

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## MNO 30<sup>th</sup> AGA

Name of PCMNO Councilor	Region / Position
<b>Kate Stewart-McNeil</b>	<b>Region 8 PCMNO Councillor</b>

### Introductory Message about work within the Region in 2022/23

Greetings from Region 8! As you may or may not be aware, many Citizens from the Métis diaspora – families who have left their historic homes for a variety of reasons – now call GTA cities and towns home. We do our best to support each other, and connect to the best of our abilities as we navigate our colonial context.

Every Citizen residing in MNO Region 8 is a Section 35 rights-holder, with routes, family ties, and stories (known or wounded) connecting them to their Traditional Territories inside and west of Ontario. In Region 8 – encompassing Toronto and York region, Oshawa and Durham region, and cities in proximity to the Credit River – a priority is to repair and heal our relationships as Métis people with the diverse Urban Indigenous community, and our Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee neighbours. We live together on land where the upper Canada land surrenders and Williams Treaties took place; we have a role as responsible Métis guests to uphold here.

### Highlights and Key Achievements

Métis families residing in Region 8 are currently navigating crises with opioids, housing availability, rapidly increasing unprovoked attacks on public transit and sidewalks, illegal gun violence, food insecurity, urban poverty, and myriad other consequences of oversaturated human density on crumbling concrete infrastructure.

We have a lot of work to do to protect and create safer places for human beings to exist in. Since November 2022, your PCMNO Regional Councillor for Region 8 has been working to identify how Region 8 lived realities, the desire of urban and near-urban dwellers to be connected physically, emotionally, spiritually and by communication to people in their active historic communities, and the PCMNO governance table can align to illuminate a path forward.

This has been a challenging journey so far – I am not surprised, but I am humbled. I am both less hopeful and more realistic, and deeply committed to building communications infrastructure to connect Region 8 resident Citizens to PCMNO governance.

Going forward, my priority focus will be on succession planning and preparation so that sooner or later whoever steps into this position after me is able to receive context and resources to work from. That will be a key governance outcome of my term in office.

The three Councils that comprise local governance within Region 8 are each strong and unique, and connect grassroots Métis Citizens with the MNO through local events, person-to-person support during trying times, and the feeling of connection to culture and our shared identity as Métis people. With the power of connection, we can break cycles that keep us underserved and voiceless, and build a new reality where healing can one day be possible through innovation, creativity, and respect.

Meetings / Projects / Partnerships / Committee Participation / Other Activity
<p><b><u>Region 8 Internal</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Signing of the Region 8 Regional Implementation Agreement (R8CC)</li><li>• Region 8 Virtual Mapping Session (LRC)</li><li>• Region 8 Climate Change Event (LRC)</li><li>• Community Garden (ODRMC)</li><li>• Community Garden (TYRMC)</li><li>• March Break Event (CRMC)</li><li>• GTA Housing Project and Inspections (H&amp;I)</li><li>• Traditional Plants Workshop (TYRMC)</li><li>• Urban Gardening Workshop (TYRMC)</li><li>• 2S &amp; Women's Healing Blanket Workshop (MNOWC R8)</li><li>• 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Métis Heritage Celebration (ODRMC)</li><li>• Annual Family Day Event (ODRMC)</li><li>• ODRMC AGM</li><li>• TYRMC AGM</li><li>• CRMC AGM</li><li>• Region 8 Captain of the Hunt Appointment</li></ul> <p><b><u>MNO Inter-Region</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Focus Group</li><li>• MNO Great Lakes Advisory Group</li><li>• Advancing Self-Government Fiscal Capacity Workshop (SGS)</li><li>• MNC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</li><li>• MNC Hockey Game – Inaugural <i>Tea &amp; Bannock Cup</i></li><li>• Introduction of Federal Legislation acknowledging our Sovereign Self-Governance by Canada</li><li>• Release of the UNDRIP Act Action Plan</li></ul> <p><b><u>External</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engagement: Department of Fisheries and Oceans – Indigenous Habitat Participation Program (R8CC)</li><li>• Engagement: International Joint Commission – Great Lakes Water Quality (Regions 2-9, MNO Great Lakes Advisory Group)</li><li>• Participation: 7th Annual Meeting of the Canada-Ontario Agreement Co-Chairs – Great Lakes Water Quality &amp; Ecosystem Health (Regions 2-9, MNO Great Lakes Advisory Group)</li></ul>

- Engagement: Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission – Darlington New Nuclear Project (R8CC)
- Engagement: Environment and Climate Change Canada – Canada Water Agency (R8CC)
- Engagement: Canada Lands Company and Nbisiing Consulting – Update Downsview / Environmental Assessment Study (TYRMC)
- Engagement: City of Toronto – Our Plan Toronto (TYRMC)
- Engagement: City of Toronto – Mayor Tory’s apology to Métis people, education + space (TYRMC)
- Engagement: Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission – Independent Environmental Monitoring Program and Sampling Campaign (R8CC)
- Engagement: Environment and Climate Change Canada – Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Annex 4, Nutrients (R8CC)
- Engagement: Canada Lands Company and Nbisiing Consulting – Downsview West District (TYRMC)
- Engagement: Metrolinx – Vegetation Guideline (R8CC, R6CC, R9CC) [advocating solidarity with First Nations’ coalition efforts and sacred fire impeding tree removal from Eglinton Flats; advocating against burying the Humber River]
- Engagement: Impact Assessment Agency of Canada – Rouge National Urban Park Study (R8CC) [advocating for the Greenbelt to remain a place of intact ecosystems not urban sprawl]
- Engagement: LANDinc – Ontario Place Public Realm, Indigenous Placekeeping (TYRMC)

#### Other Comments

#### **Acronym Definitions**

R8CC – Region 8 Consultation Committee

Region 8 Councils:

CRMC – Credit River Métis Council

ODRMC – Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council

TYRMC – Toronto and York Region Métis Council

MNC – Métis National Council

MNOWC – Métis Nation of Ontario Women’s Council

MNO Branches:

H&I – Housing & Infrastructure branch

LRC – Lands, Resources, and Consultations branch

SGS – Self Government Strategy branch

UNDRIP – United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples