [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)

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**LET’S STAY IN TOUCH**

**UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have moved or changed your name, or if you are not getting communications from the MNO, it is important to update your contact information with the MNO Registry! As a citizen of the MNO your voice is important and you are part of ensuring Métis history, culture and way of life remains strong in Ontario.

Update your contact information by emailing: info@mnoregistry.ca
Or by calling the MNO Registry: 1-855-798-1006
Or by filling out a Change of Address Form available at: [www.metisnation.org/registry](http://www.metisnation.org/registry)

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**PROUD TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS A PROSPEROUS FUTURE.**

Métis Voyageur
Issue no. 105, March 2021
Dear Métis Nation Leaders and Citizens,

As the President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”), I am writing to each of you directly because the Métis National Council (“MNC”) has become dysfunctional and is essentially controlled by a few individuals and consultants.

The MNC now also regularly circulates misinformation, falsehoods, and outright lies about the MNO. Fortunately, the MNC’s antics have not affected or harmed the MNO’s growth in any way. However, we don’t want our restraint to be interpreted that the MNC has anything to hide or that what the MNC is saying is true in any way.

We are publicly releasing this letter and a series of fact sheets to set the record straight. We are doing this because the MNC will not allow our perspective or these facts to be shared through MNC communications. We will not be engaging in a subsequent back-and-forth with the MNC on this letter. We want people to have facts and then they can make their own informed decisions. The truths in these documents may be politically inconvenient for the MNC’s current leadership, but they are a part of the facts of history of the MNC and the Métis Nation.

The untruths, hypocrisy, and contradictions of the MNC’s current national leadership

There is likely no one within the Métis Nation who has not heard about the groundbreaking Métis harvest rights test case that the MNO advanced: R v Powley (“Powley”). Powley was—and remains—the only Supreme Court of Canada (“SCC”) decision affirming Métis rights protected by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

The Powley case has been used by Métis communities across the Métis Nation Homeland to advance their rights in the courts and through negotiations. The MNO is proud of this fact. Here are some other facts:

1. The Powley case is about the Métis community in and around Sault Ste. Marie as a part of the Great Lakes Métis. This Métis community is not in northwestern Ontario and it has never been in northwestern Ontario.
2. The Powleys have Métis rights because they ancestrally connect to the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community as a part of the Great Lakes Métis. The Powleys will never lose their constitutionally-protected Métis rights, nor will other Métis lose their rights, because of the MNC’s arbitrarily drawn 2018 map.
3. Since its creation in 1993, the MNO has represented the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community, the Great Lakes Métis, and other Métis communities in Ontario that are outside of northwestern Ontario. The MNO has not hidden this from the MNC. Our rights assertion maps (attached) have been public for decades now.
4. The Crown has constitutional duties owing to the Sault Ste. Métis community because it holds Métis rights protected by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, not because the MNO is a governing member of the MNC. The Crown cannot exclude this rights-bearing Métis community or others from federal funding and benefits because the MNC says so.

So, now let us apply some common sense to these facts.

The MNO joins the MNC representing the Powley community and others in Ontario (1993)

If, back in 1993, the Métis Nation Homeland was limited to northwestern Ontario, and, the MNO’s acceptance into the MNC was on that premise, wouldn’t someone have objected to the Powley case—which was based on a rights-bearing Métis community located outside of northwestern Ontario—as a Métis rights test case?

Moreover, if, back in 1993, the Métis Nation was limited to “Western Canada,” wouldn’t someone have objected to the MNO’s well-known and very public Statement of Prime Purpose that states our Homeland “stretch(es) from the lakes and rivers of Ontario” westward?

Let’s be clear: the MNO has always said our Homeland encompasses the “lakes and rivers of Ontario,” extending further than just northwestern Ontario. This does not include all of Ontario, however, since its creation the MNO has always represented rights-bearing Métis communities, like the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community, that are well outside of northwestern Ontario.

The legitimacy of our Métis claims here in Ontario are validated by the facts of history, including, historic recognition from other Indigenous peoples as well as consistent and repeated modern day recognition by the Crown, the courts, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (“RCAP”), and the MNC (until very recently).

Let’s also be clear: the MNO has always agreed with the MNC that the Métis Nation Homeland does not include Quebec and the East Coast. Our 1993 Statement of Prime Purpose confirms this. We share the concerns of the MNC and other Indigenous nations in Quebec and the East Coast about...

continued on page 14
AN OPEN LETTER TO MÉTIS NATION LEADERS & CITIZENS

Telling Truths about the MNC and the Métis Nation of Ontario

continued from page 13

raising concerns if the Powley community “threatened the territorial integrity of the Métis Nation”.

On the contrary, the Powley case—and the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community—was embraced and repeat-
edly celebrated by the MNC. On September 19, 2003, Métis Nation citizens proudly watched MNC Interim President Audrey Patras declare: “We won! We won!” on national TV, not “the eastern invaders won!” The eastern invaders won!”

Moreover, current MNC President Clem Chartier ac
ted as the lawyer for the MNC and MNO in Powley at the SCC. In the MNC/MNO written argument, the follow-
ing statements were made:

“The Métis community at Sault Ste. Marie is a part of the Métis Nation. … The Intervener sub-
mits these factors demonstrate the Sault Ste. Marie community’s connection to the territory, existence and history of the Métis Nation.

The SCC confirmed the existence of the Great Lakes and the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community:
The trial judge found that a distinctive Métis com-
munity emerged in the Upper Great Lakes region in the mid-17th century, and peaked around 1850. We find no reviewable error in the trial judge’s findings on this matter … The trial judge’s finding of a contemporary Métis community in and around Sault Ste. Marie is supported by the evidence and must be upheld.

The MNC celebrates and benefits from the Powley case (2003 Onward)

Following 2003, Clem Chartier participated in many public and press conferences, press releases, and photo ops about the Powley case. In fact, it could be argued, Mr. Chartier leveraged his role in the Powley case to secure the MNC presidency in 2004.

MMF President David Chartier, who has been a member of the MNC Board of Governors since 1997, also celebrated the Powley case and presented the Powleys and MNO’s leadership with an engraved rifle that thanked the MNO for its contributions to Métis Nation rights.

From 2003 to the present, Canada has provided well over $150 million dollars to the MNC and its Governing Members because of the Powley case to support its registries, Métis harvesting laws and policies, and research on other Métis Nation communities.

Political amnesia and the start of the MNC misinformation campaign (2018)

So, you may ask how the exact same people and community who were once heralded, celebrated, and assisted in advancing Métis Nation rights are now being disparaged, called “marginals” by some, and being accused of threatening the very existence of the Métis Nation?

We ask the same questions. The location of Sault Ste. Marie or the Great Lakes have not changed. The MNO’s positions on the Métis communities in Ontario that it represents has not changed. What did happen is a newly drawn MNC map, accompanied by a preposturous “report” completely lacking in credibility prepared by Clem Chartier, was tabled and passed at the MNC General Assem-
bly in November 2018 without any opportunity for discussion.

No one had a chance to thoroughly review the “report,” ask questions, or discuss its implications. Instead, the map and the “report” passed by the nar-
rowest of margins. Entire Métis governments, such as the MNA, voted against what happened. It is apparent to the MNO that the current MNC leadership’s next steps will be to suggest that fund-
ing the MNO and the Great Lakes Métis, includ-
ing the Powley community, be cut off because of this new MNC map.

Let’s be clear: the MNO and Canada won’t allow for these types of crass political games, which disre-
gard the Crown’s constitutional duties owing to the Powley community and other Ontario Métis commu-
nities, to happen.

What is more troubling, however, is that the MNC’s current leadership think it’s acceptable to take what they need from people and then kick them aside while hurling insults at them. This is exactly what those running the MNC are doing.

The MNO does not believe the Métis Nation or its citizens agree with this type of crass politics, but this is exactly what those currently running the MNC are doing for reasons that are clearly not supported by facts. These unfortunate actions are a distraction from what is really happening at the MNC and the current reality that three of the five Métis governments who make up the MNC are being completely ignored, while the MNC receives and spends millions of dol-
ers from Canada in the name of the Métis Nation without any oversight from the MNC Board of Gov-
erns or General Assembly. What is happening is wrong, shameful, and stalls our ability to make progress—together.

Attempting to find a way forward – together

We are releasing this public letter now because there is no place within the MNC at present that will allow for these issues to be respectfully discussed. Instead, divisive tactics and baseless statements about Métis leaders being “traitors” and the “territo-
rial integrity of the Métis Nation being under attack” are dangerously thrown around.

We want to be clear: the MNO respects the Métis Nation’s inherent right of self-government and self-determination to determine who is a part of it. There needs to be a safe, honest, respectful, and transparent space where this discussion and debate amongst Métis Nation citizens and their governments can be had. That is not the MNC right now.

We also want to be clear: the MNO will continue to represent, defend, and stand up for the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community, the Great Lakes Métis, as well as the other Métis communities it represents within Ontario as it has for the last 28 years. We will also continue to represent our many citizens who ancestrally connect to western Canada. Our citizens and communities are not going any-
where. Neither is the MNO.

Despite the MNC’s efforts to undermine and tear down the MNO, these attacks have failed. In fact, our citizens and communities are more united. We continue to grow as a Métis government and fight for Métis rights, as we always have. These attacks have also allowed us to build better relationships with other Métis governments in Alberta and Sas-

katchewan, including, forming a Métis Government Tri-Council that advances Métis self-government.

In closing, we look forward to the day when the MNC stops spreading misinformation and begins to work with and represent all of the five Governing Members that create it. Despite the unilateral and illegitimate actions of the MNC’s current leadership, the MNO continues to be a part of the MNC as well as the legal and necessary self-government repre-
sentative of the Métis Nation within Ontario, as we always have been and will continue to be.

We hope this letter assists Métis Nation citizens in cutting through the MNC’s misinformation and falsehoods. For additional facts and key documents we invite you to visit www.metisnation.org/TheFacts. We will also be circulating the fact sheets and key documents from that site throughout the Métis Nation. If you have any questions about this letter or other issues, please email TheFacts@metisnation.org.

In Métis Nationhood,

Margaret Froh
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

Visit the Métis Nation of Ontario website for more at:
www.metisnation.org/TheFacts

• Identification of Historic Métis Communities in Ontario;
• The MNO Registry Review;
• Evidence and Key Findings in R v. Powley;
• Implementation of National Definition of Métis within Ontario;
• The MNO-Ontario Harvesting Agreement; and
• Independent Review of the MNO’s Harvest Card System
Legacy ceremony held in Penetanguishene for Métis WWII Veteran

The late Métis Veteran Omer Lacroix, and his surviving spouse Florence Lacroix were honoured in a Métis Veterans Legacy ceremony held in Penetanguishene, ON on September 9, 2020.

Attending the afternoon ceremony, were Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh, Penetanguishene Mayor Doug Leroux, and friends and family from the local community.

Also in attendance was MNO Veterans’ Council Sergeant-at-Arms Douglas Woods, Lacroix’s son-in-law. Woods spoke at the ceremony acknowledging the sacrifices made, not only by Omer, but by his wife Florence as well.

“We are gathered here today to honour and recognize the Service and Dedication of Métis Veteran Omer Lacroix during the Second World War,” said Woods. “Having been married for only one year, Omer left his wife Florence, and first child Lorraine, who was only ten months old, to join the thousands of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Canadian men and women in the battle overseas.”

Omer Lacroix stormed Juno Beach on June 6, 1944 and was part of the liberation of France, Belgium and Holland. Tragically, Omer passed in 1990 however, his surviving partner Florence was pleased to attend the ceremony by the local community.

Margaret Froh, Penetanguishene Mayor Doug Leroux, and friends and family from the local community.

At the ceremony, Penetanguishene Mayor Doug Leroux also presented Florence with a special certificate in recognition of her 99th birthday which took place on September 26, 2020.

In 2019, the Government of Canada issued a formal apology to Indigenous veterans, who were often neglected when returning to civilian life following the Second World War. The apology launched the Métis Veterans Legacy Program that sees veterans, or their surviving spouses, receive a recognition payment of $20,000.

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The MNO would like to extend its gratitude to the late Métis Veteran Omer, his wife Florence, and the Lacroix family. His service and sacrifices will not be forgotten.

Four sisters proud recipients of the Louis Riel Medal

Our sisters from Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 4 are also proud recipients of the Louis Riel Medal.

The Hazell sisters trace their rich Métis heritage through their mother Julia Hazell (nee LaFontaine) and on back through their 11th Great Grandparents. These proud women are from a closely linked family (comprised of seven girls and two boys) who are all active members in the Métis Nation of Alberta, the Manitoba Métis Federation and the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Susan, fittingly, received her medal on Louis Riel Day, the 16th of November 2020 from the Historic Sault Ste Marie Council. Susan joined the Army Cadets at age 13. She then enrolled in the Reserves and served with the 4th Field Regiment and trained in Administration and Finance. She was an active and valued member of the Regiment who took pride in her service.

Dorothy joined the Reserves in the summer of 1973 at the age of 16 with the 26th Field Regiment in Brandon, MB. Her father also serving in the Canadian Forces at the time was transferred to Sault Ste Marie, so Dorothy transferred to the 4th Field Regiment in the Sault. She was an Administrative Clerk and also a Medical Assistant holding the rank of Master Corporal. She was released from the Unit in 1980 to pursue her true calling, nursing. Dorothy has worked as a nurse for 44 years, and will be retiring this year.

Cindy began with Army Cadets at age 14. She later joined the Reserves and served with the 30th Field Regiment in Ottawa. When she relocated to Blind River she joined the 2407 Royal Canadian Army Cadets as a Civilian Instructor. She went on to Officer Training and received the Queen’s Commission in 1999. Cindy loved to serve and retired from the Unit in 2019 holding the rank of Lieutenant.

June was with the Army Cadets from the ages of 13-17. She joined the Reserves in 1974 and the Regular Forces in 1978. In her career she was stationed in Toronto, Chilliwack, Calgary, Ottawa, as well as, Germany and Israel. After serving 36 years, June retired in 2010 as a Master Warrant Officer. She lives in Thessalon with her husband, also a Veteran, to be close to her three sisters. She has served on the North Channel Métis Council and the MNO Women’s Council and looks forward to other challenges within the MNO.

These four women have followed a long line of ancestors who served and sacrificed in the military, policing and as first responders. They are proud to have followed in their father’s footsteps and are humbled to have been awarded the prestigious Louis Riel Medal.

When the traditional Remembrance Day parade could not take place this year, the Thames Bluewater Métis Council (TBWMC) found ways to honour our Métis Veterans with a special ceremony in London, ON on November 11, 2020. Members of the TBWMC traveled to the cenotaph in Victoria Park to place a wreath in memory of our Fallen soldiers.

Former Senator and current Secretary of the TBWMC, Kevin Rath, laid the wreath to represent Métis veterans. They also placed additional poppies for dear friends we lost in 2020: Senator Ken Fraser; Joseph Paquette; John Cadeau; Harvey Horlock; Alex Boucher; Rene Leonard; William McMurray, with a photo of the World War II veteran and a Métis and his surviving spouse Florence Lacroix as well.

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Lest We Forget

“It was deeply honoured to be able to represent the MNO for the placing of our Wreath at the National Remembrance Day ceremony. Upon our wreath I placed 9 additional poppies for dear friends we lost in 2020: Senator Ken Fraser; Joseph Paquette; John Cadeau; Harvey Horlock; Alex Boucher; Rene Leonard; William McMurray, with a photo of the World War II veteran and a Métis

Lest We Forget
Managing Canada’s Used Nuclear Fuel and Métis Participation in Canada’s Plan

JAMES WAGAR
Senior Engagement Advisor, Indigenous Relations

Dialogue with Métis communities and a range of interested individuals is integral to the work we do to advance Canada’s plan for the safe long-term management of Canada’s used nuclear fuel.

What is Canada’s plan? Canadians and Indigenous peoples have made clear that it is important to develop a long-term approach for managing Canada’s used nuclear fuel— and not leave it for future generations.

Currently, we are working with Métis and First Nation communities and municipalities to identify a single, preferred location for a deep geological repository, to be located in an area with informed and willing hosts. We expect to be able to identify the preferred site by about 2023.

In this column, I’ll describe how a series of five engineered and natural barriers will work together to safely contain and isolate Canada’s used nuclear fuel while protecting people and the environment.

1. The first barrier is the fuel pellet itself. Fuel pellets are ceramic, made from highly durable baked uranium dioxide powder. They aren’t flammable or explosive, they don’t dissolve readily in water and are highly-resistant to erosion and high temperatures.

2. The second barrier is the fuel bundle that houses the pellets and is made up of Zircaloy tubes.

3. The third barrier is a copper-coated, steel container. The containers are engineered to resist corrosion, and to be strong enough to keep the used nuclear fuel completely isolated until its radioactivity decreases to safe levels.

4. The fourth barrier is a buffer box made of highly compacted bentonite clay, which is designed to encase each copper-coated steel container. Bentonite clay is a natural material, readily available throughout the world, and is proven to be a powerful barrier against water.

5. The fifth barrier is a stable rock formation approximately 500 metres underground that will house the repository.

In 2019, Métis from across the province toured the NWMO’s Proof Test Facility in Oakville to get a firsthand look at the rigorous testing process on elements of this engineered barrier system.

“In 2010, I have been learning about Canada’s plan and visiting the Oakville Proof Test Facility gave me additional confidence in the NWMO’s ability to incorporate current science and Indigenous Knowledge into the project,” said Trent Desaulniers, Former President of the Superior North Shore Métis Council.

We invite you to learn more. Why? Because Métis participation in Canada’s plan is valued by the NWMO. In fact, it is essential. We’re here to listen and engage with you.

In future Voyageur issues, we will be learning together about each of the five barriers designed to safely contain and isolate Canada’s used nuclear fuel.
**NEWS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED**

**New PCMNO sworn in via videoconference**

On Saturday, October 3 the newly-elected members of the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario were sworn in by the Honourable Todd Ducharme following the MNO general election on June 1. Justice Ducharme is the first Métis person to be appointed to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

The Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) takes its direction from, and reports to MNO citizens at the Annual General Assembly. The PCMNO is comprised of a five member Executive, nine Regional Councilors, four Senators, a Youth Representative and a Post-Secondary Representative. Women’s interests are represented by the Vice-Chair. Every four years the members of the PCMNO are elected through democratic ballot box elections.

**The Covid-19 Vaccine rollout**

Covid-19 vaccinations are on the way, and the MNO Covid Team is gathering information on vaccination sites across Ontario. Be sure to watch the MNO website for announcements on future town halls.

**Métis youth cultural camps thrive online**

For the first time the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) held its popular Ouvem: Fall Métis Youth Cultural Camp and Iver: Winter Métis Youth Cultural Camp online! The camps are a favourite for adventurous Métis youth, as it provides students (grades 10-12) the opportunity to learn and celebrate Métis culture. While the format was different, the camp still engaged youth through interactions with Métis knowledge-holders, MNO Senators, MNO staff and facilitators. And as in previous seasonal youth camps students from across the province participated in three days of workshops highlighting Métis cultural arts and community-building.

Look for more youth camp opportunities in 2021!

**Oshawa Durham Region Métis Council supports neighbours during pandemic**

This past Canada Day July 1, 2020, the Oshawa Durham Region Métis Council offered a free takeout spaghetti lunch to the homeless and neighbourhood people in downtown Oshawa. Over 11 MNO citizen volunteers filled over 140 take-home boxes and handed them out in front of their office in Oshawa.

“It was a rewarding experience for all,” said Helen Giachetta, treasurer for the Council.

**MNO all-Citizen online town halls**

Recordings and recap from the October 28, 2020 and January 21, 2021 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) All-Citizen Town Halls are available online! Get the latest on MNO’s Covid-19 supports, the vaccine roll out and progress made to advance Métis self-government, updates on the work taking place at the PCMNO level, and more.

More at: www.metisnation.org

**MNO Youth Council hosts virtual “Tea Series”**

The Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) held their inaugural virtual Tea Series on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 with special guest Dr. Brian Tucker presenting on Métis harvesting. Co-hosted with MNO President Margaret Froh, the monthly online gatherings highlight guests and topics of interest to Métis youth.

Dr. Tucker shared experiences and photos, balancing traditional knowledge with personal anecdotes. He then opened up the discussion to give Métis youth the opportunity to ask questions, providing thoughtful responses to each.

“Right now we want to hear from young people, who they’d want to have tea with, and/or topics of conversation they would be interested in joining,” said Jordyn Haynes, President of the MNOYC and PCMNO Youth Rep. “As we move towards self-government and constitution-building it will be so important to have spaces like these for young people to engage in conversation and ask questions.”

President Froh believes the creation of space for Métis youth is vital in building a strong, engaged Métis community.

“Something we’ve been wanting to do for some time now, is create a space to come together on a regular basis with young Métis people,” said President Froh. “It gives us an opportunity to talk about what’s going on within the MNO, what’s coming in the future, and how we can engage with young people on all these issues.”

Other guest to the Tea Series this fall were: Brian Black, MNO Director of Self-Government and Métis artist, activist, and scholar Dylan Miner.

Métis youth with ideas for topics or special guests are encouraged to reach out to the MNOYC or to Jordyn with their suggestions: JordynP@mmetisnation.org.

Be sure to follow the MNO and MNOYC on social media for announcements on future Tea Series sessions.

Facebook: @MNOYC

**VIDEO: bit.ly/3gNfKTW**

**www.metisnation.org**
Coast Guard College

4-Year Program:

a) Marine Engineering

Marine engineers have the awesome responsibility of operating, maintaining, and maintaining a ship’s engines, electrical systems, and machinery to ensure the comfort and safety of every soul on board a vessel.

b) Marine Navigation

Navigation Officers are responsible for the safety of the ship, crew, and any other person on board the vessel. They safely navigate a vessel through turbulent and congested waters in all types of weather and visibility.

6-Month Program

a) Marine Communications and Traffic Services

The Marine Communications and Traffic Services Officers are the eyes and ears of Canadian marine traffic. It’s their duty to provide services to clients and stakeholders, such as the marine industry, navigators, recreational boaters, fisheries, international government agencies, provincial governments, and other federal government departments.

Government Jobs

- Deckhand
- Steward
- Ship’s Cook
- Ship’s Mechanical Assistant
- Storekeeper
- Ship’s Electrical Officer
- Logistics Officer
- Non-Operational (e.g. Administrative)

For more information, please visit:

Government Jobs

www.bigmarker.com/communities/metis-nation-of-ontario/conferences

MNO launches Mental Health and Addictions webinar series

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Mental Health and Addictions program has launched a series of webinars designed to assist Métis families in coping with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Each webinar features a guest expert who addresses a specific issue with the Métis community. During this time of uncertainty, the webinars ensure individuals and their families feel adequately supported.

Each webinar provides a unique opportunity for Citizens to engage directly with experts and MNO staff, and Citizens are encouraged to ask questions or voice concerns.

Since launching in September, the MNO has hosted webinars on such topics as:

• From Worried to Well: Supporting Your Child at Home and at School During Covid-19 with Dr. David Tranter;
• Parenting Survival Guide: Understanding Parenting Stress and What to do About it with Dr. Susan Hopkins;
• Parenting Survival Guide: Mental Wellness for our Children and Youth with Dr Michael Cheng;
• Online Gaming: What Parents Need to Know co-hosted by guest expert and psychotherapist Nadja Streiter.

For more information, please contact us at:

DFO.CCGCentralIRP-RPACentreGCC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

For more opportunities, visit:

www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/College-and-Careers/Job-openings

Métis Voyageur

Issue no. 105, March 2021
The Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose calls on us to promote and protect our history, culture and way of life. We will be looking to MNO regions and citizens to help us gather their stories and to identify significant dates and events within our historic communities as part of telling the broader story of the MNO. Telling our truth means ensuring that we create safe and respectful places to amplify the voices of MNO citizens as they tell the story of rights-bearing Métis citizens and communities throughout Ontario:

My Métis ancestors were born, lived and died in this area, and we are still in this area

MNO highlights Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty #3 as a part of Treaties Recognition Week

Treaties Recognition Week (November 1-7, 2020) serves as an opportunity to tell truths about the history of Ontario as well as respect the sacred agreements and relationships settlers governments established with the various Indigenous peoples who occupied Ontario long before Canada became Canada and Ontario became Ontario. Métis history, as a part of Ontario’s history with Indigenous peoples, remains poorly understood. Reconciliation with the Métis remains unfinished business in the Canadian federation generally and in particular within Ontario as the eastern boundary of the Métis Nation.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is raising awareness about the “Halfbreeds of Rainy Lake and River” who predated their land and rights claims in and around the Fort Frances area in the 1870s and ultimately negotiated with Canada and collectively adhered to the Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty No. 3 in 1875. The Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty No. 3 is the only instance of a Métis community collectively adhering to one of the historic treaties negotiated with First Nations across Canada. While in other regions of Canada, Métis could be brought into treaties as individuals, the Treaty 3 Halfbreed Adhesion provides for a distinct Métis community within Northwestern Ontario and are represented by the MNO, while some of these families are now members of the Cochrane First Nation as well as other First Nations in Northwestern Ontario.

In 1875, Canada and the Northwest Ontario Métis Community signed the MNO-Canada Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community. This agreement recognizes this unique history and commits the parties to negotiation on a “shared solution.”

“Our unique history and existence as a Métis community in Northwestern Ontario with Treaty rights and broken Crown promises towards us must also be told as a part of Treaties Recognition Week. Canada’s breach of the honour of the Crown through effectively defeating the very purpose of the Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty No. 3 requires reconciliation,” said Therese Stenlund, MNO Regional Councilor for Northwestern Ontario Métis Community.

“We call upon all Ontarians to join us in solidarity to learn more about our Métis community as well as our unique place in the treaty-making process in Ontario. Through education, we hope our community and citizens will ultimately see justice in relation to our unique Métis Treaty with the Crown,” stated MNO President Margaret Froh.

“While we have made some significant gains in having our Métis self-government recognized as well as some aspects of our harvesting rights confirmed, our Elders and citizens have been clear that we need to have more truth about our Métis presence and history here in this region. And reconciliation requires action, not just more delays in dealing with that history and our claims,” added Mitch Case, MNO Councilor for the region.

“Our families and communities want to see justice on these issues. We are an Indigenous people of this place. We need to ensure we have a place here for generations to come as well as ensure truths are told about our shared history here: settlers, Métis and Anishinaabe alike,” said Kim Powley, President of the Sault Ste.Marie Métis Council.

“The lasting effect of the failure of the Crown to live up to their promise is still felt today. We have not forgotten, and we will continue to pursue justice for our communities. We invite all Ontarians and all Canadians to take time to learn about our history and call on Canada to live up to their promise,” said Yvonne Jensen, President of the North Channel Métis Council.

Sault Ste Marie Métis ring bells 170 times as reminder of broken land promises

Bells at 136 John Street chimed 170 times on October 21, 2020, as a reminder of Métis presence in Sault Ste Marie area as well as the unfulfilled land promises made to the Métis dating back to 1850.

MNO President Margaret Froh stated, “Church bells in Métis culture are used as a messenger to signify important events and to call meetings. Today, the bells are ringing so that we can be heard.”

In the autumn of 1850, government-appointed Treaty Commissioner William B. Robinson, made a promise on behalf of the Crown that the lands on which the Métis community resided along the St. Mary’s River would be respected and protected. Commissioner Robinson’s promises were recorded in the written record as well as Métis oral history.

October 21, 2020 marked the 170th anniversary of Treaty Commissioner Robinson submitting his report and recommendations to the Crown that included Crown promises related to the protection of Métis lands in what is now downtown Sault Ste Marie. Yet, the Crown’s promises to the Métis of Sault Ste. Marie remain unfulfilled today. Background information and a short video on this history can be found at www.metisnation.org

“The MNO, as the government of rights-bearing Métis and communities throughout Ontario, will ring the church bell 170 times at noon at the Sault Ste Marie Métis Centre as a reminder of these promises made to the Métis and in a call for justice and reconciliation.

“We have made some significant gains in having our Métis self-government recognized as well as some aspects of our harvesting rights confirmed, our Elders and citizens have been clear that we need to have more truth about our Métis presence and history here in this region. And reconciliation requires action, not just more delays in dealing with that history and our claims,” added Mitch Case, MNO Councilor for the region.

“While we have made some significant gains in having our Métis self-government recognized as well as some aspects of our harvesting rights confirmed, our Elders and citizens have been clear that we need to have more truth about our Métis presence and history here in this region. And reconciliation requires action, not just more delays in dealing with that history and our claims,” added Mitch Case, MNO Councilor for the region.
Obituary ~
MNO mourns passing of long-serving North Channel Councillor Reg Bennett

It is with great sadness that the family of Reginald Elmo Bennett announced his sudden passing on August 18, 2020 in his 67th year.

Son of the late Joseph Bennett and Eveline néé Lesage/Micks, Reg was predeceased by brothers Caleb J. Bennett, Lt-Commander ret., Thomas W. Bennett and sisters Joanne and Donna. Reg is survived by his sister Maudie Foster (Maxie) brothers Arthur (Connie) and Richard Bennett (Jane) as well as his daughter Katrina and numerous nieces and nephews.

Reg was born in Thessalon, ON and raised in Bruce Mines, ON. In his younger years Reg worked in a variety of positions in construction and logging as well as a stretch doing track reconstruction for CN Rail in the western provinces.

He found his niche in life in his early thirties when he accepted an apprenticeship as a meat-cutter and graduated top of his class from George Brown College. Shortly after graduation he met his wife to be, Karen. Reg and Karen married and relocated to the North Bay area where he worked for several large grocery chains before starting his own business that became quite popular and successful.

His humour and good deeds will be missed not only by his friends, family and the North Channel Métis community, but by all who knew him.

COMMUNITY & FAMILY

For more information including documentation requirements and how to apply, visit: microgrant.metisnation.org

MÉTIS MICRO-BUSINESS FUND
FOR COVID-19 AFFECTED MICROBUSINESSES

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) are committed to supporting Métis-owned small, home-based and family businesses negatively impacted by Covid-19.

The new Métis Micro-Business Fund is intended to relieve financial pressure, support the viability of Métis-owned small and micro-businesses, and strengthen operations so they are well positioned for recovery.

This fund will provide non-repayable financial support to Métis home and family based businesses, generating less than $40,000 in a year that do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) or a Covid-19 loan from the MVDF.

Eligible micro-businesses may receive contributions of up to $8,000, based on revenue.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:
• MNO Citizen (must provide citizenship # on application)
• 18 years of age or older
• Lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic
• Business revenue of less than $40K/yr
• Total family income of less than $160K/yr
• Have not accessed CEBA through a mainstream financial institution or Métis Emergency Business Funding (MEBF) through MVDF

WHAT IS CONSIDERED A MICROBUSINESS?
Métis micro-entrepreneurs might include:
Crafters (beadwork, painters, carvers, artisans, etc.); individuals that cook/bake/ make Medicines; individuals who conduct cultural events (fiddlers, dancers, etc.); Guides for the tourist industry; Trappers; individuals that run a small business from their home (hairdressing, sewing, house cleaning, etc.)

For more information including documentation requirements and how to apply, visit: microgrant.metisnation.org