



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Métis Nation
of Ontario 



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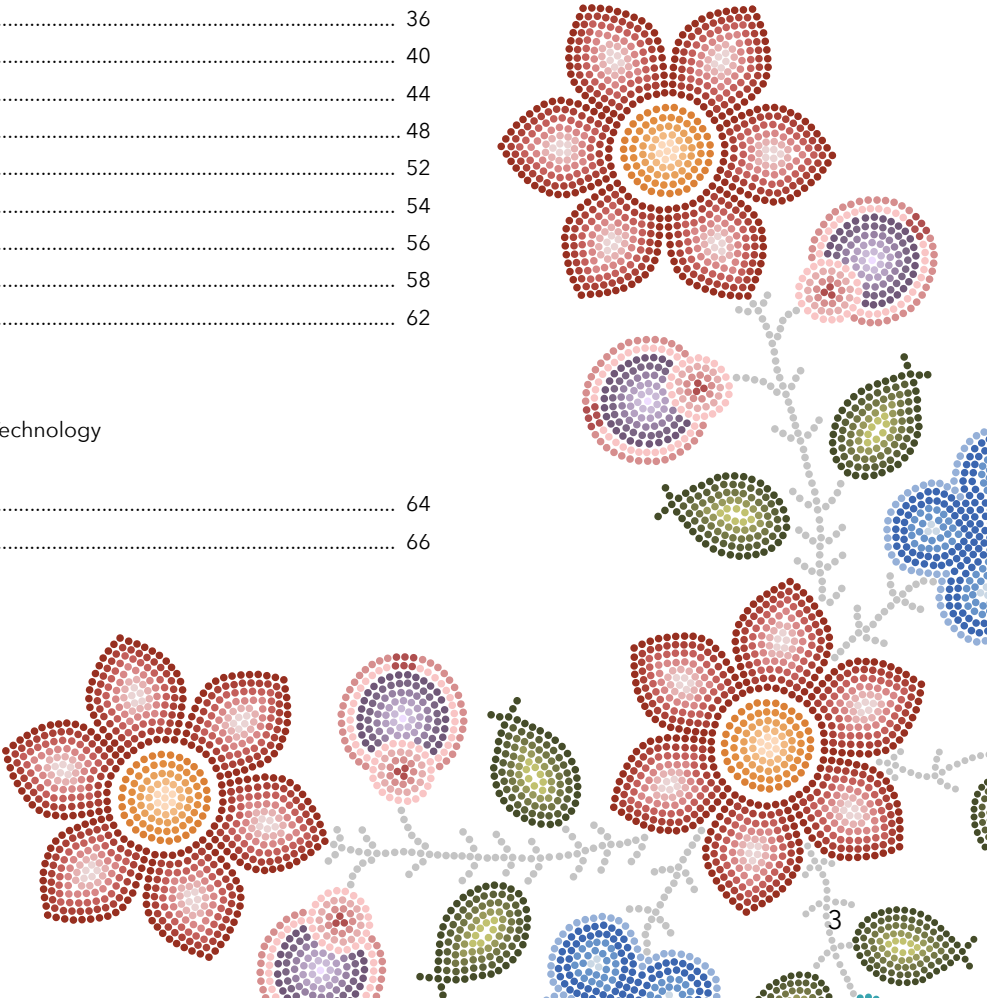
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**A MESSAGE FROM
RAJ DHIR
DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS AND FIRST NATIONS
ECONOMIC RECONCILIATION**



Greetings!

I am pleased to extend greetings and best wishes to the members of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) via your 2024-25 Annual Report.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is widely regarded for advocating on behalf of their membership; not only for strong communities but also for fostering meaningful relationships across cultures and generations. The MNO plays a significant role in promoting these ideals, especially through its work in reconciliation, cultural preservation and youth engagement.

Ontario understands the importance of maintaining positive, strong relationships while continuing to advance opportunities for future generations.

I wish the members of the Métis Nation of Ontario and their leadership a wonderful year ahead.

Marsi,

Raj Dhir
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation



GREETINGS FROM THE PCMNO

GROUNDING IN THE VOICES OF OUR CITIZENS

Friends and fellow Citizens,

As the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), we are honoured to share greetings and reflections on the year past, and the work that lies ahead.

Since its founding as a governing body, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has grown and evolved with Métis people and our communities as the driving force. As your elected representatives, PCMNO is proud to serve on your behalf, advancing your priorities and building the kind of future our ancestors dreamed of.

Composed of elected leaders from across Ontario, our Council brings diverse experience and shared purpose to the task of building a responsive, accountable government for all MNO Citizens. Through thoughtful leadership and collaboration with communities, we are putting into action the commitments laid out in our foundational agreements and the Self-Government Recognition process.

This past year, we’ve made significant progress across key areas, from housing and health to education and citizenship. These accomplishments are rooted in Métis values and are already making meaningful, tangible impacts in the lives of our Citizens.

In 2024–2025, our housing branch supported more than 1,100 Métis households. Over 23,000 individuals accessed MNO’s education and training programs, and nearly \$200,000 were awarded to Métis students.

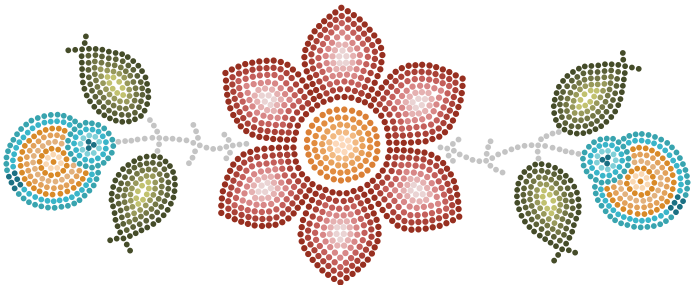
We’ve also strengthened access to health services, deepened our support for Métis youth and seniors, and continued to invest in language and cultural revitalization initiatives that ensure our identity is celebrated and passed on to future generations. At the same time, we are improving our internal infrastructure, advancing key policy files, and defending Métis rights through negotiations and legal action.

We know none of this progress comes without its challenges. But through every obstacle, we remain committed to bettering our communities and staying grounded in the voices of our Citizens and the legacy of our ancestors.

This moment in time is about what comes next. Together, we can continue to honour the past, respond to the needs of the present, and build a stronger future for generations to come.

With respect and in unity,

Your Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO).



Year *in* Review

This past year marked a period of meaningful progress, resilience, and growth for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). We remained focused on our core mission to bind our people together to collectively promote our own common cultural, social, political, and economic wellbeing. This guiding principles remained the foundation for our programs and services within the MNO.

This report highlights the milestones, stories, and outcomes that defined the year. Looking ahead, we do so with an unwavering commitment to aspire to attain our highest potential. We are Métis!



◀ Métis National Council Board of Governors Distinctions-Based Planning Session (March 21, 2024)

The 23rd Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (April 16, 2024)



The MNO Summer Youth Program Orientation (SYP) (May 12 - 17)



◀ The MNO congratulates this year's Métis, First Nations and Inuit recipients of the 2024 Inspire Awards (April 22, 2024)

CLIMATE CHANGE
VIRTUAL FORUM
May 11



◀ Métis & Energy Knowledge Symposium (June 21-22, 2024)



◀ Indigenous History and Heritage Gathering in Ottawa (June 4, 2024)



◀ Métis youth athletes from Ontario are gearing up to shine at the 2024 National Aboriginal Hockey Championship (May 6-12, 2024)

◀ Brian Prairie, MNO Veterans' Council President, led the Métis National Council delegation to France for D-Day commemorations. (June 5-7, 2024)

◀ A delegation of researchers, including MNO citizens, Abigail Simms, Sabastian Koprich and Carolyn Lacka, presented ongoing Métis research at the 2024 Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) annual conference in Halifax, NS. (July 6, 2024)



◀ Métis Heritage Centre Opening (SSM)



◀ Métis Youth Climate Summit (April 1-2, 2024)



◀ Love Yourself First: Breast Cancer Screening Workshop in Peterborough & Kingston. (April 22, 2024)



◀ 5th Annual International Indigenous Music Summit in Toronto (June 11, 2024)



◀ Penetanguishene for the 31st Annual General Assembly (August 15 - 17, 2024)



◀ 30th Anniversary of the Indigenous Healing and Wellness Strategy (IHWS) (November 30, 2024)



◀ Hunt for Justice: The Powley Documentary is being featured at the Sault Film Festival 2024 (December 1, 2024)

◀ MNO Self-Government Leadership Conference (January 18-19, 2025)



◀ 2025 Métis Nation Global Summit (February 12-13, 2025)



◀ MNO Solar Panel Program Launch (January 27, 2025)



◀ MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp (March 12, 2025)



◀ Fort William Historical Park Ivèr Métis Youth Cultural Camp (January 30 to February 2, 2025)



◀ 7th anniversary of the Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation, signed by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Ontario, and Canada. (December 13th, 2024)



◀ MNO Partnership with York University (December 5, 2024)



◀ 52 Métis families from across Ontario gathered at scenic Lake Rosseau for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Family Rendezvous: Telling Our Stories! (November 27, 2024)



◀ MNO joined 2024 United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP16) Cali, Colombia (October 21-November 1, 2024)



◀ Great Lakes Métis Council (GLMC) celebrated its 20th anniversary with its annual fish fry (September 4, 2024)

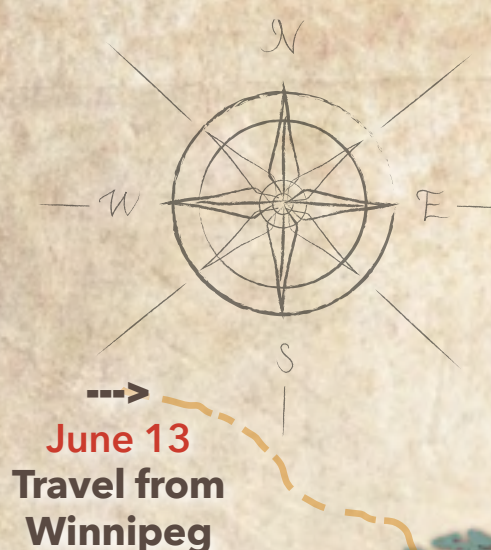


◀ Louis Riel Day Events (November 16, 2024)

◀ MNO Early Learning Fall Camp (September 27, 2024)



◀ Great Rendezvous at Fort William Historical Park (August 11, 2024)



June 13
Travel from
Winnipeg

June 14-15
FORT FRANCES

St. Sylvester's Church
Thunder Bay

Established in 1852, St Sylvester's Church was built along their water route, which served as a rest stop before going to the Jesuit Missions along northern Lake Superior up to Lake Nipigon. The bell was donated by the family of Louis Denys Delaronde, Métis with ties to Thunder Bay and the larger Upper Great Lakes region.

Red Rock Fort
Thunder Bay

Both the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company had forts in the Nipigon Basin in the latter half of the 1700s, competing to gain control of river trading routes and the surrounding area. The stretch of land extending into Nipigon Bay beside Red Rock Mountain is called 5 Mile Point, often visited by voyageurs. Over time, a small village formed, becoming home to Métis families like the Delarondes.

Cemetery on the Kenogamissi
Timmins

Around the former site of the Kenogamissi trading post, members of the Abitibi Inland Métis Community had long understood that members of their families had been buried near this old post. In 2015 this knowledge was confirmed when remains were discovered which sparked archeological work leading to the repatriation of these ancestors who has been laid to rest.

June 16
THUNDER BAY

June 17-18
TIMMINS

June 19-20
SAULT STE MARIE

June 21
MATTAWA

June 21
MOON RIVER

June 22
MIDLAND /
PENETANGUISHENE

June 23
Depart from
Toronto



Calder Monument
Fort Frances

A monument dedicated to the Calder family in Fort France, describes the family's connection to the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community:

"In 1869, after the Louis Riel uprising of the breed, the Calders migrated east from the Red River settlement in Manitoba. Pillars of the community, Calder Women served those in need for generations as midwives and nurses, and Calder descendants have contributed to pulp and paper, fishing, logging, lumber and tourist industries, upholding Métis traditions and cultural practices through to the present day."



Agawa Bay
Sault Ste Marie

Following the Robinson Treaties and the loss of the River Lots, the Sault Ste. Marie Métis were dispersed, some settling in a close-knit community in Agawa Bay. For more than 60 years, Métis families hunted, fished, gardened, harvested maple sugar, cut wood and guided tourists until they were once again forced from their homes as the government claimed the land to establish the Lake Superior Provincial Park "for the enjoyment of all, not the few."



The River Lots
Sault Ste Marie

A defining settlement pattern in many Métis communities across west central North America, including Sault Ste. Marie, Red River, and later in Batoche, St. Louis, and St. Albert, Métis settled on long, narrow lots perpendicular to the river, known as River Lots. Some Métis in Sault Ste. Marie had been granted lands in compensation for their service during the War of 1812, and used these grants to establish their River Lots on the north shore of the St Mary's River. These River Lots, just like those in other Métis communities, provided every family with access to the river for water, travel, food, and trade.



Labatte House
Penetanguishene

The Labatte House located at Thunder Beach (northwest of Penetanguishene) takes its name from the family of Louis George Labatte. Labatte and his family were among the Métis who were relocated from Drummond Island in 1828. Labatte, as a War of 1812 veteran, was entitled to land grants at Penetanguishene harbour, but failed to hold onto those lands. In 1834, the

Labattes tried to reach the eastern shore of Georgian Bay by water, however ice closed off the channel, forcing Louis George and his family to winter in Thunder Beach. During the winter they built a homestead that remained in the family's possession for close to a century. While the Labatte family no longer owns the property, they continue to host an annual Rendezvous there. This gathering brings together extended family and the broader Métis community every summer to celebrate shared history.



Algonquin North Outfitting
Mattawa

The Mattawa Métis Community was rooted in the historical fur trade, emerging between the early-and mid-nineteenth century in the context of a declining fur trade and expanding timber and lumber industry. By the turn of the century, Métis in the Mattawa region were well known for their role as guides for visiting anglers and hunters. Nelson Montreuil, who continues the community's traditions as full-time wilderness outfitter, has been a fixture of Mattawa's contemporary Métis community and the community's way of life practices for decades.



Sans Souci Island
Moon River

The LePage family have been fishing out of Penetanguishene Harbour for four generations, dating back to 1861. Their ancestors were blacksmiths and commercial fishermen who used wooden rowboats. Bernie LePage is a commercial fisherman in Georgian Bay, having been fishing off the coast of Lafontaine since he was a young boy. For Bernie, the best part of his work is simply being out on Georgian Bay, witnessing the sunrise, while earning an honest living. "I take pride in responsibly harvesting a natural resource that serves the needs of the people."

MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL EXPERT PANEL ROAD TRIP

As part of the Métis National Council's Expert Panel on the historical Métis communities in Ontario the experts along with a cadre of staff participated in a road trip in June 2024 to explore the seven communities. The aim of the trip was not only to honour and better understand these communities' unique contributions to Métis history and culture but to help aid the experts in their investigation into their place in the greater Métis Nation. This journey took them through interconnected historic Métis populations—beginning in the settlements of Rainy River and Lake of the Woods, through Thunder Bay and on to Timmins. Continuing down through Sault Ste Marie, North Bay, Mattawa and ending in the Georgian Bay where Métis from Drummond Island laid their roots after being expelled from their homeland after the War of 1812. Each stop offered a window into the deep-rooted traditions, stories, and resilience that define Métis life, both historically and contemporarily, throughout the province.

MNC EXPERT PANEL REPORT

THREADS OF THE SASH

Assessment Framework

The MNC Expert Panel required each examined community to prove their connection to the Métis Nation to meet the National Definition using robust and credible evidence, stating:

*"If a community asserts its identity as either Métis or Halfbreed and is part of the Métis Nation, that assertion must be recognized as valid **provided it is credible and evidence-based.**"* (pg. 12)

The Expert Panel considered four criteria, referred to as the "Threads of the Sash", in its application of the National Definition. Communities must provide compelling evidence for all four to meet the threshold of being Métis Nation communities.

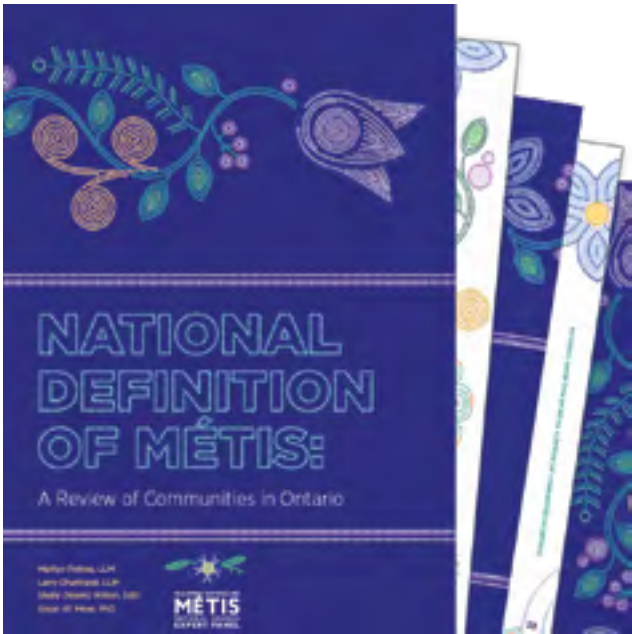
The framework centres connectedness to the Métis Nation, recognizing that simply being "mixed does not mean Métis" (pg. 13). When woven together, the Threads of the Sash "provide a measure to indicate if these 'communities' and/or individuals fulfill the National Definition and rightfully belong to the contemporary Métis Nation as part of our Homeland." (pg. 115)

In reviewing the totality of the evidence through the National Definition and *Threads of the Sash*, the Expert Panel definitively concluded that:

"The Panel finds that these communities meet the parameters of the National Definition of the Métis Nation, as adopted by the Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, Métis Nation of Alberta (now the Otipemisiwak Métis Government), Métis Nation British Columbia, and Métis Nation of Ontario in 2002 and are part of the Métis Nation Homeland." (pg. 118)

Through the *Threads of the Sash*, the Expert Panel also affirmed that the Métis communities in Ontario are Métis Nation communities, not simply mixed-ancestry, non-Status Indians, or settlers:

"Through our work as a Panel, we determine that the communities are neither non-Status Indians nor are they fully assimilated. As the evidence below shows through our Threads of the Sash assessment, we affirm that these communities are part of the Métis Nation Homeland." (pg. 120)



THE THREADS OF THE SASH:



ANCESTRY AND KINSHIP
with Métis families and to other Métis communities;

POLITICAL ACTION
on behalf of a distinct Métis community as a collective;

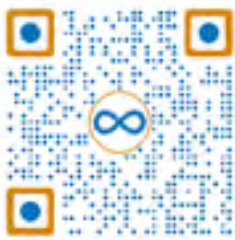
COMMON SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS
that are known markers of Métisness; and

RELATION TO THE LAND
which show common values and practices.

ONTARIO MÉTIS FACTS

Ontario Métis Facts is a campaign launched by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to share the truths of Métis communities across the province—past and present. Developed in response to the 2023 Annual General Assembly resolution "Telling Our Stories," this initiative engages archival records and community voices to affirm who we are and where we've always been.

Explore the history of Ontario Métis communities at:
www.ontariometisfacts.com



MNC EXPERT PANEL

Explore the Expert Panel's Findings online

For more information on the Expert Panel Report—including video, frequently asked questions and key findings—visit our website to explore:

- Key Findings of the MNC Expert Panel
- Backgrounder and FAQ
- Threads of the Sash: About the MNC Expert Panel
- Community Conclusions
- Key Statement
- Universal Métis Nation Recognition

www.metisnation.org/expert-panel



MNO GOVERNANCE

Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario

The Métis Nation of Ontario is governed by the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). The PCMNO takes its direction from and is required to report to its citizens at the MNO Annual General Assembly.

The executive members of the PCMNO are the president, vice-chair, secretary-treasurer, and executive senator. Nine regional councillors, a provincial youth representative, a post-secondary representative, and three senators also sit on the PCMNO. The structure of the PCMNO ensures community and regional interests are represented, as well as other demographic segments like youth, women, and senators.

According to the MNO Electoral Code Part A, province-wide ballot box elections are held every four years. The only exception are the senators elected at MNO AGAs every four years from among the community council and honorary senators.

The MNO remains committed to representing over 32,000 Métis people and promoting their wellbeing. Marsii to all who dedicate their time to uphold this standard.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



President
MARGARET FROH
Provincial Secretary
for Justice



Chair
HANK ROWLINSON
Provincial Secretary
for Health, Wellbeing and
Seniors



Vice-Chair
SHARON CADEAU
Provincial Secretary
for Housing and Infrastructure



Secretary-Treasurer
JOANNE YOUNG
Provincial Secretary
for Finance and Records



Executive Senator
STEVEN CALLAGHAN
Liaison
for MNO Veterans' Council

SENATORS



Senator
LILIANE ETHIER

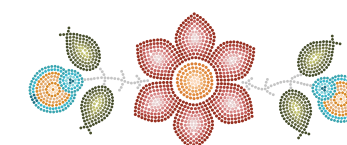


Senator
CECILE COUTU



Senator
DONNA GRENIER

Chair Hank Rowlinson is currently on medical leave.



REGIONAL COUNCILLORS



**THERESA
STENLUND**
*Co-Provincial Secretary
for Métis Rights,
Inter-Governmental Relations
& Communications*

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MÉTIS COMMUNITY
(REGION 1)

In 2024-25, the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community (NWOMC) made significant strides in governance, education, economic development, and environmental monitoring.

NWOMC advanced self-government efforts, hosted a successful leadership gathering, and continued participation in critical negotiations around mining, forestry, energy, and nuclear projects. The community awarded over \$65,000 in bursaries, launched the NWOMC website, released a children’s book, and developed new educational resources on the NWOMC. To honour the 150th anniversary of the Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty No. 3, arrangements were made to bring the Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty No. 3 to the region by organizing a tour of the documents along with an exhibit to the four community museums, thereby increasing public awareness of the historical signing.

Environmental stewardship was strengthened through water quality, bee, bat, and berry monitoring programs. Partnerships with proponents like New Gold, First Mining Gold, and Hydro One advanced regional interests and Métis consultation rights. Lobbying efforts also continued to include Métis in the English-Wabigoon River mercury remediation process. Overall, NWOMC remains deeply engaged in protecting Métis rights, preserving culture, and enhancing citizen well-being across Northwestern Ontario.



**TIM
SINCLAIR**
*Associate Provincial Secretary
for Environment, Emergency
Preparedness & Climate
Change*

REGION 2

Region 2 saw exciting progress this year with the launch of a transitional housing development in Thunder Bay for Indigenous youth aged 18-29. Set to open in early 2026, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) will operate the program’s second stage, helping youth transition to independent living.

The Region also celebrated Métis culture and creativity as the Thunder Bay Council supported the Kooshkopayiw Art Collective’s Louis Riel Day exhibit at Old Fort William, showcasing work from seven Métis artists.

Additionally, Region 2 advanced sustainability goals with the installation of new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at the MNO Thunder Bay office—supporting cleaner transportation options for citizens and staff.



**JACQUES
PICOTTE**
*Provincial Secretary
for Environment, Emergency
Preparedness & Climate
Change*

REGION 3

Region 3, led by PCMNO Councillor Jacques Picotte, had a productive year focused on supporting citizens and advancing Métis business development.

The Abitibi Inland Métis Community (AIMC) delivered over \$276,000 in post-secondary bursaries, supported youth with school-related bursaries, and provided funding for medical travel, extra-curriculars, and special equipment like hearing aids and glasses. Notably, AIMC hosted its second Business Summit and first Business Pitch competition, awarding over \$10,000 in prizes to emerging Métis entrepreneurs. Business support programs reached 24 businesses, with over \$6 million accessed through mentorship and strategic planning services.

The region maintained partnerships with companies like Dumas Contracting and Magris Talc Inc., participated in mining expos and MNO-led initiatives, and supported cultural programming and educational resources. Governance training was completed for most local councils, and a part-time administrative assistant was hired. A Métis cemetery at Kenogamissi will soon feature official plaques acknowledging its heritage.



**MITCH
CASE**
*Co-Provincial Secretary
for Métis Rights,
Inter-Governmental Relations
& Communications*

HURON-SUPERIOR REGIONAL MÉTIS
COMMUNITY (REGION 4)

Under the leadership of PCMNO Regional Councillor Mitch Case, Region 4 advanced numerous initiatives rooted in Métis culture, self-government, and resilience.

Highlights include the grand opening of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Heritage Centre, the launch of Métis Tours, and the expansion of staff roles like Regional Manager, Policy Analyst, and Cultural Events Coordinator. The community launched strategic initiatives in food security, tourism, climate change, and economic development—supporting over 70 Métis businesses since 2023.

A concert by Amanda Rheaume and storytelling initiatives reinforced Métis history, especially the legacy of the River Lots and Agawa Bay. The region also developed new policies in real estate, investment, and archaeology, and pursued MOUs with health and education partners. Mitch Case continued to represent the MNO provincially and nationally while championing local governance and cultural revival. Through adversity, Region 4 remains a stronghold of Métis identity, advocacy, and community-driven growth.



**SUZANNE
FORTIN**

REGION 5

Stretching from Mattawa through North Bay to Sudbury, the Mattawa/Ottawa River region proudly serves more than 2,700 Métis citizens, including over 675 registered harvesters.

In 2024-25, Region 5 launched key initiatives such as the Medical Aids Program and the Our Story project, which invites citizens with roots in Mattawa to share their family histories and ancestral stories. The region continued to champion support for youth and post-secondary students, while also strengthening relationships through tri-council meetings and ongoing consultation with industry partners like Vale, Glencore, KGHM, and CNL.

Councillor Suzanne Fortin led efforts to advance self-government through in-person sessions across the region, facilitated economic development funding, and participated in key committees on harvesting and restorative justice. She also represented Region 5 at provincial and national events, including the MNC Annual Meeting and the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Centre opening. Work is underway to establish a regional rendezvous committee to further celebrate Métis culture and community connection.



**GREG
GARRATT**
*Associate Provincial Secretary
for Housing and Infrastructure*

REGION 7

Region 7 has seen a year of growth, engagement, and community-driven progress. Key priorities included housing, food security, cultural preservation, and economic development. New housing projects were launched across the region, while supports for vulnerable citizens—such as food programs and emergency energy assistance—were expanded through local partnerships and citizen engagement.

Efforts to strengthen Métis culture and identity remain a regional focus, with plans underway to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the 1828 Drummond Island migration. Community leaders are exploring opportunities to host the 2028 AGA and establish a cultural centre to serve as a hub for programming, services, and gatherings.

The region continues to support artisans, musicians, entrepreneurs, and tradespeople by compiling citizenship data and building networks to promote local talent and Métis-owned businesses. Engagement with justice, education, and health partners—along with participation in cultural and community events—has helped strengthen connections across Region 7 and foster a more resilient and united Métis community.



**ANDREW
DUFRANE**
*Associate Provincial Secretary
for Health, Well-Being &
Seniors*

REGION 6

Region 6 saw an active and productive year across its Community Councils. Highland Waters Métis Council welcomed new President Lindsay Rogers, and Ottawa Region Métis Council passed motions to extend council terms to three years and adjust its southern border for better representation. Due to a loss of quorum, the Peterborough & District Métis Council is preparing for an upcoming election.

Councils throughout the region hosted numerous community events: Powley Day celebrations, flag raisings, youth and senior gatherings, and weekly beading sessions. Highland Waters offered workshops on basket weaving, canoe ceramics, swimming, and gardening, while also leading environmental initiatives like turtle conservation and bee hotel giveaways.

Region-wide, councils collaborated on Self-Government and health and wellness meetings, and advocacy efforts included working with the Métis National Council and Federal and Provincial government officials.

Councillor Dufrane expresses his gratitude to all council leaders and Region 6 staff for their continued dedication and support throughout the year.



**KATE
STEWART-MCNEIL**
*Liaison for the Two-Spirit/
LGBTQ+ Working Group and
the MNO Women's Council*

REGION 8

Region 8, led by Councillor Kate Stewart-McNeil, made significant strides in self-governance, community connection, and environmental stewardship. The region finalized its Regional Implementation Agreement (RIA) and launched the Regional Self-Governance Committee (R8-RSGC), fostering collaboration between community councils and leadership. Priorities included enhancing transparency, promoting leadership development, and increasing citizen access to cultural and governance activities.

Community events ranged from solstice socials to the Gathering of the Wise Oldsters, which expanded to welcome citizens 55+. Environmental cleanups, storytelling, and cultural activities helped strengthen community bonds. Stewart-McNeil actively engaged with the Two Spirit+ Council and Women's Council, supporting their advocacy on safety, anti-racism, and formalizing their roles within MNO governance.

With over 60 meetings and events attended, Region 8 focused on deepening relationships within the MNO and beyond. Looking ahead, the region aims to continue fostering collaboration, leadership, and cultural connection as key pillars of its governance journey.



**KATHLEEN
ANDERSON**
*Associate Provincial Secretary
for Finance and Records*

SOUTH WEST REGION (REGION 9)

The South West Region (formerly Region 9) celebrated a year of progress focused on self-government and community cohesion. A new Regional Self-Government Committee was established, uniting regional leaders for monthly collaboration.

Key milestones included aligning council election terms across communities, launching plans for the first-ever Regional Rendezvous, negotiating new council boundaries, hosting all-council regional meetings, and adopting the region's new name. A citizen-driven logo contest is also underway, and the region signed its Regional Implementation Agreement and is progressing toward a Transfer Plan.

In her dual role, Councillor Kathleen Anderson also contributed provincially as the Secretary of Economic Development and Infrastructure. She worked to strengthen relationships with external partners and helped plan an Economic Development Roadshow to promote opportunities for Métis Infinity Investments (MII), where she also serves on the board. With a renewed MII board, the region is poised for greater success in building a strong economic future.



**RYAN
LAFLEUR**

POST-SECONDARY REP

Over the past year, Post-Secondary Education Representative Ryan Lafleur has actively advocated for Métis students across Ontario. He launched a youth-led education portfolio to advise the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) and himself on academic matters. The group welcomes new members through a peer-voting process and remains independent from the MNO Secretariat. Ryan is also exploring external funding for a student-focused conference and collaborating with policy analysts to develop a province-wide PSE survey to better understand student needs as the MNO moves toward Self-Government.

Ryan participated in numerous events, including the Métis Heritage Centre opening in Sault Ste. Marie, MNC AGM, and Ottawa-based Métis gatherings. He engaged with youth through MNOYC's Tea Series and led a career-focused workshop at the Youth Leadership Conference. He was recently appointed to the Métis Languages Initiative Advisory Committee and continues to prioritize student voices in decision-making.



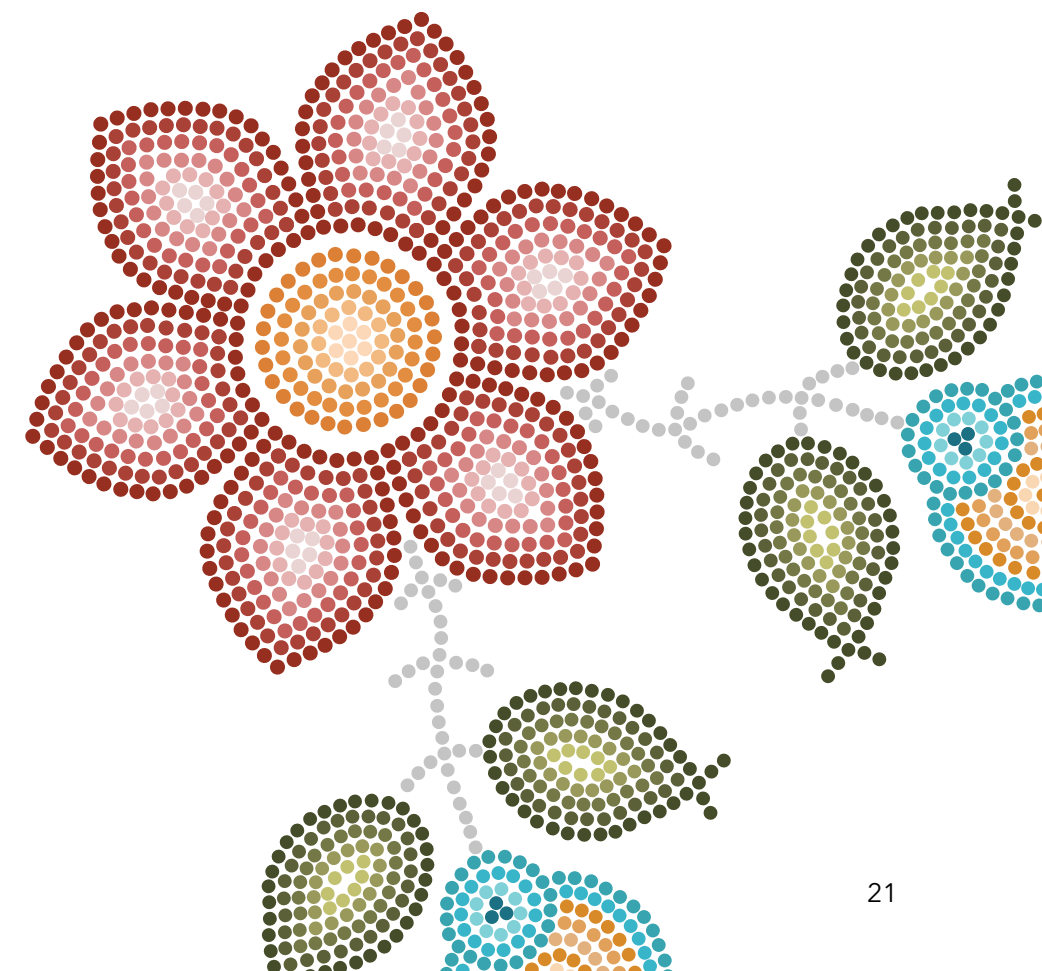
**EVAN
ACCETTOLA**
*Liaison
for the MNO Youth Council*

YOUTH REP

Under Evan Accettola's leadership, the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) had a dynamic year centered on empowering youth and amplifying their voices. Major achievements included hosting two Youth Leadership Conferences, awarding the 2024 Youth Leadership Award, and reaching 100% of known Métis youth in Ontario via email—up from just 5%. The Council also funded grassroots initiatives, supported youth-led education events, and invested \$60,000 for long-term program sustainability.

The MNOYC expanded its reach through new council portfolios focused on Nation Building, Language & Culture, Education, and more. They hosted cultural events, built inter-youth council connections, and supported Métis youth academically and professionally. Youth representatives were sent to national and international gatherings, including COP16, and played key roles in re-establishing the Métis National Youth Council.

These efforts reflect a deep commitment to cultural revitalization, youth inclusion in governance, and the ongoing advancement of Métis self-government.



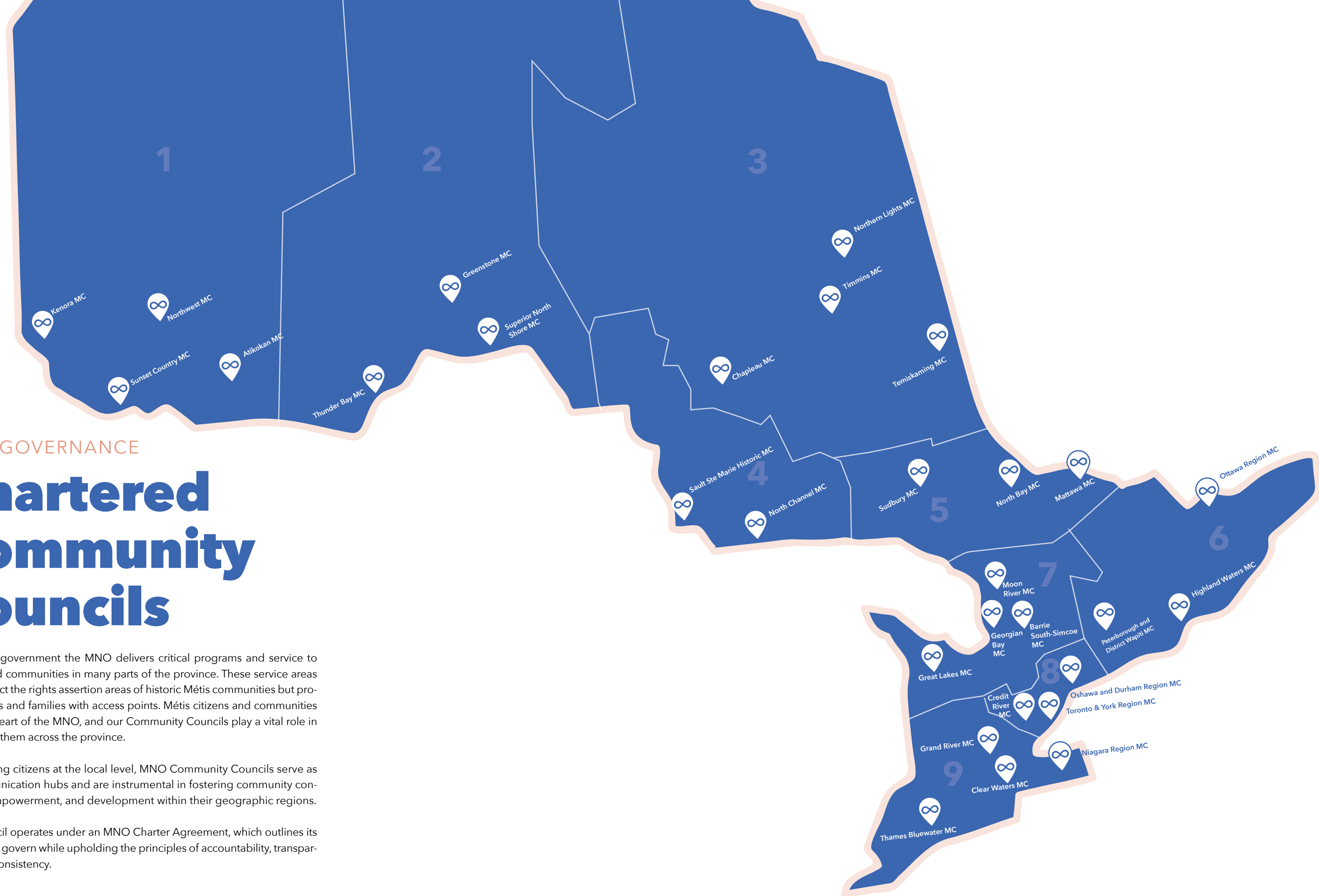
MNO GOVERNANCE

Chartered Community Councils

As a Métis government the MNO delivers critical programs and service to families and communities in many parts of the province. These service areas do not reflect the rights assertion areas of historic Métis communities but provide citizens and families with access points. Métis citizens and communities are at the heart of the MNO, and our Community Councils play a vital role in supporting them across the province.

Representing citizens at the local level, MNO Community Councils serve as key communication hubs and are instrumental in fostering community connection, empowerment, and development within their geographic regions.

Each Council operates under an MNO Charter Agreement, which outlines its mandate to govern while upholding the principles of accountability, transparency, and consistency.





MNO GOVERNANCE

Advisory Councils



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

WOMEN'S COUNCIL (MNOWC)

The Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council (MNOWC) is made up of Métis women from across the province who are committed to advancing women's issues and advocating for the voices of Métis women within the MNO. The Council includes a President and nine regional representatives.

The MNOWC advises the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) on matters affecting women and collaborates with community councils, Indigenous organizations, government bodies, and women's groups to address issues specific to Métis women.

A core goal of the MNOWC is to foster the full participation of Métis women in building a strong, healthy nation. The Council also works at the national level with Les Femmes Michif Otipemsiwak - Women of the Métis Nation.

In the past year, the MNOWC held two food security workshops for Métis women-identified citizens and two fireside chats for Community Council women leaders. The Council engaged with the MNO and MNC on topics including climate change, leadership, and health, and represented Métis women at the Indigenous Women's Roundtable hosted by the Mining Industry Human Resources Council.

MNOWC elections are held every four years in conjunction with the MNO Annual General Assembly. The most recent election took place in August 2024.



President	Lynne Gouliquer
Region 1	Jennifer Rollins
Region 2	Nicole Taylor
Region 3	Vacant
Region 4	June Smart
Region 5	Kimberly Sanftenberg
Region 6	Shannon Fitzgerald Smith
Region 7	Suzanne Fraser
Region 8	Luanne Cunningham
Region 9	Pandora Wilhelm

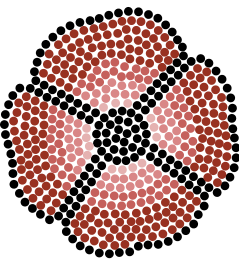


MNOYC President & PCMNO	
Youth Rep	Evan Accettola
MNOYC Chair	Claire Accettola
Region 1 Rep	Timea Enge
Region 2 Rep	Madysen Campbell
Region 3 Rep	Bryanna Bielek
Region 4 Rep	Celeste Bond
Region 5 Rep	vacant
Region 6 Rep	Cole Netherton
Region 7 Rep	Bennett Woods
Region 8 Rep	Gabrielle Moreau
Region 9 Rep	Kaitlyn Anderson-Mitchell

The Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) is made up of youth representatives (ages 16-29) from across the province who advocate for the interests and well-being of Métis youth at the provincial level. Mandated to identify and address issues affecting young Métis people, the MNOYC works closely with the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) to ensure youth voices are heard in decision-making.

MNOYC members stay connected through regular communication, participate in provincial meetings and community events, and often attend youth-led conferences, representing Métis youth from Ontario. Every MNO Community Council includes a local youth representative who promotes youth initiatives, supports the work of the MNOYC, and ensures local youth perspectives are shared.

The Council is composed of nine regional representatives, elected every four years through province-wide ballot box elections. The most recent election was held in June 2024, with current members serving until 2028. In addition, youth are represented at the provincial governance level by the PCMNO Youth Representative, who holds a voting seat on the PCMNO.



President	Brian Prairie
Chair	Paul Broadbent
Secretary & Treasurer	Ted Mtchell
Sgt-at-arms	Ralph Rienguette
Senator	Robert Baskey
Women's Representative	Darla Oja

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

VETERANS' COUNCIL (MNOVC)

Established in 2001 by direction of the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA), the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council (MNOVC) is a chartered council within the MNO governance structure, dedicated to representing the interests of Métis veterans. The Council's structure was formally established at the 2009 AGA in Sudbury with the election of an executive.

Executive positions on the MNOVC are elected every four years, in alignment with the MNO's general elections. The most recent election took place in June 2024, with the current executive serving a term through to 2028.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

TWO-SPIRIT COUNCIL



The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Two-Spirit Council is an elected, representative body that uplifts the voices of Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ citizens across all MNO Regions. Grounded in traditional knowledge and guided by community priorities, we work to foster safe, inclusive spaces for our people.

Formed after a 2016 AGA resolution called for a provincial Two-Spirit/LGBTQIA+ Working Group, our Council has since become an essential part of MNO governance. We help reconnect our Nation with traditional understandings of gender and identity.

The MNO Two-Spirit Council aims to decolonize, educate, and advocate—supporting individual well-being

and broader systemic change. Our key priorities include:

- **Advising and Advocating:** We guide MNO leadership on Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ issues and advocate for recognition at all levels.
- **Supporting Services and Programs:** We help shape culturally relevant supports, including wellness and anti-violence initiatives.
- **Ensuring Representation in Governance:** We participate in MNO self-government processes and work with partners like Les Femmes Michif Otipe-misiwak.
- **Building Community:** Through events like powwow booths and fireside chats, we create welcoming, affirming spaces.



Senators from across the MNO meet at the annual Senators gathering at the MNO AGA in Midland in Summer 2024

MNO GOVERNANCE

Senators

Highly respected for their knowledge and experience, MNO senators play a crucial role at Métis community events and meetings in addition to helping keep Métis culture alive by sharing Métis traditions and way of life.

One senator is elected at the community level to sit on the community council executive.

Every four years, four senators from across the province are elected by all the other senators at the MNO Annual General Assembly to sit on the PCMNO. One of the four PCMNO senators is chosen by a group of four to sit as the Executive senator. The last election for the PCMNO senator position was held at the 2024 MNO AGA. The term of the current PCMNO senators expires in 2028.

As the MNO grows, the requests for senators to attend events to lead opening or closing prayers or to talk about Métis history and culture are also growing. Our senators continue to meet these increasing demands and the entire MNO is grateful for their dedication.

MNO GOVERNANCE

Captains of the Hunt

The Captains of the Hunt (COTH) are integral in managing the Métis harvest in Ontario. One COTH is assigned to each of the MNO's nine regions within Ontario and is mandated by the MNO to have full authority over the Métis harvest in the traditional harvest territories within that region.

The COTH is a direct line of communication between Harvesters, the MNO, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry. They help manage the annual harvest in concert with the province of Ontario, support the implementation of the MNO Harvesting Policy, and determine the appropriate harvest management in their respective region. The COTH also acts as a liaison between Harvesters and the MNO when charges have been filed.

The COTH also supports the Annual Harvester's Survey and helps to gather information on the number, species, and location of animals taken by MNO Harvester's Certification holders. See the MNO website for a list of current COTH and their contact information: www.metisnation.org



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO EDUCATION and TRAINING



Bryanna Scott-Kay Ph.D.
Director 

The MNO began to offer training initiatives in 1996 with funding from the Métis Human Resources Development Agreement. Since then, the Education and Training Branch has grown to include a comprehensive infrastructure that delivers a full range of programs. It supports the educational success of all Métis across Ontario, from early learning, through grade school and high school, and into adulthood through post-secondary education and into the labour market. We also work to retain and revitalize our languages, honour our culture and way of life, and provide ongoing learning outside formal education structures.

As a branch, we advocate for an inclusive education system by ensuring there is a Métis voice in education decisions, including developing education policies and programs within Ontario. Our expertise and investments are critical to educational outreach, resource development, education action plan development, and implementation through productive engagement with Provincial and Federal ministries. We continue to foster partnerships between communities and school boards, colleges, universities, the employment sector, and other key stakeholders to create a culture of life-long learning within our communities. We are here to support those Métis learners, educators, job seekers, and citizens who engage within education systems.

We take pride in our culture and history, recognize and honour the Métis knowledge holders and Senators who contribute to our way of life, teaching and learning opportunities, and take pride in our Métis languages. We look forward to sharing our traditions with future generations as we aspire to achieve our highest potential.



SUCCESSES AND MILESTONES

Our branch reached significant successes and milestones over the past year.

The branch launched the **Home Child Care Program** where Providers can receive start up support and funding, ongoing support, access to resources, and professional development opportunities to become a Licensed Home Child Care Provider. This development expands access to affordable, high-quality child care spaces rooted in Métis-led pedagogy.

In June 2024, the team also launched the **Developmental Services and Support Program**. This program supports Métis children's needs and enhances access to evidence-informed clinical services and early intervention supports in their homes, child care, or school settings. Through this program, Métis children have received early intervention supports and/or formal diagnoses at a younger age than they would have received through mainstream services.

The **MNO Education Hub** launched in the fall of 2024, providing a virtual meeting place for Métis students and a community of practice for current and aspiring early learning educators and child care providers. The app has also made it easier for citizens to access and navigate MNO programs and services.

In the classroom, the MNO Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) team established partnerships with teachers' unions and the Ontario Teachers Federation. The branch also developed **new classroom resources** and shared them with all 72 school boards across the province, and succeeded in full implementation of the Grade 10 Civics guide across an entire school board.

Indigenous Education Council member recruitment motivated the development of a comprehensive suite of community-driven resources, including **information sessions and online training modules**, to close the vacancy rate on Indigenous Education Councils and give the Métis perspective a voice in education systems across the province.

Other milestones include the **four seasonal Métis Youth Cultural Camps** held over the past year which included 57 Métis Youth Participants in grade 10 to 12 from across the province. The branch also launched the

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

BY THE NUMBERS:

\$190,660

In awards have been granted to 150 students for the 24-25 school year.

2,804

Children supported through the ELCC One Application portal

444

Applications for the MNO Student Bursary Program

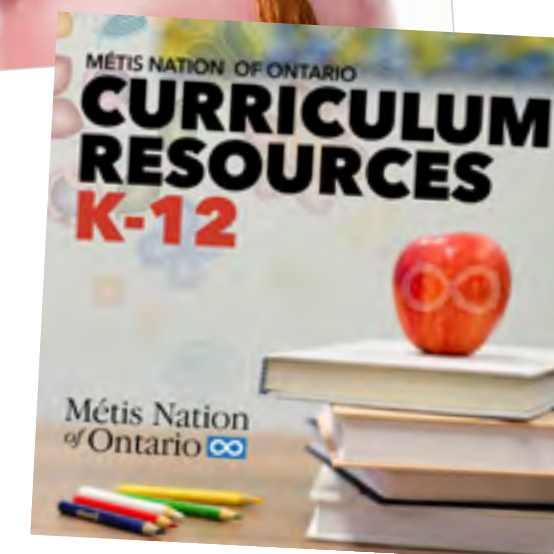
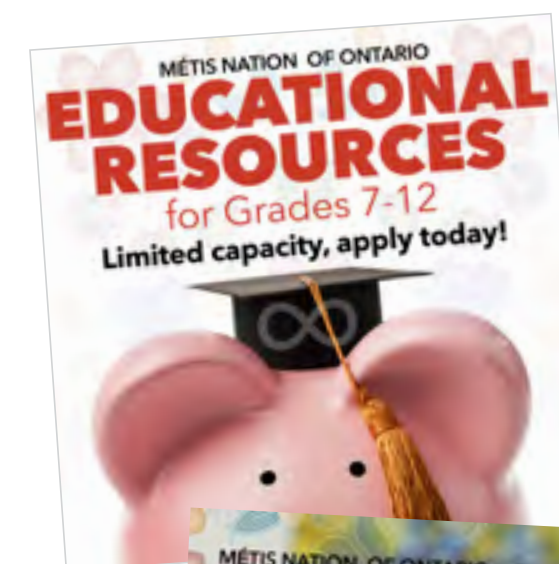
Driver's Licence and Education Funding Program to reduce transportation barriers.

Over the past year, citizens accessed high-demand careers, improved educational outcomes, and overcame systemic barriers.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look ahead to next year, we already have some exciting plans underway including:

- Exploring the feasibility of developing MNO child care centers in historic communities.
- Launching a new ELCC Summer Child Care Program for school-aged children.
- Announcing another Rendezvous in late November 2025.
- Releasing Marty's Métis Adventures, a new activity book from the Métis Tales Early Learning Book Working Group.
- The province-wide launch of a language learning course and language learning tools.
- Revamping the K-12 Education Kit with a focus on Mathematics.
- Integrating traditional knowledge and storytelling into youth camps, and offering cultural workshops and training for MNO staff and citizens.
- Expanding Employment and Labour Market Programs through greater outreach, increased skilled trades funding, and continued education advocacy.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Emily Paterson
Director 

In 2022, Community Wellbeing branch was established. The branch empowers communities through Métis-led wholistic programs, bridging gaps to support and advocate for clients to thrive in their wellbeing. Aligning with objectives of the Métis Nation of Ontario's Statement of Prime Purpose, Community Wellbeing provides the care and support necessary to meet the fundamental needs of citizens, and promotes the improved health and wellness of the individual, family, and the whole Métis Nation. Branch programs span mental wellness, community wellness, healthy children and families, and advocacy. The dedicated Community Wellbeing team meets citizens where they are at, supporting unique paths to wellness and helping individuals access the care and resources they need.

SUCCESSES AND MILESTONES

The 2024-2025 fiscal year marked a period of strategic transformation and growth for Community Wellbeing. The branch was able to expand programming to better serve citizens, restructure the organizational structure for more effective management, and improve departmental processes for better efficiency.

This year, the **Mental Health and Addictions Program** implemented a citizen-only service model which resulted in several benefits including reduced wait times, enhanced service responsiveness, improved therapeutic relationships between navigators and clients, and improved cultural relevance.



The branch also increased the number of virtual Public Legal Education sessions which covered topics from Introduction to Family Law to Understanding Bail Court. These sessions helped to increase legal literacy which empowers Métis communities to navigate the justice system with confidence and autonomy.

Several historic Memorandums of Understanding's (MOU) were signed this year with Crown Attorney's offices—Algoma District Crown Attorney's office, Ottawa Crown Attorney's Office. These MOUs establish a formal framework for cooperation in addressing justice-related matters through a lens of reconciliation and mutual respect, while ensuring culturally appropriate alternatives are available.

The branch also collaborated with Métis artist Kristy Cameron to bring the **Métis Community Diversion Program** client lifecycle to life—from entering to completing our program. The program compared the client lifecycle



to the lifecycle of a strawberry—a symbol of community. Strawberries grow in clusters, showing the strength that comes from connection; just as Métis communities thrive through collaboration, sharing, and support.

Community Wellbeing also sought feedback on our **Métis Community Diversion Program** in which we received feedback on topics such as inclusion of Elders, volunteer criteria, and defining success. This feedback redirected back to our values of community, personal sovereignty, healing, and repairing harm which helps design and deliver the program in a way that resonates with the community.

In addition to these wonderful achievements, the branch also launched the **Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program** in Bancroft, created the Healthy Children & Families team, and hosted a virtual series of health and wellness-based workshops for parents across Ontario.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Community Wellbeing team looks forward to expanding its programs in the year ahead. This includes launching a new virtual Community-Based Addictions Program to provide culturally appropriate support for Métis citizens experiencing substance use challenges. The branch will also introduce a new role to enhance Victim Services programming by developing and delivering educational initiatives focused on recognizing, addressing, and preventing violence in Métis communities.

Several programs will be launched in different areas of Ontario including the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program in Barrie, Owen Sound and Brampton; and the Community Wellness program in Timmins, Gravenhurst, Barrie, Toronto, and Kitchener.

The Advocacy program will be hosting open houses at MNO offices across Ontario, providing invaluable opportunities to meet directly with citizens, share program information, and build trust through open dialogue.

The team will also expand into pre-charge diversion work—a natural evolution of our mission and an important next step that build on the success of existing programs. This proactive approach allows for earlier intervention in the justice process, offering culturally grounded alternatives for Métis citizens before charges are laid.

Lastly, with the newly secured funding for a dedicated Gladue Writer, we will be able to help Métis citizens access culturally relevant Gladue reports that reflect the unique legal, historical, and social realities of Métis communities.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

BY THE NUMBERS:

25,044

community members
and citizens attended
Participant Based Activities

8,714

number of inquiries
for One MNO

2,996

clients served through
Community Wellbeing
programs

4 Lunch
and Learns

hosted and 4 community
webinars hosted for the
Gaming and Gambling
Awareness Program
(GAGAP)

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Healing *and* Wellness



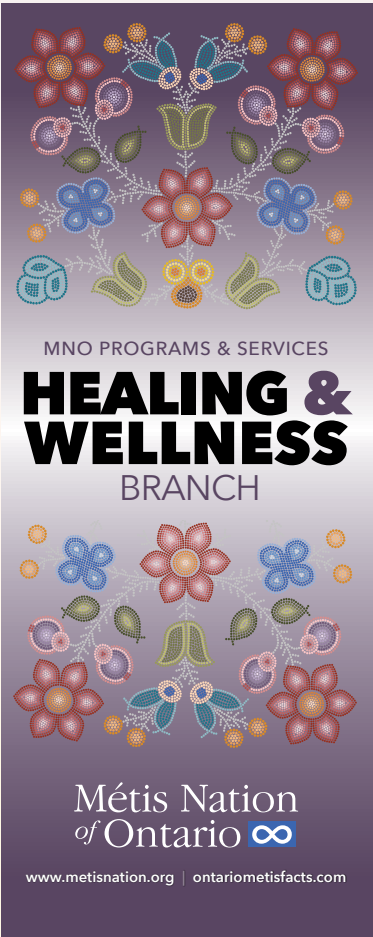
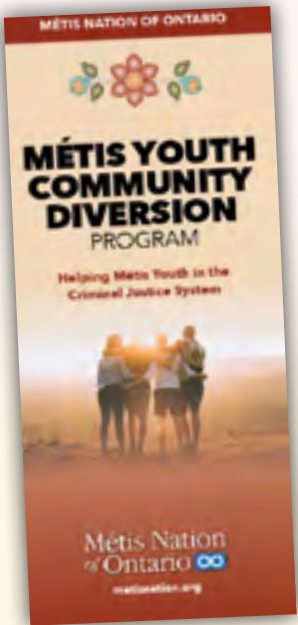
Shelley Cripps
Director



In alignment with the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Statement of Prime Purpose, the MNO Healing and Wellness branch offers programs and services rooted in respect, compassion, dignity and empowerment. Our client-centered, client-driven services honour the Métis as a distinct Nation in Canada and Ontario, recognized for their blended heritage and longstanding history of movement between established communities.

The branch currently supports 67 frontline coordinators delivering a range of programs, including **Community Support Services, Aging at Home, Métis Family Wellbeing Program (MFWB), Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Métis Child, Youth, and Family Project**, and the **Youth Diversion Project**. The branch also has a specialized focus on senior supports, as well as providing services designed to reduce or prevent involvement with child welfare agencies and the justice system. Coordinators across Ontario strive to build and maintain relationships with the community to ensure continued collaboration on service promotion. It is through these relationships that we have the opportunity to promote and share Métis knowledge, culture and identity.

The branch's core activities focus on health promotion, with interventions guided by research and informed knowledge. Workshops, events, and other activities are planned annually to enhance and support the goals of each program.





SUCCESSES AND MILESTONES

This year, in order to further Métis cultural safety and understanding in the Health Care System, the Healing and Wellness team met with the Ontario Health Regions from the Central, Toronto, and East areas. The Regions helped to facilitate and provide the appropriate contact information for their Ontario Health Teams and all three regions have agreed to meet quarterly to maintain momentum of the growing relationships through touchpoints.

The branch also made strides toward understanding of Métis men's heart health by partnering with ICES to conduct healing circles with Métis men. These circles offered valuable insights and have the potential to inform future MNO programs and initiatives. This collaboration, initiated by Métis citizen Sabastian Koprich, led to the study *"The Rhythm in Our Hearts: Understanding Heart Health Among Métis Men in Ontario,"* with results expected later

this year. The Healing and Wellness team developed educational posters for MNO offices focused on various cancers and associated risk factors. Through the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer project, the MNO will leverage partnerships and internal data to support Métis citizens in better understanding their health and cancer journeys.

The Healing and Wellness branch has representation at both the Métis National Council Health Technical Table and the Child, Youth, and Family Services Technical Table—spaces where networking, collaboration, and shared opportunities are key priorities. The branch also hosts two Circle of Knowledge Tables with expert level partners from across Ontario, providing the MNO with valuable support in areas such as chronic illness and end-of-life care.

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead, a key priority within the branch will be supporting Indigenous-led approaches to quality, culturally safe healthcare. The Healing and Wellness branch developed and submitted the Indigenous Health Equity Fund proposal to Indigenous Services Canada which aims to promote transparency, integrity, flexibility, and self-determination.

The Healing and Wellness branch is also collaborating on a study to determine how many Métis citizens have access to a regular primary care provider, a key factor in achieving better health outcomes. The findings will help guide the MNO's strategy to improve primary care access for its citizens.

The MNO and Home Hospice Association have partnered to create a "How to Talk to Children and Youth about Death, Dying, And Grief," project that will assist parents and caregivers with navigating conversations around death. The branch also hopes to collaborate with certified Death Doulas to host Métis-specific Death Cafes.

The branch is also developing a Dying Well Strategy over the next year to support awareness regarding a variety of topics throughout the dying well spectrum. This includes navigating medical services, emotional impacts of chronic or terminal illness, palliative care, Medical Assistance in Dying, and death/bereavement plans.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

BY THE NUMBERS:

1,053

citizens received Community Support Services

651

citizens received support from the
Métis Family Wellbeing Program

474

citizens received Aging At Home support

Hosted 3 health fairs which attracted over

400

attendees and community partners

THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Lands, Resources and Consultations



Linda Norheim
Director



The MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) branch provides technical expertise and support to help Métis citizens actively engage in a wide range of issues affecting the MNO's traditional territories. The branch specializes in areas including Métis rights, the Métis Way of Life Framework (WOLF), environmental assessments, mining, forestry, energy, and public policy. Through this work, the LRC supports regionally based, rights-bearing Métis communities across Ontario ensuring that the Crown's legal Duty to Consult and Accommodate Indigenous Peoples is fulfilled in a meaningful and effective way.

The primary objectives of the LRC branch are to serve as a "one-window" contact for consultations with the MNO and to manage consultation activities related to major project assessments, government initiatives, and programs. The branch also leads the development of MNO Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Studies, undertakes technical reviews of regulatory documents, and collaborates with external consultants on related research and analysis. Additionally, the LRC branch hosts regional workshops and provincial conferences to engage Métis citizens on new projects, the Duty to Consult, regulatory processes, impact assessments, and accommodation-related issues.

In addition to facilitating consultations on proposed industrial developments and Forest Management Plans, the LRC branch is actively implementing various programs to promote climate change action and advance Métis communities' environmental stewardship.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

BY THE NUMBERS:

3,559

LRC notifications
received and processed

200

Métis citizen Guardians undertook

230

water monitoring activities

151

Regional Consultation
Committee meetings organized

57

Submissions (comment letters)
to government

41

MNO Community Information
Sessions organized

LOOKING AHEAD

In the future, we look forward to:

- Continue supporting MNO's Regional Consultation Committees on dozens of proposed sites MNO's traditional territories.
- Advance analysis of Ontario's and Canada's environmental and consultation policies.
- Expand Species at Risk education and monitoring, including the release of a citizen pocket guide and wider distribution of bat boxes across Regions.
- Launch the MNO's Berry Monitoring Program.
- Collaborate with University of Saskatchewan to deepen understanding of lithium geology, exploration, and processing as it relates to Métis rights.
- Host four additional climate change forums on topics chosen by Métis citizens.

SUCCESSES AND MILESTONES

The LRC Forestry team, along with Forest Management companies and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), successfully held Métis citizen Forestry Open Houses in Timmins, North Bay and Sault Ste. Marie. These open houses resulted in greater connections with forestry industry representatives, potential employment and contracting opportunities, and improved relations with the MNR.

As part of a Métis National Council working group, LRC staff helped draft a letter to the Auditor General of Canada

highlighting concerns about Canada's Critical Mineral Strategy. MNO's discussions with Canada and Ontario about proposed development projects, strategies and policies secured MNO's voice at the table, promoted more discussion on topics of shared interest, and supported government-to-government relations.

In 2024, the MNO citizen-led Great Lakes Advisory Group had a strong presence at the MNO's Annual General Assembly in August, where they hosted a booth and community event. Later in the year, the group held a successful meeting with Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, strengthening collaboration on shared environmental priorities.

The LRC continued to support the **Northwestern Ontario Métis Community Consultation Committee** in its ongoing consultations on the proposed **Springpole Gold Mine project**, located

approximately 110 km northeast of Red Lake. After several years of dedicated engagement, these efforts led to an **agreement** that will provide meaningful support to the **Northwestern Ontario Métis Community**.

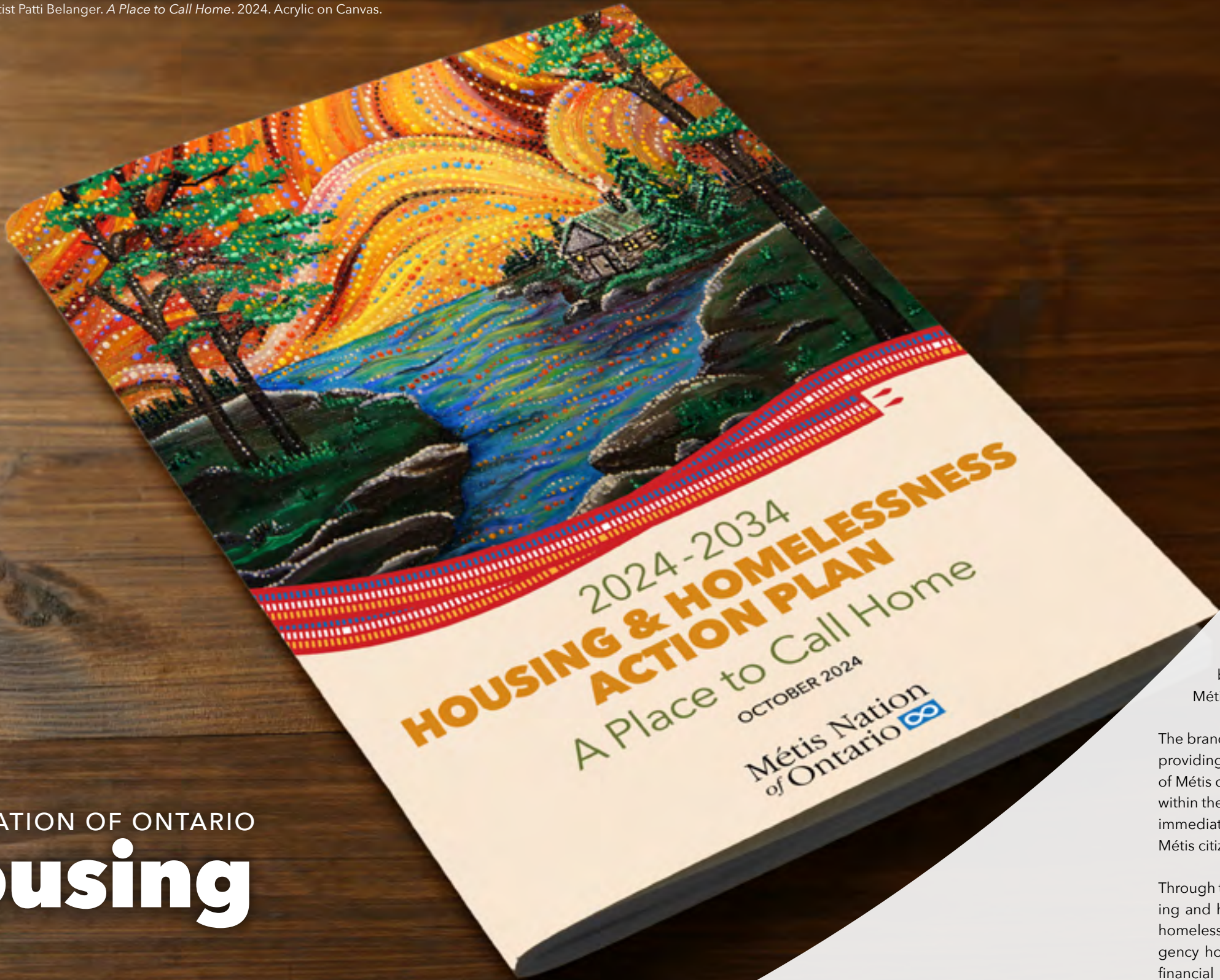
In support of the **Georgian Bay Métis community**, LRC staff organized an Energy Symposium at the Blue Mountain Resort which increased Region 7 citizens knowledge of the nuclear industry and related issues. The symposium also celebrated and created a space for Métis culture.

The LRC's Environment and Climate Change team hosted a series of virtual events to engage Métis citizens on climate change. These forums offered opportunities to learn about climate science and climate action, encouraging participants to "think globally, act locally."

The MNO's Community-Based Water Quality Monitoring Program continued to grow, engaging over 200 citizen Guardians and conducting more than 230 water monitoring events. The program strengthens Métis citizens' connection to land and waters, supporting the Métis way of life through stewardship and community-led science.



Artwork by Métis artist Patti Belanger. *A Place to Call Home*. 2024. Acrylic on Canvas.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

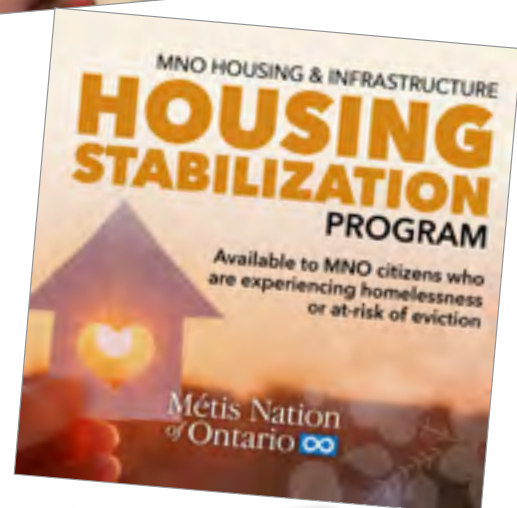
Housing

Cindi Rye ∞
Director

Established in 2020, the Housing Branch is mandated to expand housing and support options for Métis people across the housing continuum, from homelessness to homeownership. Recognizing housing as fundamental to the wellbeing and prosperity of Métis citizens, the branch is dedicated to addressing the diverse housing needs of Métis individuals and communities across Ontario.

The branch objectives align with the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose by providing the care and support necessary to meet the fundamental needs of Métis citizens and by fostering prosperity and economic self-sufficiency within the Métis Nation. The branch views housing not only as a solution to immediate needs but also as an opportunity to build long-term wealth for Métis citizens and communities.

Through the Housing Branch, the MNO offers a range of services for housing and homelessness. These services include housing stabilization and homelessness supports, a youth outreach team in Thunder Bay, emergency home repairs, programs and benefits for first-time home buyers, financial literacy resources, and newly established affordable housing developments. Additionally, the branch leads various research and policy initiatives related to housing and homelessness.



SUCCESSSES AND MILESTONES

In March 2025, the branch hosted its first-ever MNO **Housing and Homelessness Conference** in Toronto, bringing together regional and community leadership to discuss housing challenges and solutions affecting Métis communities across Ontario. A major milestone was the launch of the **2024-2034 MNO Housing and Homelessness Action Plan**, a 10-year strategy to address urgent housing needs across the province.

The Capital Projects Division successfully secured safe and affordable housing for 26 Métis households, with residences located in new developments in Sault Ste. Marie and the Greater Toronto Area/York Region.

The Housing Stabilization and Homelessness Supports program:

- Prevented 50 evictions for Métis households;
- Supported 50 additional households in exiting homelessness;
- Provided rental-related financial support to 448 households.

The MNO-Home Buyers' Contribution Program enabled 23 Métis families to achieve long-term housing stability and homeownership.

Essential emergency home repairs were completed for 81 households, ensuring health, safety, and security.

Through financial literacy programming, approximately 190 Métis citizens received support through online workshops and one-on-one sessions.

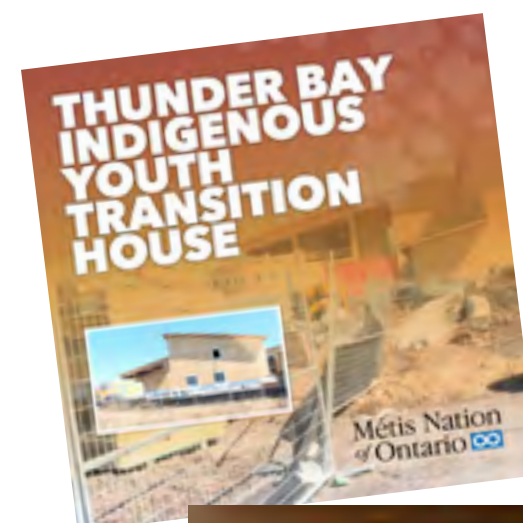
The Thunder Bay Transitional Housing program, supported by the newly formed Thunder Bay Youth Outreach Team, recorded 9,041 service interactions in 2024-2025.

Community trust and transparency was strengthened as the branch saw high numbers of engagement this year. 1300 citizens participated in housing and infrastructure planning processes, helping shape future programming with citizen-informed priorities.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Housing Branch is focused on continued service delivery and strategic growth across the housing continuum. Upcoming priorities include: Transitioning the Thunder Bay Youth Outreach Program into the Thunder Bay transitional housing facility Beginning construction on the Midland affordable housing development in summer 2025, with completion anticipated in 2026.

- Advancing housing research and data collection initiatives, including preparations for the next MNO Housing Census.
- Continuing implementation of the 10-Year Housing & Homelessness Action Plan.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO BY THE NUMBERS:

9,041

individuals received basic triage support from the Thunder Bay Youth Outreach team

1,300

citizens engaged in housing and infrastructure planning sessions to inform priorities

1,127

Métis households served in 2024-2025 through housing-based case management

190

Métis citizens participated in Financial Literacy online workshops and one-on-one supports

2 Métis housing development completed,
2 housing developments in progress

Self-Government

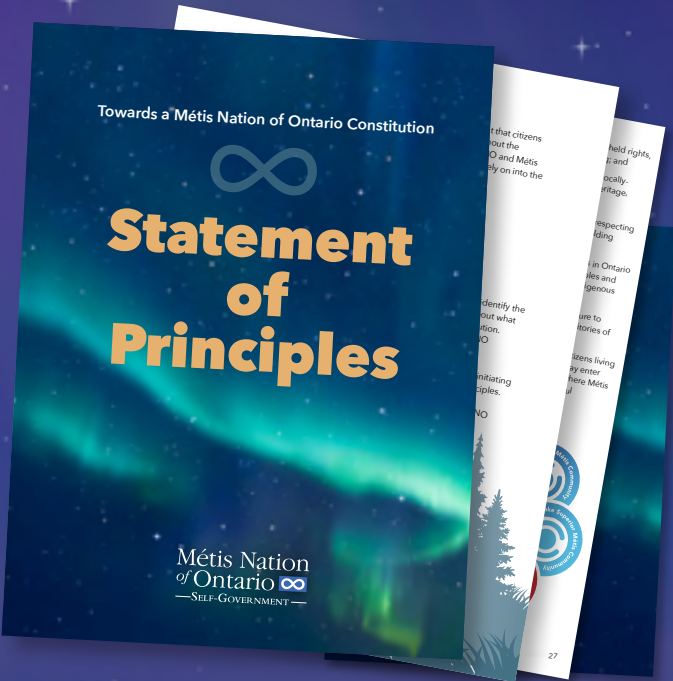
 **Brian Black**
Director

The Self-Government branch leads the governance work of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) with a focus on building and sustaining a strong, accountable, and citizen-driven Métis Government. While the branch does not deliver direct programs or services, it plays a central role in shaping the MNO's long-term future through foundational governance development.

Core responsibilities include advancing self-government through meaningful citizen engagement, supporting the development of a Métis Constitution, and strengthening the MNO's internal governance and fiscal structures. The branch also contributes to broader organizational priorities, including economic development, resource revenue sharing, and community relations.

Throughout the year, the Self-Government Branch coordinated province-wide engagement sessions and regional outreach activities to gather citizen input and support the development of the MNO's self-government framework. These consultations ensure that MNO citizens remain at the heart of decision-making processes.

In addition, the branch supported key MNO events and initiatives, and prioritized internal capacity-building by delivering governance and fiscal training to elected leadership, staff, and communities. This work helps lay the foundation for a strong, self-sustaining Métis Government rooted in transparency, accountability, and Métis values.



SUCCESSES AND MILESTONES

In January 2025, the Self-Government branch introduced the document titled "Towards a Métis Nation of Ontario Constitution: Statement of Principles." The Statement of Principles represents a foundational step in building a new Métis government and, ultimately, in the realization of a future Métis treaty.

Self-Government is a core pillar of the MNO's Strategic Framework, guiding our continued journey toward a Métis Constitution and Treaty. The foundational work led by the branch reflects a deep commitment to listening to citizens and translating their voices into a shared Statement of Principles. This document serves as both a reflection of our collective identity and a guiding framework for meaningful, often challenging conversations about Métis governance and law. The impact of this work will shape and strengthen our Nation for generations to come.

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead, the Self-Government branch is preparing to share a draft Métis Nation of Ontario Constitution with citizens for review and discussion. The branch plans to host virtual session to introduce the document and help familiarize citizens with its contents. Next year, the branch plans to visit communities across the province to gather direct feedback and engage in meaningful dialogue.

The branch will also work to accompany the Draft Constitution with a few proposed draft Métis laws, reflecting our Nation's authority to develop and implement the MNO's own legal framework. These laws will complement the Constitution and mark important milestones to MNO's path towards self-determination.

Citizens are encouraged not only to participate in these engagements but to actively contribute, sharing their perspectives, way of life, and traditional knowledge, so these values are embedded in our future government.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO BY THE NUMBERS:

5,034
citizen comments collected from surveys

27
guiding values identified in the
"MNO Statement of Principles"

2,048
engagement surveys completed by citizens

41
events hosted by Self-Government



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Intergovernmental Relations



Matthew Robertson
Manager 

The Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) team supports Métis Nation of Ontario leaders in fostering government-to-government relationships with Ontario, Canada and other Indigenous Governments. The IGR branch acts as a liaison between different levels of government—local, regional, provincial, federal and Indigenous—and the MNO to ensure effective communication and collaboration on shared goals and issues. Additionally, IGR advances priorities that further the MNO's continuing journey to self-government and our inherent right to self-determination.

SUCCESSES AND MILESTONES

Over the past year, the MNO hosted a successful Advocacy Day and Louis Riel Day flag raising at Queen's Park in November. These events provided the IGR team with valuable opportunities to meet with MPPs and ministers to discuss the MNO's 2025 Pre-Budget Submission to the Government of Ontario.

Throughout the year, the IGR branch has also worked to strategically position MNO to further protect Métis rights within Ontario and across Canada. The MNO has been holding regular meetings with Ministers, Senators, Parliamentary Secretaries, Parliamentary Assistants, MPs and MPPs to help advance its key priorities.

LOOKING AHEAD

The IGR team is working alongside the Self-Government Strategy branch to ensure the passage and implementation of self-government legislation and an MNO treaty. The team is eager to see the investments for our community reflected in the 2025 federal budget this fall. IGR remains optimistic that these developments will advance reconciliation and deliver meaningful benefits to Métis citizens across Ontario.

IGR will continue working to advance a more formalized government-to-government relationship between the MNO and the Province of Ontario. The MNO remains committed to working with the Government of Ontario to deliver positive outcomes for Métis citizens and all Ontarians, building a more inclusive and prosperous future.

Community Relations

Loma Rowlinson ∞
Manager

The Community Relations (CR) team is crucial in supporting the MNO chartered Community Councils, Advisory Councils, and the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). With thirty active MNO Community Councils contributing to community leadership, the CR team offers essential guidance, interpretation, and facilitation to empower effective council functioning.

The CR team provides comprehensive assistance in various ways, including training, conflict resolution, supporting elections and filling vacancies, assisting with post-council election transitions, and technical assistance with council AGMs. They assist with council MOUs, staffing, and help councils build governance capacity with training and creating resources. The CR Team serves as the main point of contact within the MNO Secretariat for all council inquiries. Additionally, the CR Team updates and maintains the council section of MNO's website by posting vacancies, election information, and links to resources. The CR team hosts Community Connections engagement sessions with council leadership six times per year and offers quarterly two-evening online governance training sessions, as well as in-person training on request.

Additionally, the CR team maintains an MNO engagement calendar, and collaborates with other Branches to ensure that meetings and engagements do not overlap. CR also works with the MNO Registry and Communications Branch to keep the council directory and email lists updated.

SUCCESSSES AND MILESTONES

This year, the CR team played a key role in strengthening MNO's governance and citizen engagement. The team supported the PCMNO Senators Election, the MNO Women's Council Election, eight Community Council elections, and provided administrative support for the 2024 PCMNO election. In addition they helped address over 100 Council vacancies across the province and facilitated 25 PCMNO meetings and online town halls, helping ensure transparency and dialogue between citizens and leadership.

The CR team also provided targeted support in areas such as Council conflict resolution, administrative assistance, and collaboration with MNO branches. These efforts continue to enhance leadership capacity and foster stronger connections between MNO citizens, communities, and governance structures.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look ahead, the CR team will continue to advance our strategic initiatives, including:

- Supporting Council governance and administrative capacity;
- Providing training and technical support;
- Fostering and supporting the relationship development and trust between Councils, the Secretariat, and PCMNO;
- Supporting healthy Council function through conflict resolution;
- Virtual leadership meetings and webinars;
- Undertaking special projects annually to improve the MNO's support for Council's;
- Enhancing engagement on Governance issues, the Métis Rules of Order and Code of Conduct;
- MOU outreach and support for Councils;
- Ongoing policy development;
- AGA Resolutions info sessions for citizens;
- Providing weekly council updates and situations reports for PCMNO leaderships.

The CR Team also supports the PCMNO Senators Election, the MNO Women's Council Election, Community Council elections, and provided administrative support for the 2024 PCMNO Election.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO BY THE NUMBERS:

1126

Council communications
(calls and emails) and requests

25

PCMNO meetings and citizen
online town halls

8

Community Council elections

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Rights, Research *and* Policy (RRP)

Edmond Burgie ∞
Associate Director

The Rights, Research and Policy Branch supports the Métis Nation of Ontario's vision of a strong, rights-bearing Métis government rooted in culture, knowledge, and community priorities. Working collaboratively with **Métis Rights, Claims and Litigation** and our **Legal Services** branch, we aim to ensure that MNO's research, policy development, and legal strategies reflect and defend Métis rights, advance outstanding claims, and strengthen our internal governance.

This year our team has made meaningful progress across many priorities—from developing the MNO's first Climate Change Strategy, to advancing Emergency Management planning, to documenting and sharing traditional knowledge that keeps our way of life strong.

Our work is made possible through deep collaboration: with citizens who share their knowledge, with MNO leadership and Captains of the Hunt (COTH), with subject matter experts across MNO branches, and with our partners in government and academia. Together, we are helping ensure that MNO decision-making is informed by rigorous research, Métis knowledge systems, and our collective vision for self-determination.

Currently, our Research and Policy Initiatives fall within four broad categories:

1. Environment and Climate Change
2. Emergency Management
3. Harvesting, Traditional Knowledge, and Way of Life
4. Research, Rights, Policy and Project Support

SUCCESES AND MILESTONES

Environment and Climate Change

The MNO made significant progress in Environment and Climate Change this year, including the development of its first Climate Change Strategy, grounded in Métis values and informed by citizen input. The MNO also secured \$29.6 million through the federal Fuel Charge Proceeds Fund for Indigenous Governments, enabling further investments in sustainability. Additionally, the launch of Regional Climate Action Planning has enabled communities to address local climate risks and set priorities for a healthier future.

Emergency Management

This year, the MNO advanced its Emergency Management efforts by completing a province-wide Emergency Management Needs Assessment to guide future preparedness and response planning. In partnership with the Métis National Council, the MNO finalized its Emergency Management Strategy, outlining key priorities for community safety and resilience. A new section of the MNO website was also launched to provide citizens with Emergency Management resources and real-time updates. Additionally, the MNO strengthened partnerships to support innovative research on wildfire management and the potential for cultural burns to generate carbon credit opportunities.

Harvesting, Traditional Knowledge, and Way of Life

In 2024, the MNO continued to support Métis harvesting, traditional knowledge, and way of life through a number of key initiatives. This included the delivery of the annual Migratory Bird and Moose harvest surveys to better understand harvesting practices across the province. Monthly Captain of the Hunt (COTH) meetings were held to support local harvesting governance, and a new Deputy Chief COTH was welcomed to the team. The MNO also advanced research on historical and current Métis harvesting practices to inform future policy.

Research, Rights, Policy and Project Support

In 2024, the MNO advanced key priorities through its Research, Rights, Policy and Project Support work. This included contributing to the development of Action Plan Measures under UNDRIP and UNDA to ensure Métis-specific perspectives were reflected. Phase Two of the IRS Oral History Project was launched to gather stories from survivors and families, and a research paper on anti-racism in Ontario was completed, highlighting Métis experiences. The team also collaborated with the Legal and Self-Government branches to support economic development and explore resource revenue sharing opportunities.

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead, the MNO will release its **Climate Change Strategy** and complete Regional Action Plans by Fall 2025. **Emergency Management** efforts will expand with a Métis-specific framework rooted in rights and traditional knowledge. **Harvesting** priorities include strengthening ties with the Ministry of Natural Resources and increasing Captain of the Hunt capacity. The next phase of the **IRS Project** will focus on completing oral history collection and beginning repatriation and commemoration planning. The MNO will also publish anti-racism survey findings to support advocacy and funding, while streamlining **policy processes** to meet growing demands for research, consultation, and citizen-driven governance.

MÉTIS RIGHTS, CLAIMS AND LITIGATION

Zac Thiffault

Director

The RRP Branch provides legal advice and strategic direction to advance Métis rights, claims, and litigation management.

Our policy and research advisors collaborate across MNO branches to ensure consistent, well-informed policies on Métis rights and claims. This work is supported by MNO’s General Counsel (Aird & Berlis LLP) and other external legal counsel.

MNO LEGAL SERVICES BRANCH

Emily Ellis

Director

Formed in 2024, the Legal Services Branch provides in-house legal counsel to support MNO’s strategic priorities, risk management, and effective internal governance. It collaborates with the C-Suite to develop processes that advance MNO’s goals.

The Branch also works closely with MNO’s General Counsel (Aird & Berlis LLP) and external legal advisors, supported by an internal team of policy and research advisors to deliver strategic legal guidance across key MNO branches.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Core Services



COMMUNICATIONS

The MNO Communications branch is dedicated to informing Métis communities in Ontario through compelling and respectful communications. The branch provides strategic advice and produces a wide range of materials that enhance understanding of the MNO's programs, services, and objectives. The branch serves both internal and external audiences, supporting key stakeholders such as the MNO President, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), and regional communities. The Communications team is committed to maintaining consistent messaging and a strong public image, ensuring that all communications reflect the values and aspirations of our vibrant Métis Nation.

Our responsibilities extend to both internal and external audiences, encompassing a diverse range of tasks, including:

- Identity management and branding
- Design and creative directions for all MNO publications and multimedia materials
- Management of MNO's social media platforms
- Regular updates and maintenance of the MNO website
- Monitoring media covering and liaising with local, provincial and federal media
- Production of the Métis Voyageur publication
- Video production services

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO BY THE NUMBERS:

33,208
followers on social media

1,637
posts across social media

6,300+
support request emails received by
Information & Communications Technologies



Added 2 new social accounts
Blue Sky and LinkedIn

FINANCE

The Finance Branch of the MNO oversees financial operations to ensure sustainability, transparency, and efficiency in support of the Métis community. Core responsibilities include payroll administration, tax reporting, financial statements, cash flow management, and funding oversight for more than **220 programs**. The team also manages invoicing, collections, statutory filings, audit coordination, and provides financial support to volunteer-led Community Councils. With a focus on maximizing value and maintaining compliance, the branch ensures that all financial processes are efficient, accountable, and aligned with the MNO's broader goals.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

The ICT Branch supports all MNO departments by managing the critical technology infrastructure needed to deliver on the MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose. This includes overseeing 14 virtual servers, 35+ secure firewalls and switches, 425+ user devices, 40+ printers and scanners, 400+ cell phones, and 9.5 terabytes of data backups—alongside a wide range of hardware, software, and security tools. The efforts of ICT branch ensure seamless tech support for both MNO administrative and front-line staff working across Ontario, whether remotely or in-office.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Empowering our organization through strategic HR leadership, innovation, and excellence. We strive to cultivate a dynamic workplace where people thrive, leaders inspire, and success is driven by a culture of inclusivity, continuous learning, and operational excellence. Rooted in our commitment to the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose, we foster a respectful and engaged workforce that upholds Métis rights, self-determination, and community prosperity. Through proactive HR solutions, data-driven insights, and best practices, we elevate the employee experience and position the MNO as an employer of choice.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

REGISTRY

Elina Hill
Registrar

One of the core objectives outlined in the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Statement of Prime Purpose is to maintain a registry of Métis citizens in Ontario. The MNO Registry, in partnership with the independent research firm Know History Inc., registers Métis citizens in accordance with the MNO Registry Policy and the National Definition for Métis. The Registry conducts genealogical research and analysis, including investigations into Ontario's Historic Métis Communities and Root Ancestors. In addition to its registration mandate, the Registry supports the cultural, social, political, and economic wellbeing of citizens by providing key data to other MNO departments and initiatives.

SUCCESSSES AND MILESTONES

Over the past year, the MNO Registry achieved great successes in its ongoing efforts to support citizenship verification, community engagement, and program delivery.

In collaboration with the **Community Relations** branch, the Registry supported elections for nine Community Councils across Ontario. This included verifying council data, maintaining the Council Directory, providing elector lists, and supplying population data to assess potential boundary changes.

The Registry also carried out a series of **Mobile Registries** in communities such as Barrie, Midland, and Kingston, while supporting major events including the Annual General Assembly, Powley Day, the Métis Heritage Centre opening, Louis Riel Day, and the Windsor Engagement Session—bringing services directly to citizens across the province.

Additionally, the Registry securely distributed over 250 **citizen data lists** to Community Councils, internal departments, and authorized partners. It also continued verifying the citizenship of over 14,400 individuals for direct benefits programs and third-party requests, ensuring accurate and secure access to MNO programs and services.

LOOKING AHEAD

The MNO Registry will continue supporting citizens and harvesters through regional mobile registries and initiatives, while issuing renewal reminders and processing expired citizenship cards.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

BY THE NUMBERS:

Processed over

3,800

citizenship applications

Processed

1,600

Harvester Applications

Approved

3,000

new MNO citizens,
(31,639 MNO citizens total, as of March 31, 2025)

Approved

600

new MNO Harvesters
(4,047 Harvesters, as of March 31, 2025)

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

INFINITY PROPERTY SERVICES

Stephen Burman

Director



Infinity Property Services (IPS) is a self-funded, full-service Property Management Organization within the MNO. It provides essential non-profit services to Métis and Indigenous communities, including property management services, home owner inspections, renovation management, and home energy audits. IPS plays a key role in supporting MNO programs through efficient resource management and service delivery.

IPS serves a broad client base, including non-profit organizations, government agencies, commercial property owners and private residents. In partnership with the Housing and Infrastructure branch, the team also oversees renovation projects at various MNO facilities, including the Thunder Bay Community Centre, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins Community Council buildings, and the Fort Frances Community Centre.

With a team of 19 staff, IPS performs property inspections, financial services, maintenance scheduling, and administrative services. While primarily self-sustaining, IPS also receives partial funding through government programs and for staff through the Independent Electricity System Operator's Community Energy Champion Program.

In 2024, IPS experienced a revenue decline due to the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) sale of several units. However, efficient management costs and sound financial oversight helped maintain a favourable surplus projection for the year.

In 2024, IPS experienced a revenue decline due to the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services' (OAHS) sale of several units. However, cost efficiency and sound financial oversight helped maintain a favorable surplus projection for the year.

LOOKING AHEAD

IPS is preparing for new construction projects in collaboration with OAHS, including:

- Thunder Bay Youth Transitional Housing Services
- 24 new townhomes in Thunder Bay.

Forecasted Surplus:

\$81,025

(excluding the administrative core fee)





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