

Province-wide Plebiscite on next steps related to Registry Review

Your Vote, Your Voice, Your Rights

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ISSUE NO. 108, FALL 2022

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR



Otaurn

Métis Youth Culture Camps are back in-person!

This fall, Métis youth from across the province gathered at the Canadian Ecology Centre for the the first in-person camp held by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020.

The youth, in grades 10 to 12, enjoyed a packed schedule of activities that included jigging, fishing, hunting, whittling spoons from wood, cooking and more.

The Métis Youth Cultural Camps are in sync with the seasons. This was the Otaurn Camp (michif for autumn) and it is designed to immerse Métis youth in their culture and way of life through workshops, land-based knowledge, storytelling, cultural arts and community-building.

The first outdoor activity on the agenda was fishing along the Mattawa River. Participants learned about safety, maintenance of rods and other equipment and baiting techniques.

The next day, youth were taken on a a hunting where they were learned about

the rigorous safety protocols including the importance of visibility, firearm safety and emergency procedures. While in the bush youth inspected moose tracks determining the speed it was moving and the direction of travel. They also learned to watch for indicators that moose are nearby like broken branches and bare dogwood--a preferred food source for moose.

"This is my first hands-on MNO camp. I've done virtual workshops, but it is so great to meet other people and have real hands-on experience," said participant Isabella Orasi.

"I got to do so many activities that I didn't know I could," said Ashley Sheriff, another participant. "I went hunting, fishing, and I got to learn how to cook the fish. It's been really fun."

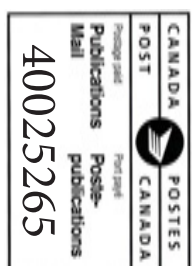
Camps like these are held throughout the year and with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions the MNO is planning to hold more in-person camps in the near future. ∞



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MNO and Canadian
Geographic partner
for feature story
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THE
**MÉTIS
VOYAGEUR**
DECEMBER 2022 - No. 108

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Publication #:
PM40025265

**RECENTLY MOVED
OR MOVING SOON?**

Don't miss an issue! Be sure to
change your address with the
MNO Registry. Call:
1-855-798-1006
or send an email to
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SUBMISSION POLICY:

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

The MNO does not accept submissions including editorials and letters to the editor that make partisan political statements.

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

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

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

More bright days ahead

2023 is a significant year for the Métis Nation of Ontario, as we celebrate the anniversaries of two historic milestones

This has been an incredible year. We held a successful 29th Annual General Assembly in Toronto, where it was so wonderful to gather together again. Mayor John Tory apologized for the role the City of Toronto played suppressing the 1885 Northwest Resistance. And we have been full speed ahead with many meetings at the provincial, regional, and federal levels, with more to come.

We held our second MNO Climate Change Forum, with all citizens invited to participate virtually. We conducted our first-ever Housing Census to determine the housing needs of Ontario Métis to help set program priorities. We thanked former councillor Karen Derocher for her years of service, both at the PCMNO and community level, and welcomed Kate Stewart-McNeil to the PCMNO as Regional Councillor for Region 8. And we honoured Métis Veterans on Indigenous Veterans Day, and on Remembrance Day, MNO Veterans' Council President Brian Prairie laid a wreath at the cenotaph in Ottawa during the national ceremonies.

In addition to strengthening our government, we continue to advance our priorities with other governments. Several times this year, I met with the federal government and opposition leaders alongside the Presidents of the Métis Nation of Alberta and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. We emphasized three shared priorities:

1. Developing mutually agreeable Federal Recognition Legislation for our self-government agreements that will give Canada the legal tools it needs to formally recognize our governments.
2. Co-developing with Canada a Federal Métis Claims Policy to support our communities in their ongoing discussions and negotiations on breaches of federal Crown promises, and outstanding



*We will continue
to fight for the
rights of our people
whenever they are
questioned.*

ing claims and commitments to the Métis.

3. Negotiating stable, long-term fiscal agreements to address the very real and pressing socio-economic needs of our citizens and communities.

I am very pleased that there is such strong alignment to pursue a Federal Métis Claims Policy, as this is deeply needed. Additionally, a resolution passed that set updated timelines on a previously accepted resolution related to the establishment of an Expert Panel to review MNO's historic communities. There was also a decision to create an MNC Youth Council, which will serve as an excellent platform for ensuring the next generation of Métis leaders build strong relationships with one another across the Métis Nation so we can continue to collaborate and champion each other for generations to come.

This year also marked an incredible and historic moment for our Métis relations in Alberta, but also for the entire Métis Nation. Our strength is in our unity, so when one

Métis government makes history with their outstanding accomplishment, we all benefit. The Métis Nation of Alberta held a province-wide vote on their constitution, and with more than 15,000 MNA citizens voting "yes", it was the largest ratification vote by any Indigenous nation in Canadian history. The vote showed how deeply engaged Métis are in advancing our rights recognition and securing our future. On behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario, congratulations to the Métis Nation of Alberta on ratifying the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution!

But the next step is up to you and your VOTE. The results of this plebiscite vote will provide direction on whether MNO Bylaws should be amended at a future MNO Assembly. There is more information within this newsletter.

Finally, next year marks the 20th anniversary of the watershed Powley Decision at the Supreme Court when Métis' Section 35 rights were affirmed. The MNO played a critical role in securing that decision, fighting back every time our rights were denied to us. We will continue to fight for the rights of our people whenever they are questioned.

Sincerely,

Margaret Froh
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

PS: Make one of your resolutions for 2023 getting your cancer screening. We know that Métis people experience higher incidences of cancer than the non-Indigenous population in this province. Please, if you have not had a recent cancer screening appointment, call to book one, and have them regularly, especially if you are over 50 years of age.



The Next
Métis Voyageur
submission deadline:
February 1, 2023

Send your stories and photos to:
CommOps@metisnation.org

MNO NEWS

The 29th MNO Annual General Assembly kicks off with PCMNO and other delegates arriving via canoe at Olympic Island in Toronto, Ontario.



What Amazing Days!

Hundreds of Métis citizens, leaders, guests and staff gather in Toronto for 29th MNO Annual Assembly

More than 400 Métis citizens, leaders, guests and staff from across Ontario gathered in Toronto for the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) 29th Annual General Assembly from August 18 to 21, 2022.

"What amazing days. Our Assemblies are truly democracy in action," remarked President Froh in her statement to the crowd. "It has been wonderful to see so many of our citizens in person – to share laughter and hearty and healthy debate. We have made some really important decisions on foundational governance matters. Now we will work together toward concrete actions to come."

As has become MNO tradition, the Assembly kicked off with a canoe arrival of Métis leaders and dignitaries, including, MNO President Margaret Froh, members of the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO), and invited guests.

On Saturday, after a series of presentations on Métis rights and self-government, the Assembly made several key decisions, including, calling for a federal Métis claims process to be established, the passage of implementation legislation by Parliament this year to fulfill a commitment made in the MNO's self-government agreement signed with Canada in 2019, as well as providing direction for the MNO to hold a province-wide plebiscite in the Fall of 2022 on what should be done in relation to current MNO citizens with "incomplete" registry files.

In 2017, the MNO initiated an independent third-party review of its Registry to assess whether each citizenship file met the current requirements for citizenship within the MNO (known as the "Registry Review"). Currently, the MNO has over 29,000 registered citizens. The Registry Review results showed that over

80% of citizenship files are "complete".

Over the last year, the MNO has conducted province-wide consultation to seek input on next steps with respect to "incomplete" files. Additional information about the registry review is available on our website www.nation.org and a copy of the resolution is also available online.

"As a Métis government, we have heard from our citizens and communities that the advancement and protection of Métis rights is their highest priority. Ensuring that legitimate Métis rights-holder are identified through the MNO Registry is central to our self-government," said MNO President Margaret Froh.

"We have also heard that we should provide all of our 29,000+ citizens the opportunity to have their voices heard on what the MNO should do with "incomplete" citizenship files. Through a province-wide plebiscite, we will ensure that happens before we make any final decisions" added President Froh.

In addition to dealing with Métis rights and self-government and other priority issues, the Assembly provided direction to establish a 2SLGBTQ+ Council.

MNO President Froh commented, "Two-Spirit Métis people have historically been valued within our communities, but the process of colonization has devalued and diminished those roles. We now have direction to build upon the tremendous efforts of our 2SLGBTQ+ Work-



top left: MNO President Margaret Froh. top right: Award-winning singer-songwriter and MNO citizen Amanda Rheame opens the AGA with a rendition of "We Aspire".



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

AGA: Hundreds of Métis citizens, leaders, guests and staff gather in Toronto for 29th MNO Annual General Assembly

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ing Group to formally establish a permanent structure within the MNO for this important work to continue.”

The Assembly concluded with delegates reflecting on the important progress that the MNO has achieved and the important work that remains ahead. MNO President Froh commented, “We have made some really important decisions on foundational governance matters – we made decisions to advance Métis rights & self-government – to keep moving forward to implement key recommendations coming out of that comprehensive review of the MNO Registry.”

Many dignitaries attended the AGA and brought greetings including Métis National Council President Cassidy Caron, Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras, Métis Nation British Columbia President Lissa Smith, Women of the Métis Nation President Melanie Omeniho, Chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Stacey Laforme, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Parliamentary Secretary Julie Dabrusin, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Carolyn Bennett, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Gary Anandasangaree, Deputy Leader of the Federal Green Party, Angela Davidson (Rainbow Eyes), Senior VP, Retail and Operations at Meridian Credit Union Wanita Fonseka, VP of Canada Stakeholder Relations at TC Energy Dave Forestell, and Nuclear Waste Management VP of Indigenous Relations and Strategic Programs Bob Watts. ∞



Chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Stacey Laforme.



Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras.



Parliamentary Secretary Julie Dabrusin, President Margaret Froh and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Gary Anandasangaree.



Nuclear Waste Management VP of Indigenous Relations and Strategic Programs Bob Watts.



MNO Veterans lead the procession from the shore of Olympic Island in Toronto.



MNO Chair Hank Rowlinson.



Toronto & York Region Métis Council President Shirley Debassige.



Métis Nation British Columbia President Lissa Smith.



The Prairie Fire dancers keep it all in the family.



Left to right: Minister of Mental Health and Addictions the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, MNO President Margaret Froh, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell and Métis National Council President Cassidy Caron.

MNO YOUTH COUNCIL HOSTS 6TH ANNUAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Métis youth explore culture and creation at conference

In the days leading up to the 29th Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly, over 100 Métis youth from across the province met in downtown Toronto for the 6th annual Métis Youth Leadership Conference.

The “Exploring Culture Through Creation” themed conference was held from August 16-18, 2022 highlighting the vital importance of youth leadership, and the many artistic accomplishments and contributions from the Métis community. In addition to panel discussions and special presentations, a variety of creative workshops were led by community leaders and artists on beadwork, screen-printing, fish scale art, and more.

Also in attendance at the Conference were delegates and dignitaries from across the nation, including guests and leadership from Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. MNO President Margaret Froh and MNO Senator Suzanne Brunelle provided welcoming remarks, as well as greetings from MNO Youth Council (MNOYC) President Jordyn Plane and Métis National Council President Cassidy Caron.

The conference also featured an awards ceremony to recognize the contributions of an outstanding Métis youth.

“The Youth Leadership Award was created to uplift and celebrate Métis Youth across Ontario,” shares MNOYC President Jordyn Plane.

“It honours the dedication, hard work and time young people across the province put forward to advance, advocate for, and celebrate Métis people. The award further recognizes the strength and resilience of young Métis people in Ontario and uplifts their pursuit to achieve their highest potential.”

Avaline Booth of the Grand River Métis Council was presented this year’s Youth Leadership Award for her exemplary efforts in the Ontario Métis community.

The MNO thanks all those who participated in the sixth annual Métis Youth Leadership Conference for their hard work and their dedication to empowering and amplifying the voices of Métis youth.

For more details and an agenda for this year’s MNOYC Youth Leadership Conference visit metisnation.org. ∞



above: Dylan Miner, Justine Woods, Marissa Magneson and Pandora Wilhelm during the *Art as a Business* panel discussion.

below left: Zoey Roy gives a presentation on spoken word poetry. below right: Tina House and Matt LeMay (not pictured) during a filmmaking panel.



clockwise l-r: Paige Coture (Region 9 Youth Rep), Avaline Booth (Grand River Métis Council), Jordyn Playne (President MNOYC) following the presentation of the 2022 Youth Leadership Award.

KATHLEEN ANDERSON NAMED 2022 MNO VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

She is a gem!

Since 2006, the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award has been presented to a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen who has made ongoing contributions to the MNO and their own community. Congratulations go to Kathleen Anderson who was announced as the recipient of this year’s award on day one of the MNO’s 29th Annual General Assembly on August 20, 2022. Kathleen is currently the President of the Thames Bluewater Métis Council and a key part of the Métis community in the London region. Kathleen’s nominator may have said it best when they called her “a gem”. The sentiments of Kathleen’s nominator are below:

Kathleen Anderson has one of the most impressive records of selfless commitment, engaged citizenship, enlightened and empathetic leadership that I have witnessed in my lifetime’s-worth of volunteer engagement.

Kathleen is both inspired and inspirational. She is someone who understands the value of Métis knowledge and culture, and someone who “gets it” on many levels. She is highly skilled and has an insightful political analyst. She does what she can to better the lives of those around her.

Kathleen takes people’s ideas seriously and respectfully, showing patience and grace when others act with less than commendable behavior toward her. I have witnessed how citizens and council members in her Thames Bluewater Métis Council (TBWMC) look up to her and value her hard work on behalf of both their Council and the Métis Nation of Ontario at large. She welcomes others to learn about and engage with the work of her Council. This was something I saw at the TBWMC’s first – and very successful – Rendezvous at the Pinery Provincial Park.

She has helped her Council to rebuild itself, ensuring that principles of transparency and inclusion inform its every move. She is a consummate team-player. She always ‘walks the talk.’

“
She does what she can to better the lives of those around her.
”

As a Two-Spirit I have seen her ally-ship in action, working in the cause of social justice to change things for the better. In 2021, when our Clear Waters Métis Council (CWMC) was elected and faced the challenge of rebuilding our Council from scratch, Kathleen helped us on so many fronts: attending one of our meetings to help map out the road that lay ahead; articulating the principles that inform the workings of her now-healthy council; encouraging us; and providing hands-on help, like showing us how to create an email list; and teaching us about the importance of fund-raising.

She works diligently for the greater good. She’s smart, fun, and a great person. I admire her greatly. She is a gem. ∞



Above: President of the Thames Bluewater Métis Council, Kathleen Anderson is named the 2022 Volunteer of the Year. Below: Kathleen in action with members of the Thames Bluewater Métis Council.



MNO WOMEN'S COUNCIL AGM AND ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY

MNO Women's Council
hosts successful
annual general
meeting

On August 19, 2022 a gathering of Métis women and Two-Spirit identifying citizens met in Toronto for the 2022 Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council (MNOWC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the presentation of the annual Women Honouring Women Award.

MNOWC President Suzanne Jackson and MNOWC Vice-Chair Tera Beaulieu led the AGM, which commenced with an opening prayer offered by Pearl Gabona, the Call to Order and a review of the Four Agreements. In addition to MNOWC Representatives, the AGM welcomed special guests MNO President Margaret Froh; Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO) President Melanie Omenihio; and PCMNO Chair Hank Rowlinson.

Forty-three Métis women – consisting of Métis Senators, Regional Women's Representatives, Community Council Women's Representatives, youth and Two-Spirit delegates – were in attendance, determined to

advance the empowering and inclusive mandate of the MNOWC.

Following the greetings and welcoming remarks, the MNOWC got down to business, reviewing the previous year's AGM minutes and the 2022 MNOWC Financial Report. President Jackson then delivered her President's Report which highlighted the exceptional work of Métis women across the MNO, progress made on key items, and encouraged delegates to continue to bring issues to the attention of the MNOWC.

Women Representatives from the MNO's nine regions were invited to share individual reports and highlight accomplishments from the past year. Those presenting included: Colette Surovy (Region 1); Kelly Camacho (Region 2); Santana Sanftenberg (Region 3); June Smart (Region 4); Lynne Gouliquer (Region 5); Cora Bunn (Region 6); Patricia Taylor (Region 7); Tera Beaulieu (Region 8); and Colleen Brunelle (Region 9).

Several significant motions were passed at this year's AGM, amending



left to right: Members of the MNO Women's Council attend 2022 AGM.

the MNOWC Terms of Reference, accepting a draft MNOWC Charter, and raised a Resolution to push for the appointment of a MNOWC representative to the PCMNO.

WOMEN HONOURING WOMEN AWARD

Every year, an outstanding Métis woman is recognized by the MNOWC's Women Honouring Women Award. Candidates are selected for their positive contributions to Métis-specific volunteerism,

demonstrated leadership qualities, and participation in Métis culture and ways of life.

This year's WHW award recognized Juliette S. Denis, MNO Sudbury Métis Council Women's Representative. As she was unable to attend the AGM, the Region 5 Women's Representative accepted on her behalf. The AGM also recognized previous year's WHW award recipients: Senator Cecile Wagar (2020); and Senator Suzanne Brunelle (2021).

The MNO and MNOWC are made up of many exceptional women

who contribute to their communities through selfless and bold acts of volunteerism, dedicating their time and energy to advancing key issues and shared priorities on behalf of Métis women and 2SGBTQ+ individuals. The MNO commends the hard work of all those involved in making the 2022 MNOWC AGM another great success!

Learn more about the MNOWC and its mission to advance Métis women's rights online at: <https://www.mnowc.com> ∞

Many thanks to our generous AGA Sponsors













Renewing Relationships

Toronto Mayor John Tory apologizes to Métis people for city's role in Northwest Resistance

Speaking to the need for reconciliation, Toronto Mayor John Tory participated in the 2022 Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly (AGA) on August 19, issuing an apology on behalf of the City of Toronto for historic injustices against the Métis people and citing Toronto's involvement when suppressing the Northwest Resistance in 1885.

Mayor Tory emphasized the value of renewing relationships with the Métis people and was joined on stage by MNC President Cassidy Caron, MNO President Margaret Froh, Toronto and York Region Council President Shirley Debassige and Senator Suzanne Brunelle.

Full text of the apology below:



Members of the Toronto and York Region Métis Council with MNO President Margaret Froh and Toronto Mayor John Tory.



Métis National Council President Cassidy Caron (left) and Toronto Mayor John Tory (right) address the MNO Assembly.




June Smart pins a gift on Toronto Mayor John Tory.



President Froh speaks to the media.

Watch a video of Toronto Mayor John Tory's apology here:





Apology for historic injustices against Métis People issued by Toronto Mayor John Tory

Tansi,

The City of Toronto is committed to advancing truth, justice and reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. Canada has learned from the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, as well as other inquiries that reconciliation cannot be achieved without first addressing the hard truths of our past.

One of the guiding principles of the TRC is that “healing relationships requires public truth sharing, apology, and commemoration that acknowledge and redress past harms.” One such truth that has been largely overlooked for more than 100 years is the City of Toronto’s role in the Northwest Resistance of 1885, in what is now the province of Saskatchewan.

To begin, let me provide a historical snapshot of Toronto in the late 1800s as it was a far different city than it is today. Toronto had a population of around 100,000 people. Ninety-three per cent of its residents were British and 85 per cent were Protestant. Meanwhile, thousands of kilometres away, the Métis, led by Louis Riel, were fighting for rights to their land following an influx of white settlers and a decline in bison that threatened their way of life and their very survival. The media coverage of the time regularly described the Métis as “wild”, “miserable” and “impulsive halfbreeds” and labelled the resistance a “rebellion.” On March 30, 1885, local newspaper the Toronto World, exclaimed, “War, war, war was the cry, and war it will be till Mr. Riel and his followers bite the dust.” Not long after, the Queen’s Own Rifles and Royal Grenadiers, who were based in Toronto, sent hundreds of volunteer militia to join Canada’s efforts to suppress the Northwest Resistance.

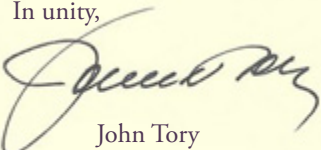
Today, I apologize for the role the City of Toronto played in contributing to militarized action against Métis people. The City of Toronto financially contributed to the Northwest Resistance by providing supplies to the militia troops claiming victory, the City of Toronto organized and funded a grand parade to celebrate. At the event, the mayor, surrounded by City Council, made a speech honouring the troops. On July 24, 1885, the Toronto World reported about the event: “Over one hundred thousand people yesterday joined in the warmest welcome that was ever given in this fair dominion to citizen soldiers who had served their country in suppressing armed rebellion. The oldest and youngest inhabitants agreed for once that it was the greatest day Toronto ever witnessed.” The mayor hosted the first Monument Committee meeting at City Hall to begin working on a statue to commemorate the soldiers. That committee disbanded and, when another group took up the cause years later, the City of Toronto financially contributed to the monument that is still standing in Toronto today. All of these actions by the City of Toronto – funding, celebrating and commemorating the quashing of the Northwest Resistance – contributed to the overall milieu of hostility towards the Métis. For this, on behalf of Toronto City Council, I wholeheartedly apologize.

The defeat of the Northwest Resistance and the hanging of Louis Riel on November 16, 1885 were the backdrop for a peak of hostility, racism, and colonial violence towards the Métis. In Toronto and across the country, Métis were forced to hide their identities for fear of reprisal. As a result, the Métis became “the forgotten people.” I have heard when listening to community in Toronto that this legacy of oppression continues to have long-term ramifications on the culture, health and well-being of Métis people that will require hard work and redress going forward.

An apology is nothing without action. This year, the City of Toronto adopted its first Reconciliation Action Plan. It includes many strategies to enhance relationships with the Indigenous community in Toronto. As part of the plan, the City commits to working together with the Toronto and York Region Métis Council to develop educational programs and commemorative initiatives that further explain the history behind this apology and educate all residents of and visitors to Toronto.

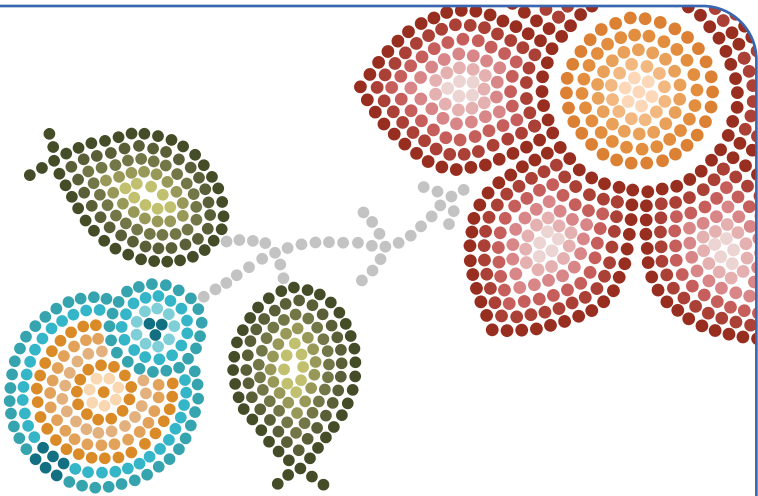
We value the contributions that the Council makes, in partnership with many other Indigenous organizations, to support the urban Indigenous community and in challenging the City to better respond to the rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples in Toronto. I hope that apologizing for the role that the City of Toronto and Toronto City Council played in the Northwest Resistance will help the Métis heal from the injustices of the past, honour the sacrifices of their ancestors, and contribute to the pride of Métis culture and identity for future generations.

In unity,



John Tory
Mayor of Toronto

IMPROVING CANCER SCREENING IN THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO RESEARCH PROJECT



Cancer screening is about helping you live a good life

- Cancer screening is testing done on people who have no symptoms and generally feel fine but may be at risk of getting cancer. Regular screening can find some cancers or pre-cancers early when treatment has a **better chance of working**.
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People 50 to 74 years old who are eligible

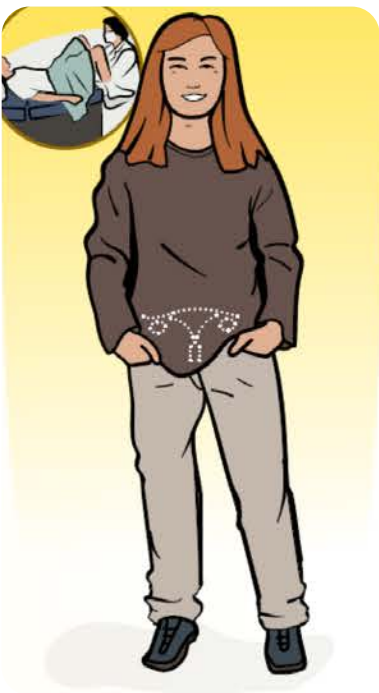


Every 2 years for most

CERVICAL

Pap Test

People 21 to 70 years old who are eligible



Every 3 years for most

COLON

Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT)

People 50 to 74 years old who are eligible



Every 2 years for most

4 key steps in cancer screening in MNO communities



3 overarching key factors in cancer screening experience in MNO communities



How we did it:

- Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) partnered with Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) and Sunnybrook Research Institute on a collaborative research project
- Focus groups and surveys with 45 MNO Healing and Wellness workers and 21 MNO citizens

Where to learn more:

CANCER & SCREENING
RESOURCES



SCREENING
PROGRAMS



TOBACCO
WISE



MNO
SCREENING FAQ



CANCER AWARENESS

Métis people in Ontario are at greater risk for a number of cancers

The Métis community experiences higher rates of cancer compared to non-Indigenous adults and women are below national target rates for mammograms

By **Margaret Froh**
President of the Métis Nation of Ontario

After a routine mammogram in early June, it was discovered that I have a form of breast cancer known as invasive ductal carcinoma. Unfortunately, Métis people in Ontario not only experience higher incidences of cancer than the non-Indigenous population, but we also undergo regular cancer screenings at a much lower rate.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and while we celebrate the remarkable progress that has been made against breast cancer, 1-in-8 women in Canada are expected to be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. According to the Canadian Cancer Society, 2-in-5 Canadians will be diagnosed with some form of cancer in their lifetimes. In the Métis community, there are higher rates of cancer compared to non-Indigenous adults, and Métis women are well-below the national target screening rates for routine mammograms.

In a report the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) published in 2015 in partnership with Cancer Care Ontario, we found that less than half of Métis women aged 50-74 have had a recent mammogram, compared to almost two-thirds of the general population, and half of Métis adults aged 50 to 74 needed a screening test for colorectal cancer because they have not had a recent blood test, sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy.

This has been compounded by COVID-19. The Ontario Medical Association (OMA) recently said that 400,000 fewer mammograms were performed in the province during the pandemic. As a result, Ontario doctors have been seeing more advanced cases of breast cancer. While screenings have since returned to normal levels, the OMA warned that the temporary decrease in testing has led to many cancer cases being diagnosed at later, and more complicated, stages.

In Ontario, the evidence of chronic disease rates among Métis populations are disproportionately higher, paired with lower access to primary and specialist care than non-Indigenous populations. A study published in 2018 examined incidence rates and survival for the most common cancers among Métis adults in Canada and compared these with rates for non-Indigenous adults from 1992 to 2009.



Margaret Froh, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario

I encourage all Ontarians to book cancer-screening appointments, and to do so regularly, especially if you are over 50. For the Métis, this is even more critical.

Findings showed that the incidence of breast cancer and cervical cancer was significantly higher among Métis women compared to non-Indigenous women. Lung, liver, larynx, and gallbladder cancers were also higher among Métis adults, and Métis men had significantly poorer survival rates for prostate cancer compared to non-Indigenous men.

Over the past several years, MNO has been working closely with partners to increase our shared understanding of cancer in Métis populations and develop targeted resources and interventions to help reduce cancer rates. Building on our research, the MNO, Cancer Care Ontario, and Sunnybrook Research Institute partnered on a community-based study that examined factors impacting cancer screening among Métis in Ontario.

Our findings were released in September 2021, recommending more support for cancer screening awareness and front-line MNO workers facilitating cancer screening uptake in Métis communities; improved supports for health-care providers to engage more effectively with Métis patients; and policy and program development to promote cancer screening knowledge and uptake in Métis communities.

Thanks to an early screening, the prognosis in my case is very good. I have undergone surgery and four of eight rounds of chemotherapy already. I am thankful to have caught this early with a routine mammogram and feel very fortunate to have had access to cancer screening services. Unlike many Métis, I am fortunate to live in an area with access to solid primary health care and have access to cancer treatment in the community where I live.

But it's clear that Métis people in Ontario are at greater risk for a number of cancers and are under-screened, leading them to suffer disproportionately. More work needs to be done to improve cancer screening and outcomes among the Métis, as this disease impacts our families and communities deeply.

I encourage all Ontarians to book cancer-screening appointments, and to do so regularly, especially if you are over 50. For the Métis, this is even more critical. Our culture is one of thriving, vibrant communities, and that depends on good health and well-being. ∞

This op-ed ran in the Toronto Star on October 22, 2022.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAMS

Find out more or apply: www.metisnation.org/covid-19



COVID-19 INCOME RELIEF BENEFIT

Individuals may be eligible if you are unemployed/have lost income due to COVID-19 as of August 1, 2022, and are not receiving other social assistance. (\$100 per day after the first 3 days of being off, which are covered by WSIB. Up to Maximum of \$500). This could be as a result of layoff, job loss, loss of self-employment, reduction in work hours, requirement to quarantine, self-isolate, caring for children due to school daycare closures, or caring for someone who is sick due to COVID-19.

COVID-19 FOOD SECURITY FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Individuals and families who have lost primary income since August 1st, 2022 or have income below \$35,000 single and \$50,000 couple may be eligible for \$200 per Citizen and child in the house hold to a maximum of \$800.00.

COVID-19 FOOD SECURITY FOR SENIORS

Seniors (61+) may be eligible for \$200 per citizen if their income is below \$35,000 single and couple \$50,000.

More Métis News: In case you missed it



NOVEMBER 16: Louis Riel Day

In a spirit of reconciliation with the Métis communities, Louis Riel Day ceremonies took place across Ontario on November 16th to commemorate the late, great Métis leader. From flag-raising at City Hall to statements and proclamations from attending leadership and dignitaries, spirits were high at the many events taking place across the province. The memory of Louis Riel proved alive and well in Ontario this year. ∞

More at MNO
webpage:



Remembrance Day

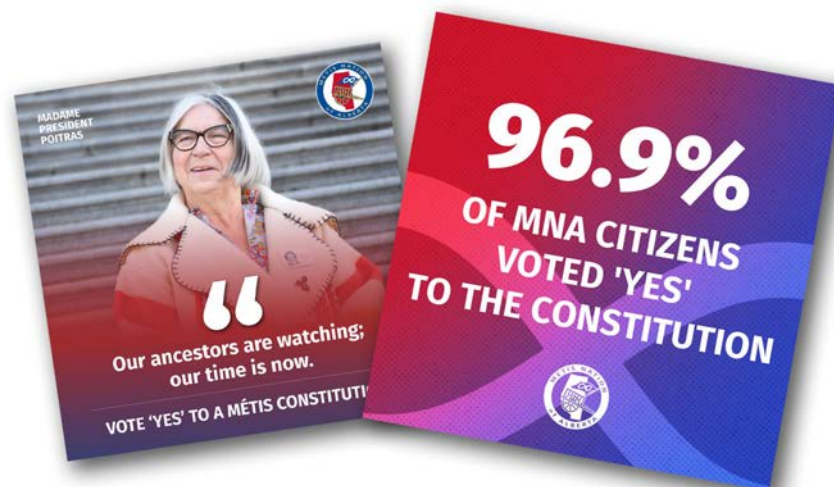
On November 11th we remember the fallen and thank our Métis Veterans for their service. Members of the MNO Veteran's Council were at the National Remembrance Day ceremony in Ottawa this year to lay a wreath in remembrance of their fallen comrades. The MNO is incredibly proud of its Métis Veterans, we are thankful for their service and for all those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Lest we Forget. ∞

More photos at MNO
Facebook page:



MNO's first volunteers

Recently, a special reunion took place near Ottawa. MNO founding President Tony Belcourt brought together the MNO's first-ever volunteers for a morning of reminiscence about the early days of the MNO. Tony's daughters Christi and Suzanne Belcourt joined MNO Honourary Senator Reta Gordon and her sister, past Community Council Senator Lois McCallum, for a visit in Smith Falls. Many laughs and memories were shared. The meeting was a great reminder of the uncountable volunteer hours that have gone towards making the MNO the tremendous success it is today. Big thanks to Christi, Lois, Reta and Suzanne for their generosity and invaluable contributions. ∞



MNA ratifies constitution

Congratulations to Métis Nation of Alberta on ratifying their Constitution. December 2, 2022 was an incredible day for our Métis relations in Alberta, but also for the entire Métis Nation. Our strength is in our unity, so when one Métis government makes history with their outstanding accomplishment, we all benefit. This was the largest ratification vote by an Indigenous nation in Canadian history, showing how deeply engaged Métis are in advancing our rights recognition and securing our future. On behalf of the MNO, congratulations to the Métis Nation of Alberta on ratifying the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution. -- Margaret Froh, President, Métis Nation of Ontario ∞

Métis flag to fly at Kenora City Hall permanently

In a show of solidarity, the City of Kenora will fly the Métis flag at City Hall permanently, demonstrating their on-going commitment to reconciliation and relationship-building with the local Métis community.

This historic flag-raising ceremony took place on Friday October 14, and was attended by prominent local leadership including Kenora Councillor Sharon Smith; as well as Métis dignitaries Kenora Métis Council Senator Karen Cederwall, Kenora Métis Council President, Liz Boucha, and Regional Councillor of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Theresa Stenlund.

"The Métis flag is a symbol of our Métis identity and flying the flag demonstrates Métis pride. The Kenora municipal flag raising demonstrates respect to our Métis citizens as it acknowledges we were here and are here. Marsee to the City of Kenora staff and leadership for working with the Métis over the last while to have our Métis flag permanently fly at Kenora City Hall for not only the Métis, but for all residents. This is a step towards reconciliation" stated



Speakers and other dignitaries gathering for a group photo before the flag was raised. Photo courtesy of City of Kenora

PCMNO Councillor Theresa Stenlund.

The voice of Métis youth was heard as well, encapsulating the unique youth perspective and expressing hope for future generations:

"I have to say I'll always contemplate our flag at City Hall and admire its tangible symbol of our people's identity, tenacity, strength, courage and wisdom," shared Métis youth Hayden Stenlund. "I am touched,

thrilled, and excited about having our Métis flag raised at City Hall for the whole City to see and for our youth to glance at and realize that the City has acknowledged them. It has a profound effect knowing that our Métis youth have a bright future, have a voice and are heard, in the City of Kenora."

In addition to remarks from attending figures, the celebration also featured a reception and a musical performance by champion Métis fiddler Jason Lepine.

The celebration taking place at the Kenora flag-raising ceremony serves to elevate and bring visibility to the Métis community and causes. This visibility is an important step in achieving effective truth and reconciliation across Canada. As the MNO works to advance self-government and self-determination within Ontario, partnerships and engagement with the community, and all levels of government, will be key.

The Northwestern Ontario Métis Community extends its gratitude to the City of Kenora, the local and regional MNO leadership, and all involved in the organization of this historic flag-raising ceremony. ∞

PROVINCE-WIDE PLEBISCITE

Your Vote, Your Voice, Your Rights

Dear MNO Citizens,

2023
will mark the 20th
anniversary of the
Supreme Court of
Canada's unanimous
decision in
R. v. Powley.

Undeniably, the Powley case was a turning point for Métis rights recognition in Canada. This historic court victory remains celebrated throughout the Métis Nation to this day.

For the past 20 years, the MNO has been doing the hard work of implementing the Powley case in Ontario to prepare ourselves for self-government recognition as the next phase in advancing our rights.

Everything we have achieved since 1993, when the MNO was founded, is based

A Message from
MARGARET FROH
Métis Nation of Ontario
PRESIDENT

on the MNO representing rights-bearing Métis communities and legitimate Métis rights-holders.

Without our Registry that verifies we represent Métis rights-holders, we would not have achieved our harvesting agreement or our self-government agreement or received all the program and service funding that is set aside for Métis rights-holders.

That is why our 2022 MNO Annual General Assembly directed the MNO to conduct a province-wide plebiscite on the following question:

Should all existing members/citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the MNO Secretariat, whose files

do not meet the current requirements for citizenship as set out in the MNO Bylaws and Registry Policy, be removed as members/citizens?

A "YES" vote to this question means that those with "incomplete" files should be removed from the MNO Registry. With such a result, the MNO would be able to 100% confirm that every single MNO citizen on our Registry is a verified Métis rights-holder.

A "NO" vote means that those with "incomplete" files should remain on the MNO Registry, and the MNO would not be able to confirm that it only represents verified Métis rights-holders.

The vast majority of MNO citizens have "complete" citizenship files and are documented Métis rights-holders.

In fact, as of October 2022, over 24,600 MNO citizens have "complete" files (i.e., over 82%), meaning they have proven their ancestral connection to a historic Métis community and are rights-holders. Approximately 5,400 MNO citizens have "incomplete" files.

While the MNO has decided not to organize "yes" or "no" campaigns on this plebiscite, we are making all citizens aware of the MNO's history, development, and the information set out in the resolution the 2022 MNO Annual Assembly, which is available at www.metisnation.org/plebiscite.

Merci, Thank You, Maarsii



Margaret Froh
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

**A
YES
VOTE
MEANS**

those with "incomplete" files
should be **removed** from the
MNO Registry



*The MNO would be able to
100% confirm that every single
MNO citizen on our Registry is a
verified Métis rights-holder*

**A
NO
VOTE
MEANS**

those with "incomplete" files
should **remain** on the
MNO Registry



*The MNO would not be able to
confirm that it only represents
verified Métis rights-holders*

What is a plebiscite?

A plebiscite is a direct vote of all members of an electorate on an important issue. It puts a clear question to the electorate requiring a "Yes" or "No" response. The process provides all members of the electorate with an opportunity to have their voices heard and the outcome provides elected officials with direction on next steps related to the issue of significance by measuring support for a potential course of action.

How We Got Here

Back in the **1990s**, as the Powley case worked its way through the court, the MNO argued that an ancestral connection to a historic Métis community was required to be a Métis rights-holders. The Supreme Court accepted the MNO's arguments on this point.

As such, Powley set out clear parameters on who rights-bearing Métis in Canada are. It confirmed that mixed Indigenous ancestry alone did not make a Métis community. It affirmed that Métis rights are not "less than" to other Indigenous peoples. It also directed governments to begin to negotiate with us to implement the promise of section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

Since **2003**, based on Powley and the MNO's unwavering mandate to advance Métis rights and self-government, we have done a lot of heavy lifting and made a lot of difficult decisions. This has not always been an easy path, but it has been consistent with our Statement of Prime Purpose.

For example, in **2004**, the MNO Annual General Assembly changed the definition of "Métis" in our bylaws to align with the criteria in Powley and the national definition of Métis. In **2009**, we adopted a Registry Policy that required documentary proof of Métis ancestry, not just Aboriginal ancestry, which was accepted by the MNO between 1993 to 2004.

In **2010**, in response to significant debate about the new Registry Policy, our Annual General Assembly decided to undertake province-wide consultations, and to "grandfather" existing citizens until we could figure out how to address the legacy issues our new citizenship registration requirements created. This vote will guide the MNO on what we do next.

In **2012**, in order to successfully negotiate a new harvesting agreement with Ontario, our Annual General Assembly voted to cancel all MNO Harvester Cards issued to citizens who did not meet the Powley requirements. This decision ultimately allowed us to remove the 1250 cap

on Harvester Cards. This was a hard decision, but ultimately the right decision for Métis rights-holders.

In this same vein, in **2017**, we made another hard decision. As a part of advancing our self-government negotiations with Canada, we

“Our Registry worked tirelessly to help people with “incomplete” files, the majority of the remaining 5,400 “incomplete” files are still missing critical documentation.”

initiated an independent review of every single MNO citizenship file in order to see how many met our new definition and citizenship requirements (i.e., whether files were “complete” or “incomplete”).

This review took nearly four years, including a great deal of coordination to help many citizens find missing documentation. The Registry Review was completed and publicly released in May **2021**, which was an unprecedented act of transparency by an Indigenous government.

As noted above, this report confirmed that the vast majority of MNO citizens had “complete” citizenship files and are documented Métis rights-holders.

While our Registry worked tirelessly to help people with “incomplete” files to find documentation to prove their ancestral connection to a historic Métis community, the majority of the remaining 5,400 “incomplete” files are still missing critical documentation that does not allow us to verify these individuals as Métis rights-holders.

Along the way, some MNO citizens challenged our decisions, but in *Green v. MNO*, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice confirmed that: “if the MNO wanted to assert and claim Métis section 35 rights, it needed to ensure it represented Métis section 35 rights-holders. This was the purpose of the Registry Review.”

In 2021, based on the Registry Review final report, we initiated further province-wide consultations again to explain the findings, and encourage citizens who had not yet done so to complete their files.

While almost 20 years may seem like a long time to still be dealing with this issue, the MNO

recognized this is and very sensitive on to take the time to get this right everyone has an opportunity In some situations, the decision make may affect you, an indiv

“20 years may like a long still be dealing this issue, the recognized deeply personal sensitive on we needed the time to this right

TIMELINE: Key developments related to the M

1993

The MNO is created as a Métis-specific government whose fundamental purpose is to advance Métis rights and self-government, as outlined in the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*.

1994

The MNO Registry is established “to identify and register Métis citizens and harvesters who are eligible rights holders in the province of Ontario.”

2003

Supreme Court of Canada releases its decision in Powley and confirms three broad indicia for establishing Métis identity, consistent with the position advanced by MNO. The court also emphasizes the need for an “objectively verifiable” and standardized registration process for identifying Métis citizens.

2004

The 2004 MNO AGA amends the MNO Bylaws to adopt a new definition of “Métis,” consistent with its operationalization of the National Definition and the Powley decision.

2009

The MNO adopts the Registry Policy on an interim basis to enhance the standardization, reliability, and credibility of the MNO Registry.

2010

The 2010 MNO AGA directs province-wide consultations be undertaken on the MNO Registry.

201

The MNO rel “What We H based on the wide consult which, among things, recor that the MNO an Ontario M Ancestor dat



IDE PLEBISCITE



This is a deeply personal
one, and we needed
to be right and make sure
everyone's voice to be heard.
The decision we collectively
made as an individual or family you

may seem
a long time to
be dealing with
the MNO
but this is a
personal and
important one, and
we need to take
the time to get
it right.

know, or a beloved friend. However, the MNO
is not a club, and its main purpose is to advance
Métis rights and self-government.

So, as noted above, in August 2022, the MNO
Annual General Assembly directed that this issue
be put to all of the MNO's over 30,000 citizens
for direction.

We knew that a question of this significance
could not just be put to a room of only a few
hundred MNO citizens. As a Métis government,
the MNO also wanted to ensure that a public
and transparent process is undertaken, where all
MNO citizens have an opportunity to be heard.

This plebiscite is about obtaining input from
all of our citizens on what we do next in our
ongoing journey to advance Métis rights and
self-government. It is your vote, your voice, and
your rights at issue. Regardless of how you vote,
please make sure you do.

Additional information about these issues, the
plebiscite and how you can vote is available here
or call 1-800-263-4889 ext. 344 or email plebiscite@metisnation.org.

Merci, thank you, maarsii,

Who can I contact for more information or support?

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER:

Any questions or requests for further information, support, or
assistance concerning the Plebiscite process may be directed to the
Chief Electoral Officer, Paul DeVillers, by phone at **1-800-263-4889**
ext. 344 (toll-free) or by email at: plebiscite@metisnation.org

TECHNICAL VOTING ASSISTANCE REQUESTS:

OneFeather by phone at **1-855-923-3006** (toll-free) or at **250-384-8200**, or by email at support@onefeather.ca

MNO REGISTRY TEAM:

Questions specific to the status of your MNO citizenship file,
including questions about how to complete your file, should be
directed to the MNO Registry team via phone at **1-855-798-1006**
(toll free) or **613-798-1006** (local number), or email at info@mnoregistry.ca

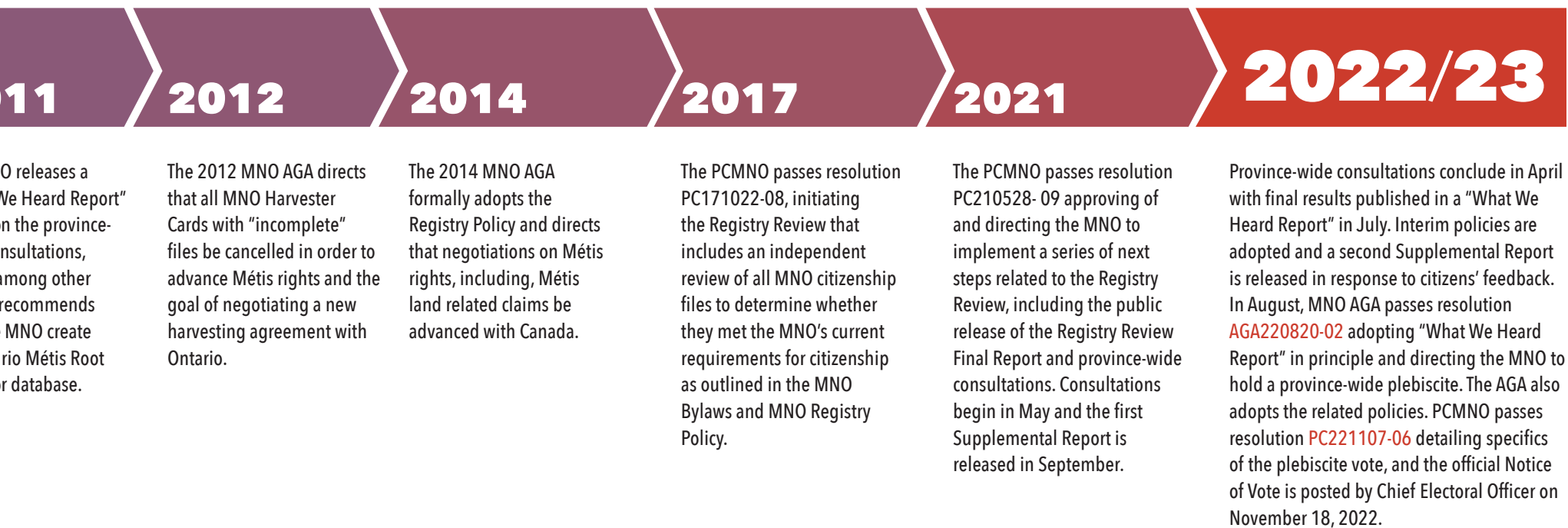
To update your contact information with MNO Registry visit: [www.
metisnation.org/registry/update-your-information](http://www.metisnation.org/registry/update-your-information)

BACKGROUND + CONTEXT:

For further information on the province-wide Plebiscite, including
background and context on the MNO
Registry and Self-Government Readiness
Review visit the website at [www.
metisnation.org/plebiscite](http://www.metisnation.org/plebiscite) or scan the
QR code:



MNO Registry & Registry Review (1993-Present)



PROVINCE-WIDE PLEBISCITE

NOTICE OF VOTE:

Province-wide Plebiscite vote on next steps related to *Registry Review*

Consistent with Resolution No. AGA220820-02 adopted by the 2022 MNO Annual General Assembly, a province-wide plebiscite vote ("Plebiscite") has been called, that will give all MNO citizens an opportunity to have their voice heard by voting either "Yes" or "No" on the following Ballot Question:

Should all existing members/citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the MNO Secretariat, whose files do not meet the current requirements for citizenship as set out in the MNO Bylaws and Registry Policy, be removed as members/citizens?

PLEBISCITE VOTING PERIOD:

**December 8, 2022 at 8:30am to
January 22, 2023 at 6:00pm (ET)**

VOTING DAY:

The voting date (i.e. final day to cast a vote) will be
January 22, 2023 at 6:00pm (ET)

VOTER ELIGIBILITY:

All registered MNO citizens – irrespective of their citizenship file status – who are sixteen (16) years of age or older, and not subject to voting limitations under the MNO Bylaws, are eligible to vote in the Plebiscite.

VOTING METHODS:

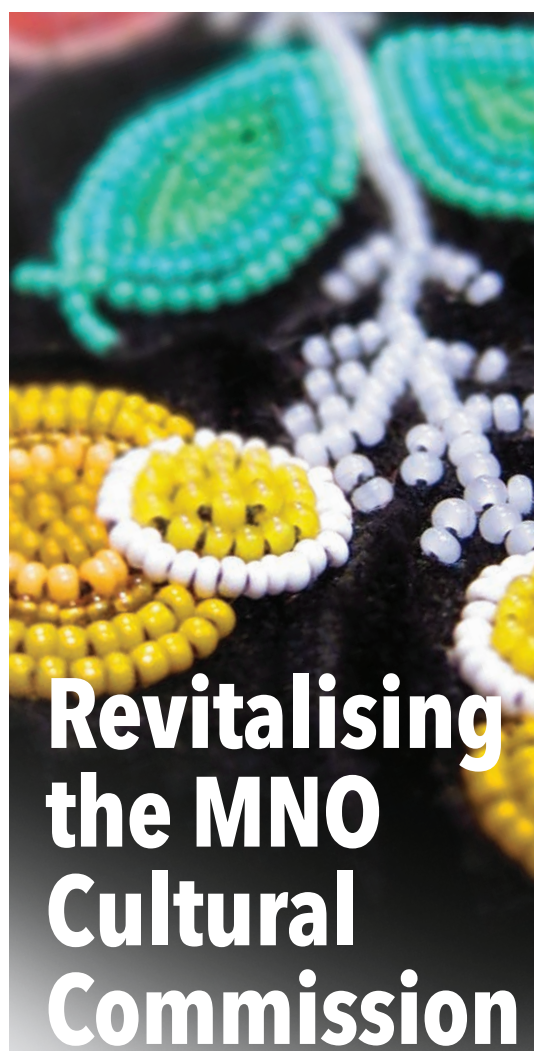
Voters may vote in the Plebiscite by either mail-in paper ballot, electronically, or by telephone. Information packages with detailed instructions on the various voting methods will be mailed out to the home addresses of registered MNO citizens, as provided to the MNO Registry. Voters may also contact the Chief Electoral Office up until January 12, 2023 to request an mail-in Paper Ballot and/or PIN for Telephone or Electronic Voting if the Voter did not receive or lost the original information package.

- **Mail-in Paper Ballots:** Paper Ballots and instructions will be included in the information package mailed out to Voters. Paper Ballots may be delivered to the Chief Electoral Officer by mail, courier, or hand delivery, and must be received by the Chief Electoral Officer no later than 6:00pm (ET) on January 22, 2023.

- **Electronic Voting:** Electronic voting will commence on December 8, 2022 at 8:30AM and it will close January 22, 2023 at 6:00PM (ET). If you wish to vote electronically, click the link below and then click the red "Sign Up with OneFeather" or "Vote with OneFeather" button and follow the instructions provided. You will be required to provide a personal email and verify your identity in order to vote electronically. You will be guided through the step-by-step process. Visit this link to get started: <https://www.onefeather.ca/nations/mno>

- **Telephone Voting:** Instructions for telephone voting will be included in the packages mailed to Voters. Telephone voting will commence on December 8, 2022 at 8:30AM (ET) and it will close January 22, 2023 at 6:00PM (ET). If you wish to vote by telephone please follow the telephone voting instructions provided separately or visit www.onefeather.ca/nations/mno for more information.

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER: Paul DeVillers has been appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer responsible for overseeing the conduct of the Plebiscite in accordance with the *MNO Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote Guidelines*. The Chief Electoral Officer can be contacted by phone at **1-800-263-4889 ext 344** and via email at plebiscite@metisnation.org.



Revitalising the MNO Cultural Commission

In 2002, the Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission (MNOCC) became a registered charity with a broad mandate that includes preserving, promoting and enhancing Métis culture, history and languages. The full potential of the MNOCC has yet to be unleashed. Plans are afoot to change all of this.

In the same way that you cannot build a good home without a solid foundation, the Board of the MNOCC recently oversaw a process to refresh the MNOCC's By-laws and Articles. This work was necessary not only to comply with the new (Ontario) *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*, but also to put the governance of the MNOCC on a firmer footing. The MNOCC's previous By-laws dated from 2002.

The new By-laws contain a number of important features with an emphasis on accountability. For instance, the By-laws contemplate that the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) will establish an Advisory Circle to provide advice or recommendations to the Board of the MNOCC on its activities. In addition, a representative of the MNOCC is obliged to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario every year to report on the MNOCC's past and planned activities. The By-laws also provide for the creation of Knowledge Circles to provide advice to the Board on areas of traditional knowledge. These mechanisms are designed to ensure that the work of the MNOCC remains on track and anchored to citizens and the communities that the MNO represents.

With new By-laws in place, the work of the Board of the MNOCC has shifted to other steps that are necessary to revitalize the organization. These steps include taking part in a "Charities 101" course provided by legal counsel in order to educate the Board on applicable charities laws. The next steps for the Board will include engaging in a strategic planning exercise to determine the priorities of the MNOCC over the near, medium, and longer terms. A budget and fundraising targets will also need to be set. In time, as the organization builds on successes, it will be able to grow and do even more.

In reviewing the charitable purposes of the MNOCC, it is clear that the organization is permitted to do some exciting things – from preserving artifacts to holding public concerts and exhibitions. The Board of the MNOCC is energized and is committed to revitalizing the organization. If you have any suggestions for areas where the MNOCC should focus, please direct them to contactus@metisnation.org ∞

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

MNO supports NOSM University students with \$515k bursary

Donation matched by FDC Foundation totalling \$1,030,000 for Métis medical students

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is providing an endowment of \$515,000 to NOSM University, Canada's first independent medical university.

The endowment will fund a bursary program for Métis students pursuing their MD at NOSM University and is being matched by the FDC Foundation.

The endowment will fund a bursary program for Métis students pursuing their MD at NOSM University and is being matched by the FDC Foundation to support Métis medical students.

"As the government representing Métis in Ontario, we are proud to do what we can to encourage academic and skills development, helping citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario achieve their goals," said MNO President Margaret Froh. "This bursary will enable Métis citizens to play a role in the future of medicine in Ontario—a profession Métis people have been under-represented in for far too long."

This MNO funding will support up to six Métis students annually beginning this year at a minimum of \$5,000 per year.

"NOSM University aims to represent the diversity of students in Northern Ontario by recruiting applicants directly from our local communities," says Dr. Sarita Verma, President, Vice Chancellor, Dean and CEO of NOSM University. "We are grateful to the Métis Nation of Ontario for its support and encouragement of Indigenous students and the confidence they have shown in NOSM University as we continue our work to improve health outcomes for Northern Ontarians."

"As Métis students, we bring cultural un-



(left to right): **Jennifer McGillivray, Advancement Officer, NOSM University;**
Hank Rowlinson, Chair, Métis Nation of Ontario; and, **Simon Sutherland, Manager, Post-Secondary Education, Métis Nation of Ontario**

derstandings of health from our own lived experiences," said Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Post-Secondary Representative Hannah Bazinet. "Encouraging students to share that insight will make way for a more equitable future."

NOSM University was established to address critical physician shortages in Northern Ontario. In 2011, the MNO and NOSM University signed an agreement to collaborate closely on several initiatives including improving the provision of medical programming that is culturally and linguistically appropriate to Métis people.

Applications to NOSM University's MD program are completed through Ontario Medical School Application Service, which

will open mid-July annually. The deadline for application is the first week of October, for admission in September of the following year. MNO citizens who are enrolled at NOSM University are eligible to apply for this bursary.

MNO citizens who are enrolled in the NOSM University MD program are eligible for this bursary. Applications are completed through Ontario Medical School Application Service, which will open mid-July annually. The annual deadline for application is the first week of October, for admission the following September. Bursary applicants must show proof of MNO citizenship to apply. ∞

The financier
of Choice for

Métis
Entrepreneurs
in Ontario



Métis
VOYAGEUR
Development Fund

www.mvdf.ca



NIB Trust Fund

The 2023-2024
Call for Group/Organization Applications is
OPEN

The NIB Trust Fund is accepting applications for
programs of education, healing and reconciliation,
and cultural knowledge building.

The NIB Trust Fund encourages
charitable Métis groups and
organizations to apply.
Group applications are available
online and due by
January 13 at 5:00 PM
Eastern Standard Time (EST)

Visit nibtrust.ca/help to learn more OR contact us now:
EMAIL: info@nibtrust.ca PHONE: 1-888-268-0520 (ext. 0)

Understanding the Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty #3

As a part of Treaties Recognition Week (November 6-12), the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community sought to raise awareness about the “Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty #3”:

Historically, it was the policy of the Government of Canada (“Canada”) to not negotiate treaties with Métis communities, as it encountered them from Ontario westward in what was then known as the historic North-West. Instead, Canada attempted to settle Métis land-related claims through the Manitoba Act, 1870 or on an individual basis using Halfbreed scrip. However, in 1875, a distinctive group of ‘Halfbreeds’ who were known as the ‘Halfbreeds of Rainy River and Rainy Lake’ and are now part of the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community, became the only known exception to this federal policy approach to exclude Métis from treaties.

In September 1875, Surveyor General John S. Dennis arrived in present-day Fort Frances to meet with First Nations chiefs to settle reserve boundary issues. There, he was met by a delegation of “Half Breeds” seeking to join Treaty #3—as ‘Half-breeds’ (i.e., a distinctive Métis com-



Theresa Stenlund (below left), Clint Calder (below centre), and The McPherson family (below right).

munity, not as ‘Indians’ or Ojibway). Two days later, on September 12, 1875, Nicolas Chatelaine, acting on behalf of the “Half-breeds of Rainy River and Rainy Lake,” signed an adhesion to Treaty #3 with Canada known as the Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty #3. In 1874, Dennis had signed an adhesion to Treaty #3 with the Indians of Lac Seul, evidencing that he clearly knew the Halfbreed collective at Rainy Lake and River were not ‘Indians’.

Under the Halfbreed Adhesion, Canada promised the “Half-breeds of Rainy River and Rainy Lake” reserves of land and the benefits of

Treaty #3 as if the Métis had been original signatories of that treaty. In a betrayal of the express words and commitments in the Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty #3, Canada then implemented a policy where the Halfbreed families who made up the “Half-breeds of Rainy River and Rainy Lake” had to become “Indians” in order to benefit from Treaty #3 or they would be simply treated as “white” and receive no benefits from the adhesion.

This betrayal of the treaty promise made to these well-known Halfbreed families—as Métis—continues to this day. While some of the

descendants of the “Half-breeds of Rainy River and Rainy Lake” have joined Indian Act Bands in the Treaty #3 territory, including what is now known as Couchiching First Nation, many Métis descendants of the “Half-breeds of Rainy River and Rainy Lake” have not and are the Métis successor to the “Half-breeds of Rainy River and Rainy Lake.”

Today, many of the Métis descendants, as beneficiaries of the Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty #3, are a part of the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community, along with the descendants of other Métis who lived in the region historically or who now

live in the region from other parts of the historic Métis Nation.

In 2017, the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community signed an agreement with Canada to begin negotiations with a view to finding a “shared solution” to resolving the historic grievance of the Métis descendants of the “Half-breeds of Rainy River and Rainy Lake.” As a part of these discussions, the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community has been clear that it does not seek the return of any reserve lands in Treaty #3 from First Nations. Nor does it seek to merge or become a part of existing Indian Act Band in Treaty #3.

The Métis descendants of the Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty #3 seek to benefit from their treaty—as Métis—as was promised to them by Canada in 1875. Nothing more. Nothing less. ∞

Watch the full video here:



MNO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES NEWS



MNO Education & Training staff in Toronto this past fall.

MNO staff recognized for commitment and dedication

The MNO Education & Training Branch (MNOET) had a great branch training event in Toronto during the week of October 24, 2022.

A large contingent of staff (75) participated in team-building and personal development activities. One of the highlights of the two-day event was the introduction of a Staff Recognition Program where the staff was recognized for their tenure with the MNO. Staff were presented with a very special “MNOET Sash” in which each color represented each of the five teams within the Education and Training branch:

- Light green represents Early Learning and Child Care;
- Purple represents Kindergarten to Grade 12 Initiatives;
- Light blue represents Post-Secondary Education, yellow represents Métis Languages;
- Red represents the Labour Market and Employment and Training Programs;
- Dark green is representative of all education and training programs coming together to support Métis people in their lifelong learning

journey.

- White and seafoam represent Métis inclusion in all learning environments.

Although the Director of Education and Training, Bryanna Scott-Kay, Ph.D. could not attend due to other commitments, she commended staff for their dedication, commitment and their years of faithful service to the MNO.

The last few years have been difficult on Métis families and communities as well as staff, so being able to gift and recognize the contribution of staff is a special way of saying *thank you*. Bryanna also thanks the branch’s working group responsible for coordinating the event and for those who helped to make the event safe while the pandemic lingers on.

Lastly, a special thank you for the support from our Chief Operating Officer, Joanne Meyer. ∞

PCMNO NEWS

Kate Stewart-McNeil appointed PCMNO Councilor for Region 8

Kate Stewart-McNeil will represent Region 8 on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO).

At the November 7 meeting of the PCMNO, a secret ballot vote was held to appoint a new PCMNO Regional Councilor and fill a vacancy in Region 8.

Kate brings over ten years of experience serving the MNO, beginning as Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Coordinator in 2011, and engaging with MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations and Education and Training branches. She has also served on the Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC); the Ottawa Region Métis Council (ORMC); and is currently involved with the MNO Two-Spirit Working Group.

“As Métis leaders, we are responsible for being role models to the young ones,” shared Kate. “We must stand gently on the shoulders of the ones who came before us who built what we have for us. I take the call to uphold these obligations very, very seriously.”

Kate was one of seven candidates considered for the position, which MNO President Froh acknowledges could be a record in the PCMNO’s election history.

“To have seven people come forward to say we’re interested in serving in this kind of role is really quite something,” says President



Kate Stewart-McNeil

Froh. “It speaks volumes to the level to which MNO citizens are getting involved.”

President Froh extended her appreciation to former Region 8 Councilor Karen Derocher, who resigned from the post this summer, thanking her for her contributions over the past years, not just for her work on the PCMNO but her involvement at the community level as well.

“The work that all of our leadership are doing at the local level, the PCMNO level, within the regional consultation committees and our volunteers, requires all of us pulling together,” shared President Froh. “We are all in this canoe together, working to move the MNO forward.”

“On behalf of the PCMNO, I want to thank all the candidates that put their names forward, and congratulate and welcome Kate as Region 8 Regional Councilor.” ∞

MNO and Canadian Geographic magazine partner on feature story

RIVERS of RESISTANCE

Telling the story of Métis in Ontario

This August you will be able to get your hands on the latest edition of Canadian Geographic Magazine – which includes a feature article entitled “Rivers of Resistance” telling the story of Métis in Ontario. The article was written by MNO citizen and academic, Dylan Miner, with contributions from MNO citizen and researcher Courtney Vaughan and featuring the illustrations of MNO citizen, Alexander Young.

The issue is the result of a resolution that MNO citizens brought forward at our 2018 Annual General Assembly, as they expressed interest in a partnership with Canadian Geographic to educate about the culture, history and way of life of Métis communities in Ontario.

The magazine will include the history of MNO’s hunt for justice, profile Ontario’s historic Métis communities and the voices of several citizens from across the regions. The issue also includes a pull-out map showcasing the history of Métis throughout the province.

“We are very excited about this edition of the magazine,” said MNO President Margaret Froh. “Canadian Geographic is

iconic in this country. This wonderful publication is focused on amplifying the voices of our communities and will help educate all Canadians about our rich history.”

The MNO-Canadian Geographic partnership doesn’t just end here. The MNO will soon launch a hub of information dedicated to the culture, history and way of life of Métis in Ontario. Stay tuned for more on that exciting announcement to come and look for copies of the special edition magazine at MNO’s upcoming Annual General Assembly in Toronto, Ontario. ∞

Read
Rivers of Resistance
online here:



PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

MNO affirms commitment to working with Minister Rickford on advancement of Métis rights in Ontario

Following the swearing-in of Premier Doug Ford’s newly announced cabinet, including returning Minister of Indigenous Affairs, The Honourable Greg Rickford, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) is affirming the MNO’s commitment to working with this new government to strengthen the Métis Nation of Ontario’s (MNO) relationship with the Progressive Conservatives and ensure Métis rights are protected. The MNO represents the collective rights and interests of Métis families and communities within Ontario.

“We look forward to continuing to work with Ontario on a government-to-government basis to address issues of critical importance to our citizens and ultimately make Ontario stronger,” said MNO President Margaret Froh. “We welcome the opportunity to



Members of the PCMNO meet with Ontario Minister of Northern Development and Indigenous Affairs, Greg Rickford ahead of the MNO AGA in Toronto this summer.

meet with this new Government in the coming weeks to discuss how we can work together to advance our joint priorities during the upcoming

term. We would like to congratulate Minister Rickford on his renewed appointment and we look forward to moving forward together to best

serve the citizens of the MNO,” said Froh.

“Our priority is advancing reconciliation through collaborative

processes, as mandated by Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. This critical work includes steps undertaken by the MNO and Ontario through the MNO-ADM Working Group, which was created to arrive at a common understanding on the locations of historic rights-bearing Métis communities in Ontario.”

As a result of the MNO-ADM Working Group process, the MNO and Ontario jointly announced the recognition of seven historic Métis communities in the province. “Ontario’s collaborative work with the MNO in recognizing what our communities have always known, asserted, and fought for, Métis Section 35 rights, are the bedrock of the government-to-government relations between the MNO and Ontario and we will continue to build on that throughout this upcoming term,” said Froh. ∞

Greetings from the MNO's Self-Government Team!

Together, we will build our Métis government and Constitution

In 1993, the Métis communities of Ontario came together and established the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). We have come a long way in 30 years, and 2023 promises to be a banner one! Together we have the opportunity to finish what we started and create the Métis government we all want and deserve.

On June 27, 2019, the MNO and the Government of Canada (Canada) signed the ground-breaking MNO-Canada *Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement* (MGRSA). Today, the MNO represents well over 28,000 Métis citizens who possess rights under section 35 of the Constitution of Canada. With our core Self-Government Agreement in hand, the MNO is moving forward toward the establishment of a Constitution and the implementation of self-government. To do this we need YOU, MNO Citizens, regions and communities to join us and take part in this historical moment.

IT IS THE CITIZEN'S MNO

Under the MGRSA, the MNO is mandated to meaningfully engage citizens in preparation for the development of a Constitution and an approval vote. To achieve this, the MNO has created an exciting engagement program that will connect citizens with their government and allow for the open exchange of ideas from one end of our Nation to another. This plan supports the commitment that citizens and communities represented by the MNO must be provided the opportunity to participate and provide informed consent. So in 2023 we will be front and center providing information and creating those relationships that will truly connect us all. When Metis come together, amazing things happen!

We're happy to report that, to date, MNO has signed several Regional Implementation Agreements as well as Regional Work Plans, hired four regional managers, worked on getting resources flowing to the regions through the Regional bank accounts, and raised awareness about the self-government process among the citizens. This work lays the foundation for what's ahead, and this is just the beginning.

CONTINUING THE WORK IN 2023

So what can you expect in 2023? The MNO will be providing background information and be available to one and all to answer questions and provide opportunities for feedback. The MNO WILL honour its commitments in the MGRSA by providing citizens the information they need and inviting everyone to participate in a wide variety of activities.

Together, we will build a Métis Constitution and government that is fair, worthy of respect, and true to our values and way of life. We will carve out a space for us in Ontario and Canada by building productive relationships that are beneficial for all of our citizens. In doing so, we will honour our past and inspire our future.

Keep an eye out for more self-government in 2023!
Wishing you all a prosperous and Happy New Year!!. ∞



**Hi, I'm Jiggy,
your guide on the
path to Self-Government!**

In 2023, the MNO -- and me -- are coming to Métis communities across Ontario to share information and updates on the ongoing work around our historic Self-Government Agreement. We look forward to seeing you in great numbers as we exchange ideas and find out what matters most to you as Métis citizens!

In the meantime, want to find out more about Self-Government? Go to www.metisnation.org/self-government or contact us at self.government@metisnation.org

Make sure to keep an eye out for me in your community, or follow me on Instagram @JiggyMNO



email: self.government@metisnation.org
web: www.metisnation.org/self-government

COMMUNITY

EARLY LEARNERS ILLUSTRATE MNO CHRISTMAS BOOK

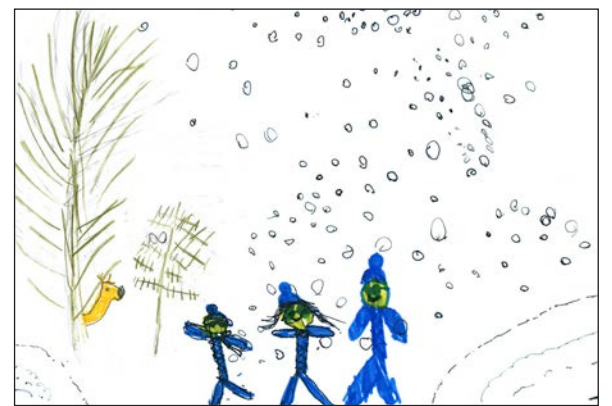
La chas pour awb de Nowèl parfè pour unn famiy Métis

The Hunt for the Perfect Métis Family Christmas Tree is the Métis Nation of Ontario's first Early Learning Christmas book!

Penned by two MNO citizens and illustrated by Métis early learners from across the province. Earlier this year the MNO Early Learning and Child Care team solicited illustrations for the book from Métis families and their children. The sheer number of submissions, made it difficult to choose which ones to feature in the book, so we have created an online gallery to share all of the incredible artwork!

The MNO wants to thank all artists who submitted their illustrations for our first-ever Christmas book! ∞

See the online gallery of Métis early learners' illustrations:



OTTAWA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL

Commemorating Powley Day

Council joined by MNO founding President Tony Belcourt

Submitted by **Sara Kelly**
Councillor, Ottawa Region Métis Council

On September 17, 2022 the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Ottawa Region Métis Council gathered with Métis citizens at Mādahōki Farm to celebrate Powley Day and honour the legacy of Steve Powley. Leading off the event was keynote speaker and MNO founding President Tony Belcourt, who invited attendees to journey along with him as he recounted the early days of the Powley case. Through personal reflection Mr. Belcourt beautifully shared the legacy that has been left following the Supreme Court's unanimous decision on September 19, 2003, which affirmed Métis rights and marked the beginning of a new era for the Métis in Canada.

Following the presentation, two dozen attendees were treated to a delicious catered Indigenous meal from Mādahōki Farm, which included traditional corn soup and bannock, wild rice pilaf, venison meat loaf, and arctic char ceviche. To close off the afternoon, guests were invited to mingle while sitting around the sacred fire.

"This was a great event to meet together and celebrate our Métis history and culture and think about future self-government based on our past experience," said ORM Council President Erik Gjøs. T

The Ottawa Council looks forward to hosting future in-person events! ∞



Some of the 50 MNO citizens and supporters that joined the Ottawa Region Métis Council as it gathered at Mādahōki Farm to celebrate Powley Day and honour the legacy of Steve Powley.

MNO REGION 3 & 4

MNO regions share fruits of the harvest

Submitted by **Mitch Case**
PCMNO - Region 4 Councilor

Sharing has always been an important part of Métis culture and food always brings our communities together across territories. This fall, the Abitibi Inland Métis Community (Region 3) and the Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community (Region 4) came together in Chapleau to share food, visit with old friends, and exchange the fruits of this year's harvest.

Wild game, baking, pickles, and preserves were exchanged between the two communities. The goods will go to fill community

freezers in both regions to help Métis families throughout the winter.

Special thanks to MNO Captains of the Hunt Andy Lefebvre (Region 3) and Steve Gjos (Region 4) as well as the leadership of the MNO Community Councils in Timmins, Chapleau, Temiskaming, North Channel, and Sault Ste. Marie for making the journey to do this important work.

Thanks to the Chapleau Métis Council and its President David Hamilton for hosting lunch and the biggest thank you of all to harvesters, canners, picklers, and bakers who gave of their time and resources to give back to their communities. ∞



NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL



A snowy Riel Day

Submitted by
Derrick Pont, President
Niagara Region Métis Council

Frozen-toed Métis in the Niagara region, joyfully gathered to commemorate Louis Riel Day at Soaring Eagles School in Thorold. The event began with words from Niagara Region Métis Council President, Derrick Pont, who led the traditional flag raising ceremony alongside Chair Brian Martin and youth council representative, Rosie Gendron.

"Today was incredible because the community came together, to honour the life of Métis leaders, Louis Riel. We shared

food and stories with each other. The snow couldn't keep us away!" said Kelsey Huxley, an MNO citizen who attended the day.

Proudly preserving Métis culture and history, citizens enjoyed a traditional bowl of rabbit stew and fresh bannock. Laughter could be heard throughout the old mill by the school. It was truly a time for remembering a great leader, connecting with our community and sharing our ways of life with the next generation. Special thanks to the MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator Lauren Curtis for partnering with us in this important day of remembrance.

We hope to see more of our citizens at future events. ∞

BARRIE SOUTH-SIMCOE MÉTIS COUNCIL



Barrie South-Simcoe Councilor Danielle Callander receives a donation from Little Caesars' Ashley Malik.

Métis Meal Deal!

Barrie South-Simcoe Métis Council partners with local Little Caesars to help fund local food bank

The Barrie South-Simcoe Métis Council recently teamed up with John, Cindy, and Ashley Malik, owners of the Little Caesars in Barrie to make a special "Métis Meal Deal" day on June 21, 2022.

Five dollars from each meal sold was donated to help fund the Barrie Métis Council's food bank. In total 42 deals were

purchased, resulting in \$210 donated.

The Barrie South-Simcoe Métis Council would like to send big thanks to John, Cindy, and Ashley. There could be another meal deal at the Little Caesars locations in Barrie in the coming months. Keep your eyes open for a great lunch for a great cause! ∞

Building Ontario's future together.

OPG's Reconciliation Action Plan reaffirms our commitment to a continued journey of reconciliation with Indigenous communities across Ontario.

We see partnership as a way forward. The plan outlines our goals to grow our economic impact for Indigenous communities and businesses, while working to preserve our shared tomorrow.

Join us in this journey and help us bring our plan to life.

Learn more by visiting:
opg.com/reconciliation

ONTARIOPOWER
GENERATION

Where a brighter tomorrow begins.



PETERBOROUGH AND DISTRICT WAPITI MÉTIS COUNCIL

Giving thanks and getting hands dirty

Submitted by
Christa Lemelin, President - Peterborough &
District Wapiti Métis Council

Volunteers from the MNO Peterborough & District Wapiti Métis Council planted 450 native trees at a gravel pit in the Township of Selwyn in November 2022. The trees will enhance habitat and increase biodiversity as part of ongoing rehabilitation of a site currently used for aggregate extraction. Additionally, students from local school boards planted 750 more trees at the same site earlier in the fall. In total, 4,556 trees were planted at the gravel pit site. Volunteers planted a variety of native species including Eastern White Cedar, White Spruce, Tamarack, and White Pine. “This is a really great opportunity for Métis citizens and families to collaborate with Otonabee Region Conservation Authority and the community. Many of our citizens live in urban areas outside of their traditional terri-

tories, so this is an opportunity for them to connect with the land, to give thanks for the important resources that this property once provided to this area, and to get their hands dirty to help rehabilitate the property for future generations,” said Christa Lemelin, President of the Peterborough & District Wapiti Métis Council. “We are excited to be working with the Métis Nation of Ontario’s local Council, The Township of Selwyn, and local student volunteers to undertake stewardship projects like this,” said Janette Loveys Smith, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer at Otonabee Conservation, “We are pleased to work together on efforts to rehabilitate and naturalize this site while also collectively contributing to climate change mitigation efforts in our watershed.” The 4,556 trees planted at the gravel pit this fall were generously funded by Tree Canada and One Tree Planted and in partnership with Otonabee Conservation and the Township of Selwyn. ∞



450 trees were planted at a gravel pit in the Township of Selwyn in November.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO HOUSING PROGRAMS

Housing is much more than bricks and mortar.

We know that the security of proper housing supports Métis individuals, families, and communities in achieving their highest potential. Supporting the housing needs of Métis citizens is an opportunity to support the security of Métis families and communities:

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
**EMERGENCY
REPAIR
PROGRAM**

The MNO Emergency Repair Program supports citizens who are low-to-moderate-income homeowners. A fundamental purpose is to assist homeowners by helping to fund necessary health and safety repairs to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities. Some examples included installing a walk-in shower with a seat, higher toilets for accessibility, safety grab bars in bathtubs and bathrooms, a chair lift to the basement, and also an accessibility shower for a senior client with diabetic neuropathy and balance issues.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
**HOUSING
STABILIZATION
PROGRAM**

By the end of the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Métis Housing Stabilization Program—funded under the Canada-Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord—helped 207 Métis households access housing or stabilize their current housing situation through several means, including providing eviction prevention support, landlord-tenant intermediary advocacy, and education surrounding tenant rights.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
**GET HOUSED,
STAY HOUSED
PROGRAM**

As the cost of living continues to rise, the MNO recognized that we needed to help Métis citizens in a competitive rental market. The Get Housed, Stay Housed program provides renter education. It is way for individuals and families to increase their skills and knowledge of successful tenancy and opens doors to long-term housing stability. This service includes the Rent Smart Certificate program, delivered virtually over three days through a blend of group check-ins and learn-at-your-own-pace modules. Upon successful completion, participants receive a certificate that can be used in place of a reference on many rental applications.

If you or someone you know could benefit from MNO’s Housing and Infrastructure programming and services, please contact the MNO Head Office by phone at **613-798-1488** or Toll Free at **1-800-263-4889**. For information about the Métis Housing Stabilization Program please email us at **housingstabilization@metisnation.org**. For information about the Emergency Repair Program please email us at **housingprograms@metisnation.org**

Métis Nation
of Ontario ∞

GEORGIAN BAY MÉTIS COUNCIL

GBMC holds long-awaited in-person Rendezvous in Penetanguishene

Celebration was the theme of the day as the Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) held their long-awaited Rendezvous at Discovery Harbour in Penetanguishene on June 19, 2022.

Since the first time the COVID-19 pandemic began community members gathered to experience music, arts, food, friendship and some local Métis history.

“What happened here today is we brought the community together,” said GBMC President Greg Garratt.

“After two years of not being able to do anything because of the pandemic, we’ve seen the results of people wanting to get out socialize today and be part of their Métis community and we have a fantastic community.”

Artisans from all around the bay, most of which were Indigenous-owned and operated displayed their wares at the Rendezvous. The MNO Registry was also on hand to assist with MNO citizenship applications as well as provide some historical background for Métis in the area.

In partnership with the GBMC, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) was on hand to showcase their work in nuclear waste disposal in the area.

Dozens of volunteers helped to make the day a success.

“Volunteers played a very crucial part in helping with the setup,” said GBMC Chair Ron LePage.



Some scenes from the Georgian Bay Métis Council's Rendezvous at Discovery Harbour in Penetanguishene earlier this year.

“We would not have been able to function without the volunteers. There’s only so many people on the council, we were all busy with our own roles. But the volunteers just stepped in and they were helping out with every aspect of the Rendezvous,

making sure everything ran smoothly. Thank you very much to all the volunteers.”

For everyone in the community, having the ability to get together and celebrate after two-and-a-half years of pandemic was important and the

mood at the event was apparent.

“I think definitely getting to see everyone again was the best part of today,” said Jeff Semple, a citizen of the MNO, former MNO youth councillor and Penetanguishene resident.

“It’s been two, two and a half years

and it’s so nice to catch up. I think it’s been really mentally good for everyone and good for the community.”

The Rendezvous was held at Discovery Harbour, one of the first locations the 30 Drummond Island Métis families landed after they were forced to leave the Sault Ste. Marie area following the War of 1812.

Each year at the Rendezvous, the GBMC focusses on a particular Drummond Island family. This year it was the Labatte family who left Drummond Island in 1827 and settled in Penetanguishene where they built a homestead that still stands to this day! The Labatte family is one of the Root Ancestor Métis families in the Georgian Bay.

Dylan Miner is a Métis historian, university professor and MNO citizen was at the event and spoke to the importance of the history of the area, its importance today.

“When we look back at the history of halfbreed communities here in the upper Great Lakes, I think that you see a number of important spaces,” said Miner.

“When we look at the historic record, we see connections between those different communities for many different generations over time. I think that ongoing historic connections and the ways that those connections exist and persist to the present is very important.” ∞

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO CITIZENS

LEARN ABOUT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Connect with one of our friendly NAVIGATORS and be guided through everything MNO has to offer!

1-800-263-4889 ext. 7
(toll-free)

ContactUs@metisnation.org

Métis Nation
of Ontario ∞

NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL



Council hold successful annual harvest dinner

On Sunday September 25, 2022 the Niagara Region Metis Council held their annual Harvest Dinner at Club Richelieu in Welland. The afternoon was full of activities. Thank you to the Metis Nation of Ontario for suppling Orange Shirts for all in attendance. The day began with our first open mic,

bringing guitars, fiddles, drums and singers. Our youth had fun with pumpkin painting and they showed off their coloring skills. Greeting from local dignitaries followed by a harvest feast.

At the end of the night we presented Kelsey Huxley with the Niagara Region Metis Council's Volunteer of the Year Award. ∞

FAMILY & MILESTONES

OBITUARY

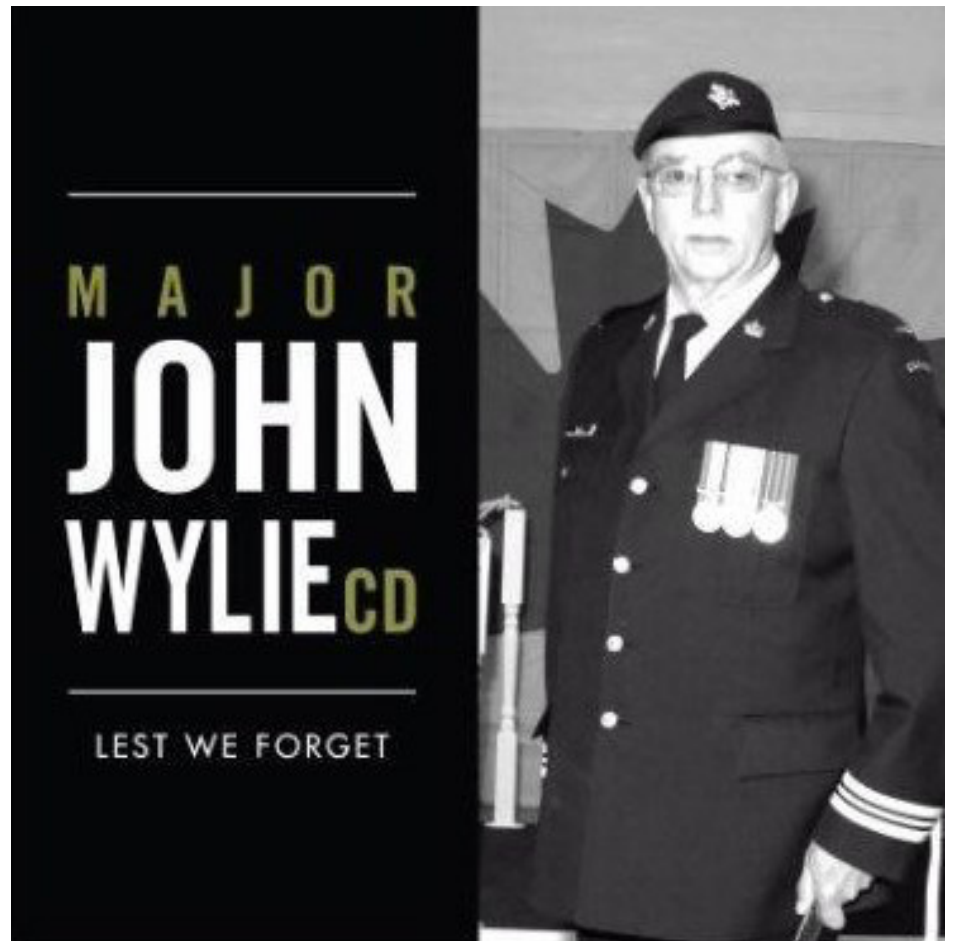
William John Wylie

September 19, 1944 – November 28, 2021

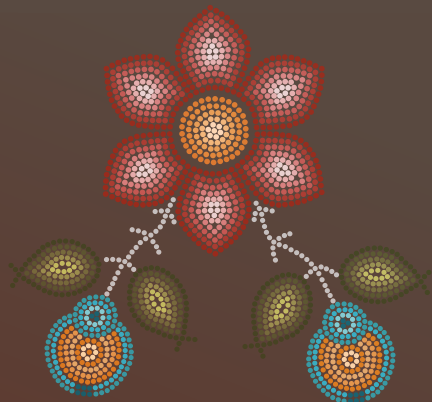
Major (Retired) John Wylie, CD, (77), died peacefully on Sunday, November 28, 2021 at the Brampton Civic Hospital. John was born on Milan Street in Toronto on September 19, 1944, to the late John Wylie and Cleopatra Woods. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Miriam Wylie (nee Clark), sister Margaret Wood, brother and wife Peter and Jackie Wylie, sons John and William (Bill) Wylie and grandchildren Liam and Noah Wylie. He will be missed by his daughter-in-law Karen Menard and his brothers and sisters-in-law Cynthia King (Andy), Pamela Craney (Edwin), Diana Clark (Sandy), Donald Clark (Nela) and Clyde Clark (Ava). He is predeceased by his bother-in-law and colleague Ed Wood (EMS City of Toronto). He will be sadly missed by 7 nephews, 5 nieces, 8 great nephews and 2 great nieces. John served in the Regular Force of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals for 6 years and was deployed to Egypt as part of the United Nations Emergency Force. He later went on to work with the Primary

Reserves and as a member of the Cadet Instructor Cadre for another 12 years. He also worked as a Paramedic for the City of Toronto for 7 years, McDonnell Douglas as a Safety Engineer and Fire Prevention Specialist for 17 years and the City of Toronto as a Fire Inspector for 10 years. He was an avid boxing fan, having served as a former director and coach with the Cabbagetown Boxing and Youth Club and as a professional referee and judge for the Ontario Athletic Commission. He also enjoyed playing curling and lawn bowling. He was a member of the Signallers Club of Canada, Metis Nation of Ontario, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 609, Guelph (Peel) Rod and Gun Club and CARP. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to the charity of your choice. Private services will be held in celebration of John's life in the future..

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.andrewscommunityfuneralcentre.com for the Wylie (John) family. ∞



William John Wylie (John)



Let Us Help!

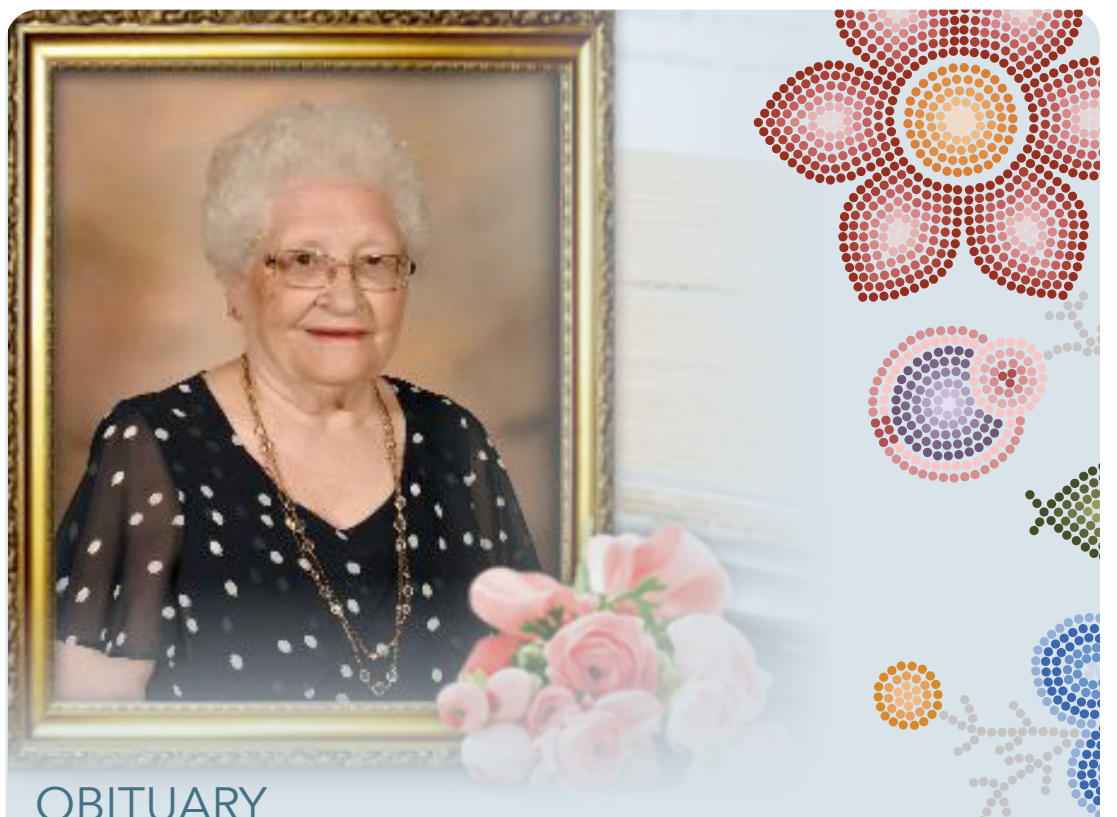
MNO Mental Health & Advocacy

The Métis Nation of Ontario is offering access to Métis culturally specific mental health supports for adults, youth and families in Ontario. Delivered in person where possible or via video-conference or telephone, this program connects Métis people to specialized professionals in French and English.

24hr
CRISIS LINE
1-877-767-7572

For non-urgent matters or help navigating mental health and addictions supports contact:
1-800-263-4889 x.7 (toll free)
or email: MHA@metisnation.org

Métis Nation
of Ontario ∞



OBITUARY

Janet Diana Levis

Former Grand River Métis Council Senator passes

Janet Diana Levis (nee PIGEAU) passed away on Saturday July 2, 2022 at age of 86. Janet had been battling complications from cancer for about a year before her heart gave out. Janet was home hospicing with the help of her dedicated loving family. Special thanks to Dr. Dawn Yew and Home Care Community Services - Queen Margaret Team for their excellent support. She was able to receive palliative care at home throughout her illness.

Janet is pre-deceased by husband Marcel, her parents Aurel and Marguerite (Dufresne) Pigeau, sisters Claudette (Donahue), Jacqueline/Jackie (Cutting), brothers Richard/Butch and Gerald/Gerry, and grand daughter Karen. She is survived by her brother Peter (Deborah), son Michael (Diane), daughters Carol, and Linda (Gary) Giesler, grandchildren Kevin (Tracie), Marc, Daina (Matt)

Grandmont and great grandchildren Hunter, Tyler, Sophie, and Benoit/Ben.

Janet met Marcel in Kiosk Ontario and raised her 3 children there until moving to Waterloo in 1966. She worked at several jobs but most notably Central Meat Market and HR Block. As an active member of St. Agnes Parish Church in Waterloo, Janet volunteered in the church office and on the finance committee for many years, was a 53 year member of CWL, and member of Cursillo. Janet is also a retired Senator of the Grand River Metis Council. Her hobbies included golf, boating, and travel.

Visitation were held at the Erb & Good Family Funeral Home in Waterloo on July 7, 2022. A memorial service and internment was held at St. Mary's Cemetery in North Bay, Ontario on August 12, 2022. ∞

MÉTIS YOUTH

The Métis Canoe Expedition is back!

This summer, bold Métis youth will paddle into history as part of the fifth **Métis Nation of Ontario Canoe Expedition 2023!**

This epic canoe trek will launch from Thunder Bay and end in Ottawa to kick-off the MNO's 2023 Annual General Assembly. During this adventure of a lifetime participants will team up with other Métis youth on land and water to brave the rivers and rapids of the Great Lakes.

Making this MNO Canoe Expedition extra special is the fact that it will take place in 2023 - when we will mark the **30th anniversary of the MNO** and the **20th anniversary of the landmark Métis rights decision in R v. Powley**. This canoe trek will be truly historic.

The MNO Canoe Expedition 2023 is open to Métis youth, ages 18-29, who are citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Youth representatives from other Métis National Council governing members will also be eligible by invitation. The MNO will strive to balance participation across MNO regions. Spaces are limited. Apply at www.metisnation.org or scan the QR code below:



A Message from

THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF THE MNO

WISHING YOU & YOURS GREETINGS *of* THE SEASON

As we approach the Winter Solstice and the holiday season, the PCMNO wishes the best for you and your loved ones. May your homes be filled with light, love and laughter during this most joyful time of year.

We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year, and we thank all citizens, staff and leadership for your many contributions towards the MNO in 2022.

Thank you and marsii.

