



## REGIONAL WOMEN REPRESENTATIVE ANNUAL REPORTS

### Region 1 – Colette Surovy

Welcome Métis Women!! I chair the Women's Council's meetings and we meet regularly from September to June. We also have separate meetings apart from the regular ones if needed to work on issues in detail.

#### **THIS YEAR**

**October 2022** – Fall Harvest helped to plan and coordinate event

**October 2022** – Attended Kenora Metis Council AGM

**November 2022 & January 2023** – Blanket Making workshops with two agencies in Kenora

**November 2022** – Partnered with two agencies for Louis Riel Week

**September through June 2023** – Various consultation meetings regarding walleye fishing, water quality and nuclear waste.

**Feb & March 2023** – Honouring Life Quilt Campaign – 3 women including myself created and sent in 3 squares for the quilt that will be on display at this year's AGA.

**April 2023** – Secured a variety of Copper Pail necklace kits for Community Council Women Reps with kits being delivered by mail or in-person.

**April 2023** - MNOWC was able to host two gardening sessions. I participated in the Northern session and the presenters were very engaging and knowledgeable.

Unfortunately, I was unable to travel this year therefore did not attend any meetings or events.

I sat on the Governance Committee but had to step down as I was unable to continue due to health reasons. This year was challenging as I had several health issues resulting in two major surgeries in less than a year. I was unable to work closely with our reps and I look forward to changing this in the upcoming year.

The Community Council Women Reps in Region 1 are outstanding women who give of themselves to their community. I admire their commitment to improving women's lives in our region.



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### Region 2 – Kelly Camacho

First I want to thank all the women I have had the privilege to have met and work with across our Nation and Region 2. The sadness of losing our Captain of the Hunt and the recent passing of President Torch William Gordon of Greenstone, my cousin. Thank you for all the love sent.

#### *Highlights*

We had a successful Tri-Council AGM thanks to Wendy Houston President of Thunder Bay and her council's hard work. We were able to get technology to council members who can now attend meetings and continue work for the Metis Nation. Also t-shirts and a jacket to be more visible in our communities and events.

#### *Key Achievements*

We have had more cultural events throughout our region. Example: Mother's Day events with mothers, grandmothers and children. Also other special days. Medicine bags, ribbon skirts, dot art and many more. I would like to thank Allan Gordon's wife, Irene, for her help in many events and knowledge.

We have had three successful elections. We are now following MNO procedures to appoint an interim President for Greenstone.

#### *Other Comments*

We have been busy making ourselves available to be present in our communities and region. Relationships with other Indigenous delegates on boards and talking about Louis Riel as well as other subjects. Relationship building is our biggest priority for all our councils. We are losing funding for LRC who have helped us in so many ways. We truly thank all of them.



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### Region 3 – Santana Sanftenberg

#### Fall 2022

October – Bear on Wood (virtual) – Regional

November – LFMO Metis Women's Policy Forum in Ottawa (in-person)

#### Winter 2023

January - Empowerment Bags & Beading workshop hosted with CCWR Amanda in Temiskaming (in-person).

Feb - Dot Art (virtual) – Regional

March 11 - Strong Women's Gathering - Sudbury (in-person)

March – Honouring Life Quilt Campaign with VS and CCWR from Northern Lights Council and Temiskaming Council (attended virtually) and Timmins Council (in-person).

#### Spring 2023

May - attended ELCC conference in Niagara-on-the-Lake

May - Red Dress - Peg dolls (virtual) – Regional

May - Planting Semah & Beading Pouches (in-person Timmins Council)

#### Summer 2023

June - Paddle Painting with Timmins Council and Timmins Metis Health and Well-being

I want to personally thank the Region 3 CCWR's for the last year of your commitment to the Women of the Metis Nation of Ontario! A huge Marsi goes out to past CWR Lilian Ethier and current CWR, Victoria De Blois of Northern Lights Metis Council; past CWR Amanda Masulka of Temiskaming Council; Krista Moreau of Chapleau and past CWR Chandy Donovan from Timmins Council. It has been a pleasure to provide support to the work you do for the women of your communities!



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### Region 4 – June Smart

Elected North Channel Metis Council (NCMC) Women's Rep (CCWR) 1 Apr 21	NCMC Women's Rep June Smart
Appointed as MNOWC Region 4 Rep (RWR) 12 Jan 22	MNOWC Region 4 Rep June Smart
Member MNOWC Governance Committee	June Smart, Cora Bunn, Lynne Gouliquer
Chair Women Honouring Women Award (WHWA) Committee	June Smart, Lynne Gouliquer, Kelly Camacho, Pat Taylor
Participated with NCMC Fall Fair in Blind River 15 Oct 22	NCMC Women's Rep June Smart, Council members and MNO Healing & Wellness Branch Shania Kilpatrick
Participated with NCMC Meet & Greet in Elliot Lake 4 Feb 23	NCMC Women's Rep June Smart, Council members and MNO Aging at Home Coordinator Alison Montani
Invited 9 Feb 23 to participate in MNOWC Research Project: Indigenous Women's Anti-Violence Task Force (IWAVTF) of Baawaating Prepared by: Xuechen Yuan (SSHRC Research Assistant); Dr. Vivian Jiménez Estrada (Principal Investigator & Associate Professor, Algoma University)	MNOWC President Suzanne Jackson, NCMC Women's Rep June Smart and HSSM Women's Rep Lisa Kisch
Invited to speak 14 Feb 23 and represent Métis and the MNO during an event that MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Donna St. Jules hosted in conjunction with several other Indigenous organizations to raise awareness about and honour the women and girls who have been murdered or have gone missing in Canada. The event – MMIWG2S+ (March for Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, girls, 2 spirit and others). The event took place in front of the Sault Ste Marie Courthouse and I spoke to the issue and raised awareness of what programs and services the MNO offers to address the issue	MNOWC Region 4 Rep June Smart and MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Donna St. Jules
Invited to speak 20 Feb 23 at MNO Healing and Wellness Branch Family Day online event, provided Orange Shirt Day testimonials	MNOWC Region 4 Rep June Smart



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Participated with MNOWC Indigenous Advisory Committee 23 Jan, 6 & 13 Feb, 6 & 27 Mar 23, summary meeting Pathways to Safety Progress Report (to be confirmed)	Suzanne Jackson, June Smart, Cora Bunn, Pat Taylor, Shelley Claus, Sharlene Lance, Berni Picco, Roxanne Shanks, Nicole Taylor
Participated with NCMC Red Dress Pin Workshop in Blind River 4 Apr 23 facilitated by Berni Picco	NCMC Women's Rep June Smart, Council members and MNO Healing & Wellness Branch Shania Kilpatrick
Participated with MNOWC & Victim Services - Honouring Life Campaign Region 4 mailed 20 & 28 Mar 23 three quilt squares. Quilt to be on display at AGA in Ottawa	NCMC Women's Rep June Smart and HSSM Women's Rep Lisa Kisch
Participated with Métis Child, Youth & Family Services (CYFS) Project Implementation Planning Sessions 4 May 23 Zoom, 29-31 May 23 Toronto	June Smart, Dorothy Eastman
Attended special assembly in Toronto 16-18 Jun 23	MNOWC Region 4 Rep June Smart



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### Region 5 - Lynne Gouliquer

#### **Métis Nation Ontario Women's Council (MNOWC) Lynne Gouliquer Region 5 Women's Councillor Representative Report Sept 2022 - Aug 2023**

Overall, Region 5 has seen a return resembling the pre-COVID times with more and more in-person activities locally and regionally (and nationally) but also it has retained some of the benefits of doing things the COVID way (e.g., e-communication and e-meetings). My work for the MNOWC has been very busy as per usual this past year. Note: I have not experienced a year since starting in this role with MNO Women's Council that has NOT been overly busy! Here is my report for this year.

#### **General Council and Nation Level Work:**

The MNO women's council is a very active council meeting regularly on a monthly basis and often having to meet four or five more times over the year at special council meets to complete the work required, expected and asked of us. The amount of business with which the council deals as part of the Métis Nation of Ontario, means meetings often last 2 plus hours. Being a regional women's council representative also requires a commitment to all Métis women from all the other nations as represented by the Women of the Metis Nation - Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO). I attended LFMO's 4th Annual Métis Women's Policy Forum on November 22 – 25, 2022 in Ottawa, Ontario. It was a very busy and exhausting 4 and a half days of working together with women from across the entire Métis National Nation on policies and reports. It provided opportunities for networking. I have also been involved in various work with the Métis Veterans (two spirit flag bearer) and consultations on veterans issues with Veterans Affairs Canada. I also attended training in anti-racism and gender based online workshops. In March, my spouse and I completed a quilted square for the MNO Honouring Life Campaign - Quilt Project organised MNO Community Well-Being.

#### **MNOWC Committee Work:**

The MNOWC is seeking official status within the MNO structure by having a Charter and Bylaws accepted at the MNOWC AGM and MNO AGA. As chair (I) and part of the Governance Committee, we have been focussed on finishing the hard work involved with ensuring the MNOWC Charter and MNOWC bylaws were prepared for the next MNOWC AGM and MNO AGA. In addition to moving this through council, it has gone to the MNO Community Relations who provided feedback that needed to be integrated and then passed by the MNOWC Council. At the time of this report, they are at MNO legal for a final perusal which may lead to some final changes before being presented at the MNOWC AGM with the hopes it makes it to and through the AGA. It has been a long process involving numerous uncountable hours of volunteer work for the committee and the council members which they should all be congratulated for.

As part of the MNOWC Women Honouring Women Award Committee I have functioned as the redactor for the nominations as a means to ensure a fair and unbiased assessment of the nominations by the assigned committee members. This year has been a great year in which we





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received 6 nominations for the award. We hope that if a nominator's nomination of a MNO Métis woman is not successful that they will re-nominate that person next year as there is only one award and that woman is probably deserving of an award for all her hard work. I encourage any MNO citizen who wants to nominate someone to reach out to me and I will provide suggestions on putting together an application.

### Region 5 level

While I am the elected Regional Representative, I would like to everyone to acknowledge that the real front line volunteer work happens at the level of each council and each woman's council representative. They are our heroes and deserve all our appreciation for the numerous hours of volunteer time they put towards helping their council and specifically the women in their council area. Region 5 entails 3 councils (Sudbury, North Bay, and Mattawa). Sudbury is the largest, followed by North Bay and then Mattawa. All three councils have encountered difficulties either with no one in the position or turn overs in the last year. From my vantage point as the Regional representative, I notice that the woman's council role is huge and often too much for a woman who has younger children which leads them to have to resign. I am so impressed that they do give it a whole hearted try. This is unfortunate as families and especially those with young children have specific needs. In addition, it seems the councils are unable to encourage or support these younger Métis women in their role so that these women have an opportunity to be part of the Métis councils. It seems that the MNO at large should examine ways that women with a young family can be supported so that they can take up opportunities to be part of the MNO structures on a whole. On that note let me present the women who worked for their councils in Region 5.

### Sudbury

Kim Sanftenberg took over the Sudbury Woman's Council position as it was vacant. Kim sent in the following report.

I have personally organized and hosted with both the local Métis Women, children and men the following activities:

- October 2022 - Fall Harvest Fair, which included a Pumpkin Carving Contest for the kids
- November 2022 - Women's Paint Social, with Jessica Somers
- December 2022 - Craft Initiative at Annual kids Christmas Party
- December 2022 - Reached out to local Seniors for Turkey Hamper and helped out at the Give-away with Council
- January 2023 - Wildlife Skills Workshop at Laurentian Conservation Area
- February 2023 - Compiled & Developed Sudbury Métis Council Website
- March 2023 - Honouring Life Campaign Quilt Project with MNO Victim Services
- March 2023 - Women's Empowerment Workshop\*
- April 2023 - Submitted & Applied for Funding through Indigenous Arts - for 12 art classes with Jessica Somers in new year (2024)
- May 2023 - Métis Sash Bookmark Workshop
- May 2023 - 2 Ribbon Skirt Workshops
- June 2023 - Bike Helmet Giveaway - applied & obtained funding for initiative from Transportation Demand Management Community Grant



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- Member of HSN Indigenous Health Advisory Council advocating on behalf of local Métis citizens

\* Note the March 2023 Women's Empowerment Workshop was also a Region event. As the Region 5 women's council representative, I provided transportation support (e.g., gas cards) to women from North Bay, Mattawa, and the Greater Sudbury area who had to travel to attend.

As you can see Kim should be complemented and thanked for the tremendous amount of work and activities, she has done the Sudbury council. She recently stepped aside from the woman's representative and will be missed by her women. Hopefully we will see her in other roles in the MNO as she is a valuable talented woman.

### **North Bay**

Lise Hughson started the year off as woman's council rep to North Bay but due to changes in the North Bay council took over the Chair position. Lise was very active supporting her council and women. No specific report at this time. However, I big thank for all your supportive volunteer work Lise for the North Bay Council.

Stephanie Higgs Bergman replaced Lise for the rest of the year. Stephanie is one of those younger Métis women with a young family and had to meet the demands of both the North Bay council and her family. Based on our communications, I know she was doing admirable at balancing the demands. She did not submit a report but I know from the various communications she has been active in her council and for her women. For example, she actively sought North Bay Métis women to attend the March 2023 - Women's Empowerment Workshop held in Sudbury. I would like to thank her for the volunteer work she did for her council and women.

### **Mattawa**

Unfortunately, there is no report from Mattawa as they do not and have not had a woman rep on their council of more than a year now. We hope that there will be a woman who can take on this valuable position in the future.

## **REGION 6 – CORA BUNN**

As Region 6 Women's Rep, I sit on the MNOWC Governance Committee. This Committee has been working on the Charter and Community Code. I also serve as Secretary for the MNOWC doing the agenda and minutes for each meeting. Some of the events I participated in include:

Oshawa Orange Shirt event – St. Paul's United Church





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Highland Waters Event

Region 6 Water Guardians Training

LFMO Policy Forum

I also visited each Women's Rep in Region 6 and delivered craft kits to their home and visited with them if they were home.

Ottawa Region Council Women's Rep. has been working to build a connection with the women in the Ottawa Region. There has been numerous events and workshops held in Ottawa and the surrounding area. The Carleton Place Rendezvous, The Annual Christmas Gathering, and Ceramic Dot Art Painting Workshop being some of this past year's events. A beading circle, weekly knitting group, blanket workshop, painting on leather workshop, fall picnic nature walk and a Metis Show and Tell Luncheon are being planned. This year's goal is to hold events geared towards Senior Women in our region.

Highland Waters Council Women's Rep Report: Some highlights over the past year for me included being able to partner with a local farm to create an Indigenous corn maze and raise \$3,760.00 for our community as well as the MMIW No More Stolen Sisters project. I also distributed Orange Shirts within the community and raised \$1,127.89 which was donated to the Orange Shirt Society. I have once again partnered with Turtles Kingston for my Turtle Project in which I assisted turtles by covering their nests after they laid their eggs to aid in their survival. I also transported injured animals to local wildlife rehabilitation centres. I collected data on frogs in the Bay of Quinte for the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program with Birds Canada. I hosted a garbage clean up event on Earth Day in Deseronto. I was able to get a motion passed to create a Domestic Violence Fund within our region to assist women escaping or living in domestic violence. I am also a proud member of the Great Lakes Advisory Group and the Two Spirit Working Group.



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### Region 7 – Patricia Taylor

#### **Welcome to the 2023 MNOWC AGM!**

I would like to introduce our Strong Team of CCWR for Region 7:

- Sue Fraser  
Georgian Bay Métis Council Women's Representative
- Darlene Lent  
Moon River Métis Council Women's Representative
- Arlene Merkley  
Barrie South Simcoe Métis Council Women's Representative
- Lori Fossold  
Great Lakes Métis Council Women's Representative
- Nicole Taylor  
Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council Women's Representative

Please. Contact your local Métis Councils and get involved. There are many events, workshops and celebrations happening in your area.

#### **MNOWC REGION 7 ANNUAL REPORT – AUGUST 2022-JULY 2023**

##### **AUGUST 2022**

- i. Attended MNO AGA and MNOWC AGM in Toronto.
- ii. MNOWC held a gathering on Toronto Island with a Sacred Fire, drumming and healing ceremony for Missing and Murdered and Abused Women.

##### **SEPTEMBER 2022**

- i. Attended Zoom meetings throughout the month
- ii. Anti-racism Strategy (ongoing workshops)



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iii. MNOWC monthly meetings second Wednesday of each month – all Métis women citizens are welcome.

### **OCTOBER 2022**

- i. Attended Governance and Finance Training via Zoom with MNO
- ii. Leading leather workshop for BSSMC teaching how to make a small fringe using deer and moose hide. The class learned how to draw and cut out a pattern for their punch and fringe. They also learned how to use a leather punch, leather lacing needle and leather lacing techniques. We also added some beads to the fringe.

### **NOVEMBER 2022**

- i. I, along with CCWR Sue Fraser, Arlen Merkley and one Senator Lisa Tessie from Region 7, attended Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak Métis Women's Policy Forum in Ottawa. The agenda was fully packed with issues such as Métis Womens health, housing, climate change and employment equity act. These are just a few highlights from the forum which was held from November 22-25.

### **DECEMBER 2022**

- i. Zoom with Victim Services (Honouring Life)
- ii. Delivered more comfort kits to the Lighthouse Homeless shelter in Region 7.

### **JANUARY 2023**

- i. MMIWC Committee – I am on the MNOWC Committee for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. MMIWC is representing all MNO regions in Ontario.

### **FEBRUARY 2023**



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- i. I am working on the funding committee for the MNOWC. One of our fundraisers is the MNOWC COOKBOOK. Our launch date has been delayed to the mid-fall.
- ii. We also have an Annual Fundraiser Craft Table at the AGA. All donations are from our Métis citizens across Ontario. This year we will be selling tickets on a raffle draw for a Capote and a Voyageur Shirt. Please come out and support our Métis Women's fundraiser here at the AGA.

### **MARCH 2023**

- i. Attended monthly MNOWC meeting plus additional urgent meetings
- ii. MNO Town Halls via Zoom

### **APRIL 2023**

- i. Pathway to Wellbeing with Victim Services.
- ii. Quilted 4 blocks for the Victim Service Quilt. 30 blocks throughout Ontario were submitted for this beautiful Healing Quilt using imagination and creativity for each block. This quilt will be a traveling healing quilt and is currently on display at the Midland location.

### **MAY 2023**

- i. Attended design phase workshop for MNO Child, Youth & Family Services Project at Intercontinental in Toronto. MNO is working towards a MÉTIS CYFS
- ii. Assisted CCWR Sue Fraser with 3 Ribbon Skirt Workshops with GBMC

### **JUNE 2023**

- i. I am part of the MNOWC Women Honouring Women Committee where once a year MNOWC recognizes one Métis woman at our AGM.
- ii. Attended the MNO Special Assembly in Toronto.



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### **JULY 2023**

i. Reports, zoom meetings and planning for our MNOWC AGM August 17, 2023 in Ottawa.

Please contact your local Métis Nation of Ontario Community Council to stay updated on community events, celebrations and workshops.

Stay safe, stay positive ❤️

Patricia Taylor





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### Region 8 – Tera Beaulieu

Requested reporting period: August 2022 to August 2023

#### **MNOWC TASKS & RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Act as the MNOWC Vice-Chair
- Lead for MNOWC Meeting – January 5, 2023 - Meeting to discuss funding opportunities

#### **TRI-COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD**

##### **September 20, 2022**

- Regional updates from each Council rep, brainstorming for regional activities/projects, planning for Healing Blanket Workshop

##### **January 17, 2023**

- Regional updates from each Council rep, planning for creation of squares for MNO Victim Services Quilt

##### **March 8, 2023 at 5pm**

- Planning meeting to discuss April 2023 blanket-making workshop

##### **April 17, 2023 at 4pm**

- Planning meeting to discuss April 2023 blanket-making workshop

##### **July 17, 2023**

- Regional updates from each Council rep; discussion of upcoming AGA and MNOWC AGM

Have had a personal staff person assist with planning and organizing of Region 8 programming and activities

#### **UPDATES & ACTIVITIES**

##### **Credit River Métis Council, Island Lake BBQ Bash – August 28, 2022**

- Afternoon of activities, games, food, and community gathering

##### **Toronto & York Region Métis Council, Powley Day Celebration – September 24, 2022**



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- Morning of medicine teachings and harvesting, food, and community gathering

### **Toronto & York Region Métis Council, Louis Riel Day Event – November 16, 2022**

- Morning of raising the flag, Métis jigging, and celebrating Louis Riel's legacy

### **Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak, Policy Forum – November 22-25, 2022**

- Attended as MNOWC regional rep; also delivered talk

### **Region 8 Regional Implementation Agreement (RIA) Signing – January 22, 2023**

- Attended the signing of the Region 8 Regional Implementation Agreement (RIA) at the Ontario Science Centre

### **Oshawa/Durham Region Métis Council's AGM – March 4, 2023**

- Attended the Oshawa/Durham Region Métis Council's AGM

### **TYRMC Sugar Bush Event – March 26 2023**

- Attendance at event with family

### **Region 8 Quilt Square Contributions**

- Worked with MNO Victim Services and Regional Women's Reps to organize completion of 7 squares for a province wide "Honouring Life" Quilt

### **Region 8 Blanket Making Workshop – April 22, 2023**

- Hosted a Region 8 Métis Women & 2Spirit Blanket Making Workshop at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto

### **IMPORTANT UPDATES**

**\*\*No funding made available to MNOWC Regional Women's Reps thus far as of August 2023**



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### Region 9 – Vacant

No Report