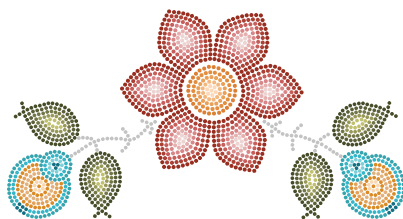




Métis Nation of Ontario

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO • ANNUAL REPORT • 2020-2021

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MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Statement of Prime Purpose

Where We Got Our Name ~

“The paternal ancestors of the Métis were the former employees of the Hudson Bay Northwest Fur Companies, and their maternal ancestors were Indian women of the various tribes.

The French word “Métis” is derived from the Latin participle mixtus, which means “mixed;” in French “mele”; it expresses well the idea that is sought to be conveyed.

However appropriate the corresponding English expression “Halfbreed” might have been for the first generation of the mixture of blood, now that European blood and Indian blood are mixed in every degree, it is no longer general enough.

The French word “Métis” expresses the idea of this mixture in the most satisfactory manner possible, and thus becomes a proper race name. Why should we care to what degree exactly of mixture we possess European blood and Indian blood? If we feel ever so little gratitude and filial love toward one or the other, do they not constrain us to say: “WE ARE MÉTIS!” – Louis Riel, 1885

Who We Are as a People ~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

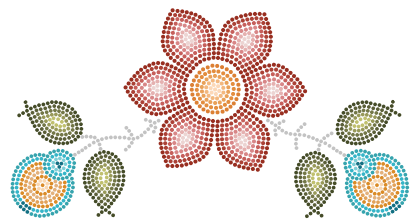
Now Therefore We Declare as Follows

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

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

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

- To research, publish and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and to establish and maintain a registry of the Métis citizens of Ontario.
- To establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government.
- To encourage the full participation of all Métis in the Métis Nation.
- To promote and foster community development.
- To re-establish land and resource bases.
- To develop prosperity and economic self-sufficiency within the Métis Nation.
- To provide care and support necessary to meet the fundamental needs of the citizens of the Métis Nation.
- To promote the improved health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community.
- To establish effective means of communication for the Métis Nation.
- To encourage academic and skills development and to enable citizens of the Métis Nation to attain their educational aspirations.
- To promote the history, values, culture, languages and traditions of the Métis Nation and to create an awareness of our proud heritage.
- To promote Métis artistic and cultural achievement.
- To ensure that Métis can exercise their Aboriginal and Treaty rights and freedoms and in so doing, act in a spirit of cooperation with other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.
- To establish good relations and maintain our historic alliances with all Aboriginal peoples for the pursuit of our common interests and goals.
- To continue our affiliation with the Métis National Council for the representation of the interests of the Métis Nation in Ontario at the National and International levels.
- To gain the recognition and respect of the Métis as a Nation and a people;
- To protect and preserve the lands and waters within our homelands for future generations.



A MESSAGE FROM THE

Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario

On behalf of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), we are pleased to present our communities, citizens and partners with this year's Annual Report.

Since the inaugural meeting of the current PCMNO in June 2020, a meeting held on the one-year anniversary of the MNO's historic core self-government agreement signing with Canada, there has been much to report. A great deal of work has been done to support our people and to advance Métis rights and recognition, in spite of a global pandemic that continues to challenge and test our spirits.

Yet, despite the lockdowns and social distancing measures, we are more connected than ever. Over the past year, we have witnessed our communities come together in truly inspiring and innovative ways, and new support programs are being developed and shared with citizens every day.

The MNO continues to develop and enhance available COVID-19 supports; which includes new programs in housing and homelessness, early learning child care supports, developments in Métis child and family services, a 24-hr Mental Health and Addictions Crisis Line, and free legal and financial counseling services, among others. Since the pandemic began, over \$7.2 million in

direct support has been distributed to Métis families, and have helped benefit over 1,800 Métis children.

The MNO's programs and services are here to support you and your family. A variety of new and enhanced programs have been introduced to help citizens from all walks of life, and we are continually looking for ways to engage and involve citizens in the great work to

be done.

Additionally, the MNO has made great efforts to ensure the safety of citizens by reimagining how meetings, Assemblies, and elections could take place in a virtual space. In November 2020, we were pleased to host the first-ever virtual Annual General Assembly (AGA) over Zoom, featuring favourite AGA staples like an online Métis Kitchen Party and a virtual trade-show for Métis artists and vendors. We will continue to seek solutions that ensure the safety of MNO citizens in any space or forum.

As elected officials, the PCMNO appreciates the immense responsibilities and expectations placed upon leadership by citizens; as well as the significant work that lies ahead in advancing Métis rights and self-government.

In March, the PCMNO reviewed the foundational documents that will guide the MNO in governance, and how these policies will complement each other while affirming principles established in the *Statement of Prime Purpose*. Policies like the *Code of Conduct* and *Métis Rules of Order* set guidelines for healthy debate and dialogue within the MNO, are deeply significant as we advance self-government, and ensure safe, respectful spaces for citizens to be fully engaged.

Today, the MNO, along with its sister Métis governments, continue to be



ABOVE: Following the MNO general election on June 1, 2020 the newly-elected members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario were sworn in by the Honourable Todd Ducharme -- for the first-time ever via video-conference. Please note: the screen capture above does not include all members of PCMNO.

focused on the self-government journey and the implementation of the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement (MGRSA).

The MGRSA immediately recognizes the s. 35 self-government rights of the Métis communities represented by the MNO, and sets out a mutually agreeable process for how the Métis Government's and its law-making powers in core areas will be recognized in federal law. The MNO's new Self-Government Strategy Branch has been working closely with regions and with the MNO Negotiations Committee to dig into the MGRSA to assist in advancing next steps.

The MNO has also been working to negotiate funding supports from Canada to advance building self-government and implementing the MGRSA. These initial funding supports would be intended for activities like consulting on the Métis Government Constitution development, engagement with citizens about the MGRSA, and building core self-government supports in the interim while the MNO works to implement the MGRSA, Regional Implementation Agreements (RIA), and Workplans.

Another important milestone in self-government was achieved this year, with the release of the MNO "Registry and Self-Government Readiness Review" ("RSRP" or "Registry Review"). The Registry Review was a product of

the multi-year review of the MNO's centralized Métis citizenship registration system.

In addition to confirming that the overwhelming majority of MNO citizens have completed citizenship files and are objectively verified as Métis rights-holders, the Registry Review has created a "state-of-the-art" registry known as the Secure Archive Source Historical database (the "SASH database").

To ensure citizens are informed and

engaged on the outcome of this report, the MNO will undertake province-wide consultations with citizens through a series of virtual Town Hall meetings in order to develop a "What We Heard" report. Visit the MNO website for more information on the Registry Review.

As elected leaders, the PCMNO has been given a clear mandate to continue to advance Métis rights and self-government on behalf of Métis communities and citizens in Ontario.

It is important to recognize our many achievements, but we must also turn our attention to the work ahead of us as we engage communities and citizens, increase our communications, and continue to strengthen and advance our systems of governance. This is work we must do together.

This past year has reminded us all of the resilience of our people, the strength of our spirit, and the depths of our kindness. Our accomplishments are a direct result of a united people working together for a common cause. We encourage you to get involved by connecting with your communities, attending engagement sessions, and making your voice heard.

On behalf of the PCMNO, we thank all of our citizens, leadership and partners for their contributions to the MNO and community this past year.

Thank you and marsii! ∞



MNO by the Numbers

Over
25,000

Métis Nation of Ontario Citizens
working together to realize the dreams of our ancestors to be self-determining and self-governing

31

Métis Nation of Ontario Community Councils
fostering community empowerment and development for Métis citizens living within their geographic territory

Over
\$9.1M

In direct COVID-19 support for Métis
Over \$9.1M in emergency COVID-19 support has been distributed directly to MNO citizens and families.

Over
2,186

Children aided by MNO's COVID-19 funding

331

MNO Staff Members
carry out the work outlined in the *Statement of Prime Purpose* for Métis people in Ontario (staff numbers as of June 2021)

33

Community Offices
are the base for a province-wide infrastructure that delivers programs and services to Métis people all across Ontario

Over
\$74M

Total Budget
provides active funding for over 150 programs, 361 employees and 250 student clients, and tens of thousands financial transactions per year.

Innumerable
Métis Volunteers

from Communities across Ontario
working together with open hearts and tireless dedication reaching out to families and citizens to provide support where it is needed

2020-21: A Year Like No Other

It would not be possible to review 2020-2021 without acknowledging the COVID-19 pandemic--we've all experienced the impact of coronavirus in many ways. But, not surprisingly, we saw truly inspiring work come from MNO citizens, Community Councils and our staff in their response to this most challenging year.

Within days of the first provincial quarantine MNO staff and Community Councils volunteers were hard at work reaching out to our most vulnerable citizens, asking how they are coping during the pandemic and assisting them with anything they might need

In just a few short weeks, the MNO created a series of new Covid-19 Emergency Financial Support programs and assembled a Emergency Response Team to provide assistance to MNO citizens.

The Emergency Response Team, made up of over 50 MNO staff members pulled from various branches across the MNO, created a structured and speedy approach to processing applicants and assessing their needs. This includes evaluating the types and levels of financial support needed, and/or if they could be helped by MNO's existing supports such as housing, education, healing and wellness, mental health or even business support through the Métis Voyageur Development Fund. This is all on top of their regular duties. Our dedicated

front-line staff stepped up as they always do.

The spread of COVID-19 required the focus and collaboration of all governments. The MNO worked bi-laterally with the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to collaborate on a collective response. Both governments' commitment to work with the MNO during this challenging time, was appreciated and acknowledged.

The MNO also continued its close collaboration with the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) during this time, specifically working with MNA to secure Personal Protective Equipment and MN-S to collaborate on Mental Health Services.

All MNO offices were closed on March 16, 2020 and remained closed throughout 2020-21. Still, nearly all of the regular MNO programs and services were available even during the early days of the pandemic and this year many MNO programs were enhanced and several new programs

and initiatives were launched.

As COVID-19 and its consequences linger on, the MNO has continued to adapt; taking direction from public health experts on safety. It's been challenging work, but necessary and rewarding.

In addition to responding to unique realities brought on by COVID-19, the MNO remained focused on advancing the *Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement* (MGRSA), building a Self-Government Strategy branch and working with MNO communities to navigate the self-government journey. It is critical that all MNO citizens be engaged in this important work.

Despite lockdowns and social distancing measures, we remain more connected than ever. Over the past year we have witnessed our communities come together in truly inspiring and innovative ways: from food-drives to online cultural workshops, our communities have been just as creative as they have been generous.



March
2020

March 16

MNO staff move to remote work.
Anticipated return to office on April 3.

March 31

MNO citizens and families in Ontario facing any difficulties are encouraged to contact the [MNO COVID HOTLINE](#) at 1-800-263-4889 or covidhelp@metisnation.org

Late March

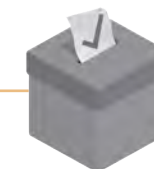
MNO begins strategically deploying emergency funding from Canada and Ontario to meet the needs of Métis communities and help stop the spread of COVID-19.

MNO begins holding weekly [TELEPHONE TOWN HALLS](#) with leadership across the Province to provide updates and opportunities to ask questions and raise concerns.

April
2020

Early April

The MNO postpones a series of planned gatherings and events as well as its election and moves in-person consultations with citizens to telephone consultations and online town halls.



April 6

MNO Chief Electoral Officer makes difficult decision to postpone election and cancels in-person voting.

April 7

MNO creates several [COVID-19 Emergency Financial Support Programs](#) to provide emergency financial supports for MNO citizen's and their families. Including: COVID-19 Care Kits; Housing Stabilization; Child Care Support and more.



April 27

The 2020 AGA is postponed.

Early May

Métis sewers begin making fabric masks for citizens! Many thanks to our MNO Women's Reps who created and contributed masks to keep our communities safe!



May
2020



April 3

With Ontario in quarantine MNO and MNO Youth Council kick off first of a series of weekly [Virtual Kitchen Parties](#).

Covid-19 Community Council Support

MNO Community Councils are eligible to receive funds to ensure in-need citizens can access food, medicine and household supplies.

Citizen Outreach

MNO reaches out to over 2,700 Citizens considered vulnerable and over 70 years of age. MNO operations team respond to address "urgent" or "emergent" needs.

MNO Community Councils

begin compiling volunteer rosters to ensure needs of local communities are being met.

Mid-April

Zoom accounts roll out for MNO Community and Advisory Councils.



Mid-May

Special Edition of *Métis Voyageur* with info on MNO's pandemic response.

Harvesting during COVID-19

Information made available for MNO Harvesters to help them stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Citizens are reminded to distance and limit groups to five persons or less.



June 1

President Margaret Froh is re-elected along with provincial and regional leadership representing the rights and interests of communities and citizens throughout Ontario. Elections also held for MNO Veterans' Council and Youth Council.

June 27-28

Newly elected PCMNO holds **inaugural meeting** on first year anniversary of signing of the Core Self-Government Agreement.

Early-July

MNO introduces **24-hour Mental Health and Addictions Crisis Line** offering Métis culturally-specific supports for adults, youth, and families in English and French: 1-888-767-7572

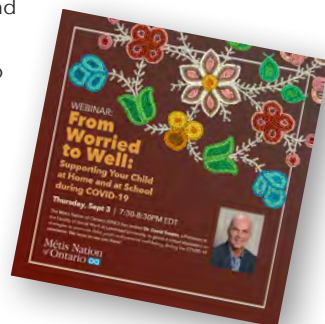


August 22-23

Fourth annual **Métis Youth Leadership Conference** held virtually via Zoom.

September 3

Inaugural **Mental Health and Addictions Webinar** -- first in a series of online events addressing mental health and wellness, and providing the Ontario Métis community with easy access to expert advice.



June 2020

July 2020

August 2020

September 2020

Supplies for Councils

Personal Protective Equipment is provided through MNO's partnerships with Ontario Government.

MNO Education and Training branch sends printed **MNO educational resources** and, in partnership with MNO Youth Council, **beading kits**.



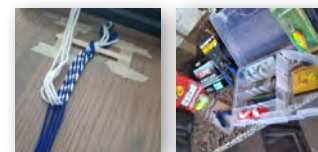
All Summer

The **MNO Summer Youth Program** goes online.



July 29

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of MNO citizens, families and communities it is announced that the **2020 AGA will be held virtually** on November 7, 2020.

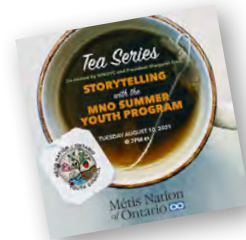


August 17-20

MNO brings camp to the kids! Métis students in grades 10-12 invited to take part in **Été: a virtual summer youth cultural camp**.

September 1

MNO Youth Council hold inaugural **Virtual Tea Series**, co-hosted by MNO President Margaret Froh, the monthly online gathering highlights key topics of interest to youth.



September 21-24

MNO Registry begins hosting regular **Virtual Mobile Registries** offering assistance with Citizenship/Harvesting applications, genealogical research via phone and video conference.

Late September

Back-to-School Kits for MNO citizens with children in Jr. Kindergarten to Grade 12. Kits include a backpack, lunch box, reusable facemasks, hand sanitizer and more.



October 28

The first ever MNO **All-Citizen Online Town Hall** takes place over Zoom.



November 16

Due to increased pandemic safety measures the traditional **Louis Riel Day** ceremony at Queen's Park was cancelled. Still, many Community Councils hold virtual or safely distanced Riel Day ceremonies across province.



2021

COVID-19 vaccine roll-out begins. **All-Citizen Town Hall** held on January 21 to share information on COVID-19 and its impact on MNO citizens and communities, plus info about how vaccine deployment will roll out for MNO citizens.

February 8

MNO and the Métis Voyageur Development Fund announce new **Métis Micro-Business Fund** to support Métis-owned small, home-based and family businesses negatively impacted by COVID-19.



Jan/Feb

MNO Métis Child, Youth and Family Services Project hosts first round of community engagement. This "visioning phase" will inform a reimagined child welfare system for Métis children, youth and families in Ontario.

March 3

Telephone Town Hall for seniors (65+) to addresses ongoing COVID-19 developments and vaccine rollout.

March 27

MNO Community Councils, Advisory Councils, Regional Consultation Committees and members of PCMNO participate in a day-long **Good Governance and Best Practices Training Session** via Zoom.

October 2020



October 12-23

Métis Early Learning Virtual Camp for Métis early learners between the ages of 3 and 12, their siblings, and parents. Provides an opportunity to learn more about Métis culture and way of life through hands-on play-based activities.

November 2020

November 7

The **MNO Annual General Assembly** goes online for first time ever. More than 560 MNO citizens, leadership and guests from around the province log in to highly anticipated event.



December 2020

New MNO website

Just in time for the New Year comes a new look for the MNO website! New website is more accesible and mobile-friendly.

January 2021

A New Year

Phase Two of MNO Covid-19 Emergency Funding is announced and includes: an enhanced Income Relief Benefit; child-related supports are extended to children 13-18 years; and several new programs (Emergency Family Fund, Technology Fund, Food Security for Children, Special Needs Support and a Benevolent Fund).

February 2021

Unity Through Negotiation

In partnership with the Gordon Foundation, MNO and MNOYC held a very successful **Self-Government negotiations simulation for youth** around the province.

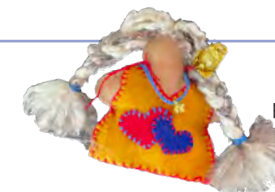
February 20

1st annual MNO Two-Spirit LGBTQ+ Leadership Symposium. Day-long online event featured notable speakers, including singer-songwriter Amanda Rheame and author Cherie Dimaline.

March 2021

March 1

K-12 Education Support Fund launched to support purchase of educational supports and materials (e.g., school supplies, books, learning software, counselling services, technology etc.).



March 21

Métis women from across the MNO login to participate in virtual **Métis Women's Leadership Gathering: Celebrating Community Ties**.

In Their Own Words

Despite the social distancing, we've kept in touch! The MNO has worked hard this past year to be responsive to the needs of the community, reaching out to those vulnerable, developing new COVID-19 supports and programs and supporting the great outreach work that MNO Community Councils have been doing all year long. We've received a lot of great feedback from MNO citizens on what these supports have meant to them and their families. Your voice matters, so please continue to reach out and share your experiences! Here is a snapshot into some of what we've been hearing...

I just wanted to send our heartfelt thank you to all of the organizations that donated and supported MNO citizens during such unprecedented times. We could never put into words our sincere gratitude for the help we received during COVID. A little goes a long way, and these cards went a long, long way for our family! We are so appreciative."

— Oltsher family, Dryden

Many thanks to the North Channel Métis Council for the PC gift cards, purchased from funding Cameco donated. In these difficult times, this thoughtful gesture goes a long way, and is much appreciated.

— Todd from Sault Ste Marie

*Thank you so much!
Our family is very grateful*



— MNO Citizen

Thanks for reaching out at this time when it is really needed for a lot of our citizens in the area.

— Rick, Steve, Mathew and Roly, Elliot Lake

I am writing to let you know how much I appreciate your kindness, support and compassion. Thank you for the grocery card. Through your assistance I was able to feed my family.

— MNO Citizen, Port Colborne

I am filled with gratitude and appreciation. You guys have really helped my family in this difficult time of transition. Thank you.

— Samara

The grocery delivery was very much appreciated as I am elderly and had difficulty leaving my home.

— MNO Citizen, St.Catharines

Thank you so much for your help, time and energy reviewing and approving our application. I cannot express how full our hearts are with gratitude. It's absolutely amazing news and we thank you again for this kindness!! Please don't hesitate to contact us for any reason in the future.

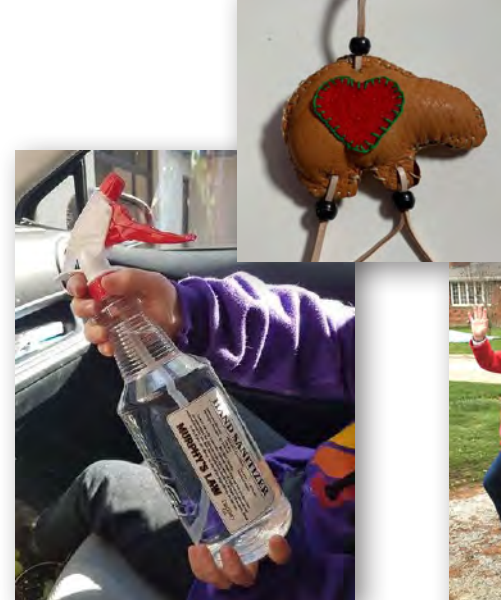
— MNO Citizen

It is so great that the MNO is able to help our people through trying times and what better way to support than by providing gift certificates from our local grocery stores!! Thanks so much!

— Kristy from Atikokan

Thank you! 🙏

— Sarah



HEART & SOUL

Métis Nation of Ontario Chartered Community Councils

Métis citizens are the heart and soul of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and are represented at the local level through MNO Charter Community Councils. Community Councils are an important communication hub for MNO and play a significant role in fostering community empowerment and development for Métis citizens living within the geographic territory of that council. Community Councils operate in accordance with MNO Charter Agreements, which give councils the mandate to govern, while ensuring accountability, transparency, and consistency.

Since the onset of the pandemic, Community Councils have been on the front-lines of providing support to MNO citizens impacted by COVID-19. Leveraging funding provided by Canada and a variety of proponents, this year councils delivered over \$600,000 worth of COVID support within their communities.

MNO's Community Relations (CR) team – part of the Secretariat's Intergovernmental Relations Branch – exists to support MNO's Chartered Community Councils, Advisory Councils and the citizens they represent. With a focus on continuous improvement, the CR team provides support and information to councils and regions to help them to achieve their objectives and advance their priorities. The CR team offers training and knowledge exchange opportunities including about governance, MNO policies and procedures, and other topics. The CR team also supports council elections, filling of council vacancies, conflict resolution, community outreach and online supports for Zoom, council websites and social media. This team works closely with other Branches within the MNO Secretariat to support their work with councils, and facilitates distribution of funding to councils and collection of reporting back to provide to MNO funders.

On this page: Just a small sampling of the incredible work done by MNO Community Councils this year.



NAVIGATING SELF-GOVERNMENT TOGETHER

With our core Self-Government Agreement in hand, the MNO is moving forward together to build a constitution and implement self-government. And we want to ensure that all MNO Citizens, regions and communities are engaged in that process in a way that makes sense for them. Let's take this journey together!

1 GET STARTED

Each of MNO's 9 Regions draft and sign a Regional Implementation Agreement (RIA). The RIAs are customized to the unique needs and concerns of each Region. They also include common principles that ensure all voices will be heard and all MNO communities are properly supported.

2 GET ORGANIZED

Next, Regional Implementation Committees (RIC) will be formed with representation from each MNO community council in the Region. The RICs will develop work plans to build capacity and engage MNO citizens within the Region, and address any unique concerns the Region has when it comes to self-government.

3 RECOGNIZE OUR SUCCESSES

As MNO communities and citizens work together to build our vision for the future, the Government of Canada will pass a new federal law ('federal recognition legislation') that recognizes and cements our Self-Government Agreement in Canadian law.

4 WE BUILD IT TOGETHER

Community by community, all MNO citizens will be engaged to contribute their ideas, ask questions and, importantly, listen to one another. Through collaboration and consensus, we will build a Métis Government that is fair, worthy of respect, and true to our values.

5 CRAFT A MÉTIS CONSTITUTION

With the contributions and ideas of all MNO citizens, and inspired by the values and traditions of our ancestors, a Constitution will be drafted.

BUILD OUR CORE MÉTIS LAWS

We will build Métis Laws on citizenship, leadership selection and internal operations to provide a strong foundation for our Métis Government and future generations of Métis in Ontario.

7 RATIFY AND MOVE OUR MÉTIS GOVERNMENT FORWARD!

With our Métis Laws in place and all other Self-Government Agreement requirements met, we will hold a province-wide referendum to approve our Constitution and the Self-Government Agreement. Once ratified by the Métis citizens, we will move forward with Métis Self-Government in Ontario!



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Self-Government

Métis were included as one of the three recognized Indigenous people in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. On September 19, 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada in the *R v. Powley* decision affirmed and recognized the Section 35 rights of Métis. Specifically, the Court set out the test for establishing Métis harvesting rights protected by Section 35.

In the 2016 the *Daniels* decision the Supreme Court declared that Métis fell within federal jurisdiction under section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*; and affirmed that the Federal Crown owes a fiduciary duty to the Métis; and that Métis have the right to be consulted and negotiated with, in good faith, by the federal government on a collective basis through representatives of their choice.

The Daniels decision was closely followed by the release of the report of the Minister's Special Representative on Reconciliation with Métis: Section 35 Métis Rights or *Isaac Report* in July 2016, which provided further impetus for the federal government to begin to take action on long-standing Métis rights and self-government issues.

Daniels and the Isaac Report provided the foundation for discussions with the federal government which led to the signing of a *Memorandum of Understanding on Advancing Reconciliation between the MNO and Canada* in February 2017. This set the stage for further discussions that led to the signing of the *MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation* in December 2017.

This Framework Agreement established a process for on-going negotiations to develop the government-to-government relationship between the Crown and the MNO. In preparation for these negotiations, in August 2016, the MNO launched the MNO

Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government and released its final report in May 2018; and in October 2017 launched the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Project (Registry Review).

In June of 2019, the MNO and the Government of Canada signed the *MNO-Canada Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement*. This landmark agreement sets the MNO on a path toward fully recognized self-government.

The signing of the Self-Government Agreement was a historic victory for Métis citizens and communities represented by the MNO. In the Self-Government Agreement, Canada recognizes – for the first time in history – that the Métis communities represented by the MNO hold the inherent right to self-government and self-determination.

This year the MNO was pleased to welcome Brian Black as the Director of Self-Government Strategy. Brian is proud to serve Ontario Métis and knows Self-Government is beyond the scope of any one person or unit and it will require relationship-building, open communication and respect for the many perspectives and voices of MNO Citizens.

As the Self-Government team continues to grow they have been 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 the MGRSA. This work included a very successful learning experience for Métis youth -- Finding Unity Through Negotiation -- in February 2021. A partnership between the MNO Youth Council and the Gordon Foundation, the Self-Government simulation allowed youth to inform themselves on Self-Government and bring that knowledge back to their communities.

web: www.metisnation.org/self-government

email: Self.Government@metisnation.org

GOVERNANCE

Métis Harvesting

The annual harvest is integral to the Métis way of life. Since it began issuing Harvester's certificates in 1995, the *Métis Nation of Ontario Harvesting Policy* has helped to facilitate the annual Métis harvest by allowing MNO citizens to exercise their right to harvest in a structured and responsible manner. It outlines the MNO's conservation values, the requirements for a Harvester's certificate and the role of the Captains of the Hunt in responsible comanagement of the harvest.

The existence of Métis rights, including the right to harvest, was affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in the

September, 2003 *R v. Powley* decision. Ontario was the first jurisdiction in the Métis Homeland to successfully complete negotiations on Métis harvesting. An interim agreement between the MNO and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), which recognized the MNO's existing harvest card system was reached in 2004.

Since the signing of the interim harvest agreement the MNO has been almost continuously in negotiation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) about obtaining a permanent harvest agreement. As part of that process in 2017-18, the MNO

completed an independent review of its Harvester Card system that confirmed the MNO has a reliable system to identify Métis rights holders. The completion of the independent review led to the signing of the **MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting** in May 2018 that replaced the 2004 agreement. Unlike the 2004 agreement, the new Framework Agreement does not include a limit on the number of Harvester certificates the MNO can issue. While other issues remain to be resolved, the removal of the limit was a positive step.

GOVERNANCE

Captains of the Hunt

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

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

MNO Captains of the Hunt (2019-20)

Chief Captain of the Hunt
Margaret Froh

Deputy Chief COTH
Brian Tucker

Region One
Sandy Triskle

Region Two
Phillip McGuire

Region Three
Andy Lefebvre

Region Four
Steve Gjos

Region Five
Denis Lefebvre

Region Six
Lee Rivet

Region Seven
Greg Garratt

Region Eight
Jim Tolles

Region Nine
Peter Rivers

GOVERNANCE

Regional Consultation Committees

Since its inception, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has focused its efforts on building Métis-specific governance structures that will facilitate the self-government aspirations of Ontario Métis. In 2008-09, the MNO added a new dimension to Métis governance, called **Regional Consultation Protocols**. These agreements advance the MNO's overall nation-building efforts and help ensure the Crown fulfills its duty to consult and accommodate regional rights-bearing Métis communities throughout the province.

The over arching goal of the protocols is to ensure that all MNO citizens who are members of regional rights-bearing communities have an opportunity to be consulted on policies, plans, projects and developments that have the potential to impact the collective rights and interests of the Métis. Each protocol includes a regional consultation committee comprised of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario regional councillor for that area and a representative from each community council within the region.

Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul/ Rainy River/Rainy Lake

Theresa Stenlund (Chair)
Brady Hupet
Janet Hipfner
Liz Boucha
Marlene Davidson
Sandy Triskle

Lakehead/Nipigon/ Michipicoten

Tim Sinclair (Chair)
Kevin Muloin
Trent Desaulniers
Trudy Bellamy
William "Torch" Gordon

James Bay/Abitibi- Temiskamingue

Jacques Picotte (Chair)
Andy Lefebvre
David Hamilton
Lorette Mcknight
Pierre "Pete" Lefebvre
Urgel Courville

Mattawa/Lake Nipissing

Roger Rose (Chair)
Denis Lefebvre
Nelson Montreuil
April Carrier
Susan Van der Rassel

Georgian Bay

David Dusome (Chair)
Tammy Porter
Greg Garratt
Peter Coture
Robert Pinkney
Victor Brunelle
Tony Muscat

Historic Sault Ste. Marie

Mitch Case (Chair)
Kim Powley
Steve Gjos
Yvonne Jensen

Region Six

Andy Dufrane (Chair)
Christa Lemelin
Erik Gjos
Jonathan Marconi
Lee Rivet

Region Eight

Karen Derocher (Chair)
Carolyn Holland
Debra Keaney
Jim Tolles
Shirley Debassige

Region Nine

Peter Rivers (Chair)
Derrick Pont
Jennifer Parkinson
Andrew Buttenham
Kathleen Anderson

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Leadership

In 1993, the MNO was established through the will of Métis people and historic Métis communities coming together to create a Métis-specific governance structure.

MNO citizens exercise their collective right to self-government through a structure that continues to evolve as the MNO moves forward in the implementation of Métis self-government. A series of documents guide the work of the MNO, these include: the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose; MNO Bylaws; the MNO Secretariat Act, 2015; MNO Community Council Charter Agreements; MNO Interim Harvesting Policy; MNO Electoral Code and the Métis Nation Rules of Order.

Every four years, MNO citizens have the opportunity to choose their leadership, at the provincial level, by voting in province-wide ballot box elections.

Local community councils get their mandate to support local governance from the MNO through signed community charter agreements, and work collaboratively with the MNO and other community councils to represent the collective rights and interests of Métis citizens throughout the province.

The MNO advanced the Métis rights agenda through the precedent-setting Powley case, which has benefitted all Métis rights bearing communities in Canada.

The MNO has established bilateral and tripartite processes with the federal and provincial governments. In November 2008, the MNO signed an Ontario-Métis Nation Framework Agreement with the Government of Ontario, which was renewed in 2014. In 2017, the MNO, Canada and Ontario signed the MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation, and the MNO-Canada Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community.

The MNO-Canada *Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement* was signed in June 2019 which

Highly respected for their knowledge, values and experience, Senators play an important role at Métis community events and meetings, and help keep Métis culture alive by sharing Métis traditions and way of life.

One Senator is elected at the community level to sit on the community council executive. Every four years, four Senators from across the province are elected by all the other Senators at an

sets the MNO on a path forward toward constitution building and will involve extensive consultation and engagement with citizens and communities.

MNO Citizens

The MNO maintains in Ottawa, the only provincial Métis registry recognized by the governments of Ontario and Canada. An independent registrar assesses applications and authorizes citizenship when applicants meet the citizenship criteria as set out in MNO Policy and the MNO Bylaws (adopted by the MNO in 2008).

Through the administration of its own registry, the MNO exercises its communities’ fundamental right of self-determination recognized in international law and Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

In 2009, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) developed an Interim Registry Policy to provide the Registry with clarity to the principles of how the adopted definition of Métis should be applied. The policy was extensively reviewed at a series of community consultations and in August 2014, the policy was formally adopted by special resolution at the 21st MNO Annual General Assembly.

The rigorous application process serves to affirm the credibility and integrity of the MNO’s Registry and the MNO as a government that represents the collective interests of Section 35 Métis rights holders.

The MNO has now publicly released the results of its multi-year review of its Registry. This process is known as the “MNO Registry and Self-Government Readiness Review” (“RSRP” or “Registry Review”). The Registry Review marks an important milestone in the MNO’s ongoing self-government journey as a Métis government.


or closing prayers or to talk about Métis history and culture are also growing. Our Senators continue to soldier on with these increasing demands on their time and the whole MNO is grateful for their dedication.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Senators

Provisional Council

OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

 <p>President Margaret Froh</p>	 <p>Chair Hank Rowlinson</p>	 <p>Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau</p>	 <p>Secretary-Treasurer Jo Anne Young</p>
 <p>Region One Theresa Stenlund</p>	 <p>Region Two Tim Sinclair</p>	 <p>Region Three Jacques Picotte</p>	 <p>Region Four Mitch Case</p>
 <p>Region Five Roger Rose</p>	 <p>Region Six Andy Dufrane</p>	 <p>Region Seven David Dusome</p>	 <p>Region Eight Karen Derocher</p>
 <p>Region Nine Peter Rivers</p>	 <p>Youth Rep Jordyn Playne</p>	 <p>Post-Secondary Rep Hannah Bazinet</p>	
 <p>Senator Gary LaFramboise</p>	 <p>Senator Liliane Ethier</p>	 <p>Senator Steven Callaghan</p>	 <p>Executive Senator Rene Gravelle</p>

The Métis Nation of Ontario is governed by the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). The executive members of the PCMNO are the president, chair, vice-chair, secretary-treasurer and executive senator. Nine regional councilors, a provincial youth representative, a post-secondary representative and three senators also sit on the PCMNO. The PCMNO takes its direction from and is required to report to its citizens at general assemblies, which are held once a year.

The structure of the PCMNO ensures that community and regional interests are represented, as well as other demographic segments like youth, women and senators.

Province-wide ballot box elections are held every four years pursuant to the MNO Electoral Code Part A. The only exception are the senators who are elected at MNO AGAs every four years from among the community council and honorary senators. The current PCMNO Senators were elected at the 2020 MNO AGA and their terms run until the 2024 AGA.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Veterans’ Council (MNOVC)

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council is a chartered council of the MNO. Established in 2001 at the direction of the MNO at their Annual General Meeting, the MNO Veterans’ Council represents the interests of Métis veterans within the MNO’s governance structure.

The MNO Veteran Council’s structure was formalized at the 2009 Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Sudbury with the election of an executive. Elections for the executive position on the MNO Veterans’ Council are held every four years in conjunction with general MNO elections. The most recent election was held in November 2020. The terms of office of the current executive expires in May 2020.



- President**
Brain Prairie
- Chair**
Paul Broadbent
- Secretary/Treasurer**
Lee Rivet
- Sgt-at-Arms**
Douglas Woods
- Senator for Veterans**
Stephen Callaghan
- Women’s Representative**
Lisa Tessier



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Youth Council (MNOYC)

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Youth Council has the mandate to identify issues impacting Métis youth and to work within the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) to ensure these issues are addressed.

The MNO Youth Council consists of nine regional representatives who are elected in the MNO provincial ballot box elections held every four years. This election was held in June 2020 with the terms of the current MNO Youth Council members running until 2024.

MNO youth are also represented by the PCMNO Youth Representative, who holds a voting seat on the PCMNO. The MNO Youth Council and PCMNO youth representative bring forth the voices of the regional youth representatives and local community youth representatives at the provincial level.

Each region has a regional youth representative and each MNO Community Council has a position for a local youth representative who promotes youth initiatives, works directly with the MNO Youth Council and represents the voice of MNO youth in his or her area.



- President & PCMNO Youth Rep**
Jordyn Playne
- Region 1**
Emily O’Connor
- Region 2**

- Region 3**
Samantha Picotte
- Region 4**
Warren McFadden
- Region 5**
Janna Rose
- Region 6**
Kelly Duquette
- Region 7**
Dalton Latondress
- Region 8**
Gabrielle Moreau
- Region 9**
Paige Coutuere



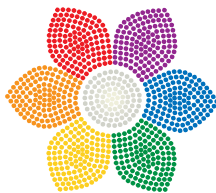
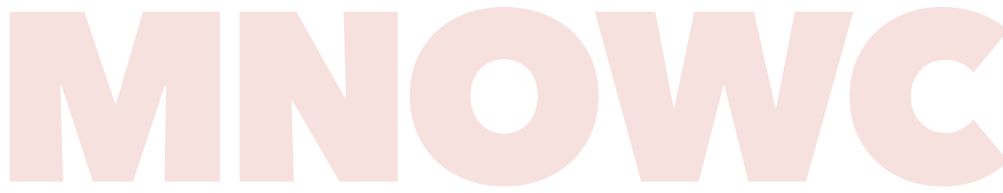
MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Women’s Council (MNOWC)

The Métis Nation of Ontario Women’s Council (MNOWC) is comprised of Métis women from Ontario who are committed to promoting women’s issues and advocating on their behalf within the MNO community.

The MNO Women’s Council also advises the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) on matters pertaining to women and works with community councils, Indigenous boards, government bodies and women’s groups to assist Métis people with issues of concern specific to women. This work includes policy development and review, coordination, consultation and education. The main goal of the MNO Women’s Council is to encourage the full participation of all women within the MNO in helping to build a strong and healthy nation. The MNO Women’s Council also works with the Women of the Métis Nation - Les Femmes Michif Otipemsiwak. The MNO Women’s Council consists of the President and nine regional representatives.

- President** **Suzanne Jackson**
- Region 1** **Colette Surovy**
- Region 2** **Kelly Camacho**
- Region 3** **Liliane Ethier**
- Region 4** **Lisa Lewis**
- Region 5** **Margaret Gouliquer**
- Region 6** **Cora Bunn**
- Region 7** **Patricia Taylor**
- Region 8** **Teresa (Tera) Beaulieu**
- Region 9** **Colleen Brunelle**



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Two-Spirit Working Group

Fostering a culture of inclusivity within the MNO is important and benefits us all. Métis people have long recognized that Two-Spirit (and LGBTQ+) identifying Métis folks all have a place in our circle, bringing unique insight and perspective to the wider community. In recognition of their valued role within the Métis community, a resolution was passed at a 2016 Annual General Assembly directing the MNO establish a provincial Two-Spirit/LGBTQ Working Group comprised of Métis citizens, and with the full support of the MNO.

Together, the MNO and the Two-Spirit Working Group aspire to meet the needs of the community by: identifying and advocating for Two-Spirit and LGBTQ rights, developing Two-Spirit and LGTBQ cultural and wellness programming, and creating safe spaces for all voices (from across the rainbow) to be heard.

Since 2016, the Two-Spirit Working Group has made significant strides towards developing an inclusive culture within the MNO and continues to make strategic recommendations; including hosting events such as the inaugural MNO Two-Spirit LGBTQ+ Leadership Symposium: A Place in the Circle in February 2021.



Adminstrative Reports

To carry out the work outlined in the *Statement of Prime Purpose*, the MNO established a province-wide infrastructure to deliver and manage programs and services for Métis people in Ontario. Directed through seven branches, the MNO employs 200+ people located in over 30 offices in Ontario.

- ATIKOKAN**
Healing & Wellness
- BANCROFT**
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
- BARRIE**
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
- BLIND RIVER**
Healing & Wellness
- BRAMPTON**
Healing & Wellness
- CHAPLEAU**
Healing & Wellness
- COCHRANE**
Healing & Wellness
- DRYDEN**
Healing & Wellness
- FORT FRANCES**
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
Lands, Resources & Consultations
- GERALDTON**
Healing & Wellness
- GRAVENHURST**
Healing & Wellness
Education & Training
- HAILEYBURY**
Healing & Wellness

- HAMILTON**
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
- KENORA**
Healing & Wellness
Education & Training
- KINGSTON**
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
- KITCHENER**
Healing & Wellness
- MATTAWA**
Healing & Wellness
- MIDLAND**
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
Lands, Resources & Consultations
- NORTH BAY**
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
- NORTHBROOK**
Healing & Wellness
- OTTAWA (HEAD OFFICE)**
Communications
Education & Training
Finance
Healing & Wellness
Human Resources
Information & Communications
Technology
Registry

- OSHAWA**
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
- OWEN SOUND**
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
Lands, Resources & Consultations
- PETERBOROUGH**
Healing & Wellness
- RENFREW**
Healing & Wellness
- SAULT STE. MARIE**
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
- SUDBURY**
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
Lands, Resources & Consultations
- THOROLD**
Healing & Wellness
Education & Training
- THUNDER BAY**
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
Infinity Property Services
Lands, Resources & Consultations
- TIMMINS**
Healing & Wellness
Education & Training
Lands, Resources & Consultations
- TORONTO**
Education & Training
Healing & Wellness
Intergovernmental Relations
Lands, Resources & Consultations
- WINDSOR**
Healing & Wellness
Education & Training





MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Education & Training

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Education and Training branch is focused and led by the priorities of the MNO's *Statement of Prime Purpose*. The MNO is committed to encouraging academic and skill development amongst Métis people so that they may attain their educational and career aspirations.

Beginning in early childhood, continuing through K-12, post-secondary education, and into adulthood the branch has a full-range of programs and supports for to help Métis people across Ontario. Attaining their education and employment goals leads to healthy, thriving individuals, and supports the growth of a Métis labour market within our communities.

In 2020-21, the Education and Training branch fostered and increased industry and community partnerships, strengthened educational and knowledge sharing outreach through Métis community engagement sessions and expanded programs and services to support Métis education and employment. Programs and services remained accessible through a remote delivery network in light of the temporary closure of office locations related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Programs focus on direct education, employment and training supports tailored to the needs of individual clients. The branch also conducts advocacy, outreach, awareness, partnership and resource development in the areas of education and training. Newly expanded areas of programming include Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) as well as COVID-19 support programs for MNO citizens and their dependents managed by a specialized team of staff who were seconded from within and external to the existing Education and Training team members.



MÉTIS YOUTH PROGRAMMING THRIVES ONLINE

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM (SYP)
-- The SYP delivers Métis cultural presentations and workshops on beading, finger weaving, music, dance and more. In the summer of 2020, the MNO employed 29 Métis youth who worked remotely as part of regional teams to create Métis cultural workshop videos which were saved and used for future event requests.

MÉTIS YOUTH CULTURAL CAMP
This online initiative provides community-based cultural opportunities to help Métis youth experience their culture and acquire leadership skills and build resiliency. Three multi-day youth camps were hosted virtually in 2020-21 with an additional 11 online way-of-life workshops. A total 86 Métis youth attend the camps and workshops.

4TH ANNUAL MNO YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
In 2020 the branch collaborated with MNO Youth Council (MNOYC) to hold the 4th Annual MNO Youth Leadership Conference. Hosted virtually from August 22 to 23, the conference, themed "Returning to Who We Are, Decolonization and the Future of the Métis Nation", was attended by 67 Metis Youth between 16 to 29 years.



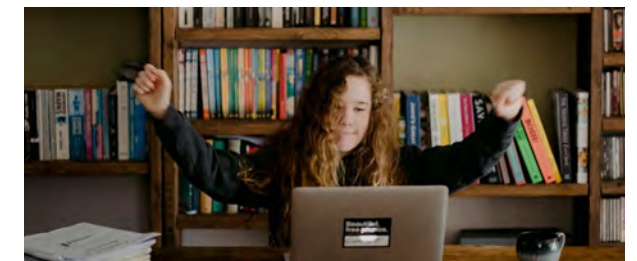
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SUPPORT
The MNO Post-Secondary Education Support Program helps Métis students access high quality education and achieve their dreams. This year, 355 Métis post-secondary education students were directly supported with funding to assist with school related expenses helping to pave the way towards a successful future for Métis people, communities and the MNO. The future looks bright!



EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE (ELCC)
By promoting and fostering community development and providing the care and support necessary to meet the needs of MNO citizens ELCC delivers culturally grounded early learning opportunities for Métis individuals, families, and communities. A variety of new programs were launched in 2020-21 which serviced 500+ families.



EMPLOYMENT IN ENERGY PROJECT
This program funds clients to receive occupational training in the trades sectors (Electrical, Welding, Heavy Equipment and AZ/DZ driver certification, Powerline Technical fields). Clients funded through this project with an employment success rate of 74% (136 employed in their field of study). Due to its success the project funding was extended for another year until March 2022.



EDUCATION SUPPORT ADVOCACY PROGRAM
This program helps families with K-12 youth improve access to supports in their learning environment. MNO Education Support Advocates provide support to Métis families who are experiencing challenges with: attendance; suspensions; social isolation; mental health concerns and/or learning disabilities; education planning; behavioural planning and communications with school administration. In 2020-21 the program served 122 Métis students across Ontario.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Healing & Wellness

The Métis Nation of Ontario’s (MNO) Healing and Wellness branch facilitates and coordinates programs, services, and activities to address the holistic needs of Métis people in Ontario at the provincial, regional, and local levels. Healing and Wellness programming promotes respect, compassion, dignity and empowerment and all services are offered through a Métis-specific lens that respects our vibrant distinct culture, deep roots and rich history.

The MNO Healing and Wellness branch team delivers its core programs out of 33 access points across Ontario. Over 110 front line coordinators are directed through the MNO’s centralized administrative system working within a framework that is culturally grounded, holistic, client-centered and family focused.

Core activities of the branch are centered on health promotion and interventions and are informed by research and knowledge. Workshops, events and other activities are planned on an annual basis to meet the goals of each of the programs and needs of Métis across Ontario.



DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM ENHANCED BY INCREASED FUNDING

This year the MNO Healing and Wellness Branch secured additional funding towards an even more comprehensive Diabetes Program from MNO citizens:

Diabetes Education Series – in partnership with indigenous diabetes educators, 50 MNO citizens participated in an eight interactive sessions on diabetes education via Zoom. Targeted to MNO citizens living with diabetes, participants received healthy food to support the improved dietary practices.

The Gathering of Our Wise Ones -- Métis seniors were connected to cultural and support systems, and provided a regular space to interact with peers in their culture community. This peer network creates a new opportunity for stories, indigenous knowledge and support to flow.

Diabetic Care Supplies – MNO Healing and Wellness continues to offer access to a variety of non-medical supplies to help MNO citizens mitigate the symptoms of diabetes (i.e., foot cream, diabetic socks, travel to medical appointments, healthy foods, etc).



WEBINARS FROM THE MNO MENTAL HEALTH & ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The MNO Mental Health and Advocacy Program adapted to COVID-19 pandemic by taking community outreach online. Nine webinar events took place this year reaching over 2500 participants (webinars were also made available to Métis people in Saskatchewan and Alberta). Each covered a different topic and featured advice and insight from guest experts. Recordings of past webinars are available online at the MNO website



MNO CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT

The MNO Child, Youth and Family Services Project launched in 2019 seeking to build systems that are more conducive to Métis-specific child, youth and family needs. This year the first round of MNO citizen engagement sessions took place in February and March 2021 and a summary and update information session took place in spring 2021. The MNO also hired a Métis Foster Home Recruiter to address the lack of Métis-specific foster and alternative care homes. The recruiter began work on a province-wide campaign effort to encourage more Métis applicants to become foster care providers



MNO COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM

The MNO Justice Program simplifies access to legal resources and justice services for MNO citizens. Through the generosity of our funding partners, the Law Foundation of Ontario (LFO), Pro Bono Ontario (PBO) and Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG), the MNO Justice Program can help clients: navigate legal supports and information; prepare for a court or tribunal process; access information about the law and/or legal, court or tribunal documents. The program can even provide clients with access to summary legal advice.



HEALTHY CHOICES TABLE

MNO Healing and Wellness launched Healthy Choices in 2020-21, a cross-program collaboration meant to improve and promote educational activities in MNO communities. A Circle of Knowledge invited knowledge holders from the MNO community to help inform the work of the branch. Healthy Choices also seeks to create tools for Métis communities to empower their own education, focussing on teaching communities on how to do self-assessments and research, and then collaborate on creative solutions.

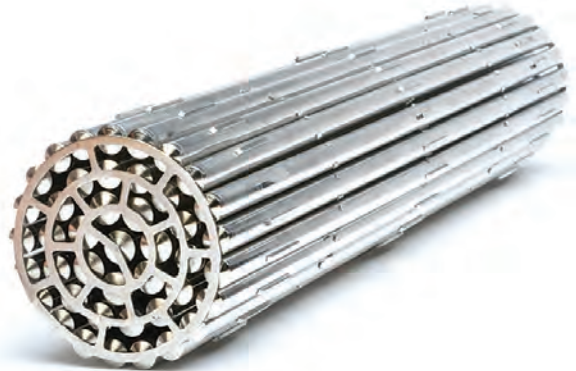


MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Lands, Resources & Consultations

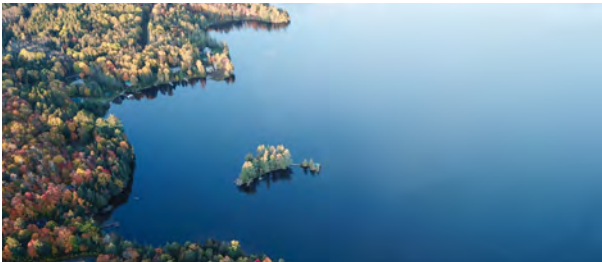
The Métis Nation of Ontario’s (MNO) Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch provides the technical expertise and support required for the full engagement of MNO citizens in a wide range of activities and issues related to the MNO’s traditional territories. With specialized skills in areas including Métis rights, the Métis Way of Life Framework (WOLF), environmental assessments, mining, forestry, energy and public policy, the LRC Branch supports the regionally based rights-bearing Métis communities across Ontario to ensure that the Crown’s legal Duty to Consult and Accommodate Indigenous peoples is both meaningful and effective. The primary objectives of the LRC Branch are to:

- act as a “one-window” contact for consultations with MNO;
- in collaboration with the Regional Consultation Committees triage and prioritize incoming requests for consultation and identify acceptable levels of required MNO involvement;
- manage project consultation activities on major assessments and other government initiatives and programs;
- develop a thorough understanding of proposed projects that may impact Métis rights, interests and way of life;
- initiate, guide, and carry-out the development of MNO Traditional Knowledge and Land Use (TKLU) Studies in collaboration with the Associate Director of Education and Way of Life, and qualified external consultants;
- initiate, guide and carry out the development of technical reviews of regulatory documents, and other technical analysis/research in collaboration with external consultants; and
- convene regional workshops and/or provincial conferences to engage MNO citizens on new projects, the Duty to Consult, regulatory processes, assessing effects and accommodation-related issues.



DEEP GEOLOGICAL REPOSITORY FOR NUCLEAR WASTE

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is in a multi-year process to build a safe, long-term used nuclear fuel repository in Canada. At this time NWMO is considering the development of a deep geological repository for the long-term management of used nuclear waste in the areas of either Ignace or South Bruce, Ontario. In 2020, the MNO signed an extension to the existing General Relationship Agreement with the NWMO, which allowed the MNO Regions receive support for staff, professional, communications and meetings and legal fees to support engagement with the NWMO project. The virtual Community Information Sessions hosted by LRC staff have been very well attended by MNO citizens.



COMMUNITY-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

In 2020-21, LRC Branch staff conducted 12 virtual meetings with MNO’s regional communities to discuss MNO communities’ interest in and the potential for community-based environmental monitoring. The workshops confirmed great interest in developing regional programs. Through a series of workshops and with the support of MNO’s Regional Consultation Committees, a number of priorities and locations were identified in MNO’s traditional territories for future water quality monitoring.



HYDRO ONE NETWORKS INC. - WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE

The Hydro One Northwest Bulk Transmission Line Project is a proposed double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) line between Lakehead Transmission Station (TS) within the Municipality of Shuniah and Mackenzie TS within the Township of Atikokan and a new single-circuit line from Mackenzie to Dryden. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, three (3) Community Information Sessions were held in October and November 2020 to inform MNO R1 and R2 citizens of this project.



MARATHON PROJECT REVIVED

The MNO consulted on Stillwater’s Marathon palladium mine project from 2011 until 2014, when it was put “on hold” for a number of years. In July 2020, the MNO was informed that the project had been purchased by Generation PGM (Platinum Group Metals). During 2020-21, LRC branch staff and the Region 2 Consultation Committee picked up where they left off in 2014 by reconnecting with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) as well as the new company for updates on this project and securing funding for future consultation activities.



TRAPLINE POLICY REVIEW

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regulates the management of furbearers on Crown land by issuing licenses to trappers. In 2020-21, the Ministry proposed changes to their policy for regulating these licenses. With the support of legal counsel and following meetings with MNO’s Regional Consultation Committees, the MNO was able to submit formal comments to the Ministry regarding these policy changes.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Housing & Infrastructure

The Housing & Infrastructure Branch provides housing and homelessness support programs to Métis citizens. The MNO recognizes that housing is much more than bricks and mortar. Proper housing supports Métis individuals, families, and communities in achieving their highest potential. The mandate of the Housing & Infrastructure branch is to increase housing and related supports to the Métis people across the housing continuum (from homelessness to homeownership).

The branch objectives align within the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose* by providing "...care and support necessary to meet the fundamental needs of the citizens of the Métis Nation" and "develop(ing) prosperity and economic self-sufficiency within the Métis Nation." The branch sees housing as not only a solution but also an opportunity to build the wealth of Métis citizens, communities and the Nation.

The Housing & Infrastructure Branch also supports the management of MNO facilities and oversees 37 locations from which MNO programs are delivered, and Community Council activities are performed. Facilities Management also supports MNO staff with office relocation and Health and Safety inquiries.



COVID-19 RENT SUPPLEMENT AND MNO SENIORS PROGRAM SUPPORTED MÉTIS CITIZENS AND OTHER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE PANDEMIC

Funding secured through provincial Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) allowed expansion of Housing Stabilization Program offerings to self-identifying Métis and other Indigenous people. Funding was renewed until December, 2021, for the implementation of two programs:

MNO Seniors COVID-19 Program

This program assists Indigenous seniors experiencing extreme isolation due to social distancing protocols and limited access to family supports. Seniors are provided with a tablet to access remote programming delivered online by MNO. The program also provides seniors with snow removal services.

COVID-19 Rent Supplement Program

The program provides a one-time benefit to Indigenous households to assist in paying their rent and is limited to one per household.



COMPLETED PRELIMINARY HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The MNO submitted the 2021 Housing Needs Assessment to the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. The preliminary report provides data analysis on MNO citizens' housing needs, market factors, targets and recommendations to guide the Branch operational capacity and support program evaluation.



MÉTIS HOUSING STABILIZATION PROGRAM

The Métis Housing Stabilization program launched in September 2020 as part of the Canada-Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord. By the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year, the program had helped 139 Métis families access housing or stabilize their current housing situation. The 2021-22 Implementation Plan approved by the federal Homelessness Strategy allows for expansion in the new fiscal year.



GRANT AWARDED TO MNO BY CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

A proposal submitted by the Branch was selected as one of the 21 shortlisted applicants for the first round of the Housing Supply Challenge (HSC). The \$200,000 grant awarded by CMHC will allow the MNO to develop a prototype for a data-driven system that will inform housing investments on a regional basis to supply affordable housing to eligible Métis people in Ontario.



MÉTIS HOME IMPROVEMENT PILOT PROGRAM (MNO-HIP)

The Métis Home Improvement Pilot Program was launched in December 2020. The MNO-HIP provides low-to-moderate-income homeowners, who are MNO citizens, with a one-time forgivable loan to complete necessary repairs to their home to extend its useful life and improve accessibility for persons with disabilities (to a maximum of \$25,000).



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Registry

One of the Métis Nation of Ontario’s (MNO) aims and objectives, laid out in the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*, is to maintain a registry of Métis citizens in Ontario. The MNO Registry registers Métis citizens by approving citizenship for applicants who meet the criteria set out in the MNO Registry Policy, and in accordance with the National Definition of Métis, as voted on and accepted by MNO citizens. The Registry researches Ontario’s Historic Métis Communities and Root Ancestors, and conducts Métis genealogical research and analysis. It works to support MNO citizens’ cultural, social, political, and economic wellbeing by providing data to other MNO branches. Effectively, the MNO Registry:

- Accepts and processes citizenship applications
- Maintains the MNO’s SASH database
- Verifies and builds genealogies, which connect families within the SASH database
- Issues MNO Citizenship cards
- Provides administrative information and data to MNO (e.g., Community Council candidate verification; citizenship confirmation for AGA and programs; mailing lists for consultations)
- Communicates directly with clients (applicants, citizens, harvesters, and others) to provide efficient, accountable, helpful service.

Further, the MNO Registry helps to identify and register MNO Harvesters in Ontario. As such, the MNO Registry also:

- Processes harvesting applications and renewals
- Issues Harvester Certificates
- Identifies citizens’ harvesting areas
- Maintains and updates harvester files and lists
- Communicates with Captains of the Hunt (COTH); provides support to Chief and Deputy COTH.

Finally, the MNO Registry reviews and assesses requests for new Verified Métis Family Line (VMFL) research. The MNO Registrar is responsible for reviewing and approving VMFL research and reports, as per the MNO Registry Policy for Identifying and Documenting Verified Métis Family Lines for the purposes of Issuing Harvesters Certificates to Citizens.



APPLICATION PROCESSING

Over 2,800 new citizens have joined the MNO between June 1 2020 – May 31, 2021. Over that period, MNO Registry:

- Assessed over 4000 citizenship applications.
- Approved 715 new MNO Harvesters
- Processed over 1100 Harvester Applications



WORKSHOP FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILS

In May 2021, Registry hosted (and recorded) a Zoom workshop for Community Councils on: How to apply for Citizenship and Harvesting; Understanding Registry resources and services; and Contact information updates.



VIRTUAL MOBILE REGISTRY

MNO Registry provides support to individuals applying for citizenship or harvesting, or citizens looking to update their files. Along with answering queries during regular service hours, over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, Registry has offered bi-monthly Virtual Mobile Registries where team members walk people through the application process, give information on how to research files or find documents, answer questions, or update contact information for applicants, citizens, and harvesters via Zoom or by phone.



DATA AND SERVICE MAPPING

In January 2021, Registry collected program data from various MNO departments, to begin to map out MNO Services and Programs across the province. We continue to work with the MNO mapping specialist, providing data in support of maps meant to highlight service provision or possible gaps for PCMNO decision-makers.

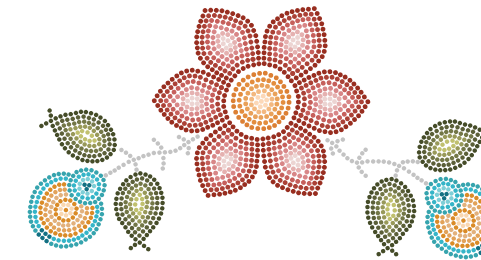


CLIENT SERVICES

Between June 2020 and May 2021, Registry resolved 22,373 issues for MNO citizens and applicants. Issues are tracked via unique case numbers, and case files include detailed notes on related communications and actions. MNO Registry communicates with applicants, citizens, and harvesters about file updates, application questions, and more.

Government Services

Government services consolidate specialized knowledge, best practices and technology to provide services required by all of the MNO's operations as well as its internal and external clients. These services are provided in the areas of finance, communications, information and communications technology and human resources. The costs described under government services are covered by direct allocations from other branches' programs on preapproved budgets for support service expenses and by management fees. Approximately three quarters of government services costs are covered by direct allocations from other branch programs while the remainder are covered by management fees.



Finance

The MNO Finance Branch strives to implement sound financial policies and procedures throughout the organization while ensuring timely payments to vendors and collection of funding revenues for all programs. At the same time, the Finance Branch provides reporting and analysis to Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), senior management, budget managers and funders. The Branch maintains the current database of all of the MNO's funding agreements.

The Finance Branch provides all financial support to the MNO. These services include:

- Payroll;
- Vendor and expense claim purchase orders and payments;
- Collection and tracking of funder payments;
- Ensuring adequate cash flow to meet obligations;
- Monthly detailed program expense reporting with budget to actual variance analysis;
- Quarterly reporting to PCMNO;
- Preparation and audit coordination of annual financial statements; and
- Preparation and submission of all statutory filings (T4 and tax returns, HST returns and Public Service Salary Disclosure).

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER -- CFO has oversight for all financial matters, and our associated entities including Metis Voyageur Development Fund, Infinity Investments, and Infinity and Prosperity Trust.

Information & Communications Technology

MNO Information and Communications and Technology (ICT) supports all the MNO branches in their efforts to fulfill the delivery of all aspects of the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*. ICT maintains a dedicated and proactive approach to providing readily available systems and infrastructure as well service-oriented user support for the vast array of software, hardware and connectivity technologies used by the MNO. While continuing to monitor for opportunities to improve network and data service delivery via new software and technology, ICT strives to also offer cost savings while maintaining focus on security and industry best practices.

Laptop and Cellphone -- Deployed over 250 laptops and peripherals for new staff and warrantee expiries. Completed the negotiations and deployment of fleet-wide upgrades to MNO cellphone users as well as backfill and temporary allocations to Covid-19 staff and loaners.

Email Server Upgrade -- Completed the upgrade and migration of MNO Exchange email services from an Exchange 2010 server to Exchange 2016. Exchange 2016 represents a number of improvements including the capacity to host MNO's ever-expanding email needs now and into the future.

Server Hardware Upgrade and Migration -- Completed the design and purchase of new server hosting hardware with storage capacity of over 45 Terabytes - 5x MNO's current capacity. This equipment will host the MNO's multiple virtual servers such as email, file, finance, utilities, antivirus, etc..

Phone system upgrade for Navigator program -- Upgraded Ottawa's Head Office phone system to enable the configuration of a remote, multi-user, virtual call center. This will allow MNO Navigators to accept all inbound calls to the Ottawa Head Office and route calls to multiple destinations throughout the MNO from laptops working remotely.

Human Resources

Our Human Resources Branch has a mandate to balance the interests of the MNO as an employer with the needs and interests of the employees. We are building processes, policies and systems that support a high-involvement and collaborative workforce built on the principles of respect, transparency, fairness and accountability.

Re-Launch of Processes and Policies

- Re-launched a refreshed performance management system, rebuilt from the ground up based on revised job descriptions and job-related metrics
- Conducted annual review of workplace policies to ensure contemporary practice and legislative compliance
- Collaborated with Community Relations to support the dual-use nature of many MNO offices
- Supported People Leaders implementing a work-from-home work structure and managing accommodations

Reduce turnover and improve recruitment and retention

- Facilitated the talent acquisition process for senior positions
- Coordinated the recruiting process for many new positions, due to increased funding and growth in programs and services
- Implemented new processes to mitigate risk and support transparent and fair hiring practices
- Turnover reduced to 6.3%, compared to prior year rate of 14.6%

Navigation of the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Effectively managed Occupational Health & Safety during Covid-19 pandemic with zero confirmed work-related cases
- Collaborated with Community Relations to support the dual-use nature of many MNO offices
- Supported implementation of a work-from-home structure

Communications

In keeping with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) *Statement of Prime Purpose*, the MNO maintains effective communications that reflect the history and traditions of the Métis Nation and respect the wealth of creativity that has emerged through the MNO since 1993. The Branch works to coordinate communications efforts, provides advice and develop products to increase understanding and awareness of the MNO among MNO citizens, employees and the general public.

The Communications Branch is responsible for all communications products for internal and external audiences. Services include:

- identity management and branding;
- graphic design and creative direction for MNO publications and multi-media;
- operation of the MNO's social media pages;
- maintaining and updating of the MNO website;
- media monitoring and media relations;
- production of *Métis Voyageur*;
- video production; and
- responding to public inquiries about the MNO.

Social media -- Remote work put even greater emphasis on using social media including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to promote MNO programs and services and the use of Facebook Live to cover MNO events. Successes have included special graphics support for MNO Telephone Town Halls and livecasts of several Virtual Métis Kitchen Party music events.

Major projects -- Among the Branch's largest projects were the 40-page Annual Report, 380-page AGA Binder and the 2020-21 highlight video, and a special edition of *Métis Voyageur* with information on MNO's pandemic response and 2020 provincial election.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

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PHOTO BY **SARAH MARUSYK**