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MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

ISSUE NO. 116, SUMMER 2026

Building for Tomorrow

Little Harbour Métis Child Care Centre coming to Penetanguishene

The future Little Harbour Métis Child Care Centre in Penetanguishene marks an important step forward in expanding Métis-led early learning and child care spaces for families in Simcoe County. By investing in high-quality child care, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is helping build stronger families and more resilient communities.

A sod-turning ceremony took place on June 19, 2026, at the future site of the centre, bringing together MNO leadership, local government officials, funders, and community members to mark the occasion.

The two-storey, 7,000-square-foot facility will feature two preschool classrooms, two toddler classrooms, and one infant classroom, each with direct access to outdoor play areas. The building will also include a staff room, staff and family support resource room, administration office, multi-purpose room, universal washroom, and elevator. Designed to be barrier-free and accessible to all, the centre will comply with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards.

“The development of the Little Harbour Métis Child Care Centre in Penetanguishene reflects our commitment to supporting Métis children, families, and communities,” says Mitch Case, MNO Provincial Secretary of Education. “This centre will play a vital role in strengthening



The Little Harbour Métis Child Care Centre is an important step toward expanding culturally grounded child care where Métis children can learn, grow, and connect with their heritage.

Above (left to right): **Region 7 PCMNO Councillor Greg Garratt, MNO CEO Dale LeClair, Huron-Superior Métis Community PCMNO Councillor Mitch Case, MNO President Margaret Froh, Penetanguishene Mayor Doug Rawson, Clearview Township Mayor Doug Measures, Georgian Bay Métis Council President Ron LePage, and Simcoe North MP Adam Chambers** are joined by Métis families and children during the sod-turning ceremony for the future Little Harbour Métis Child Care Centre in Penetanguishene.

our Métis community by creating a nurturing environment where children can learn, grow, and thrive while remaining deeply connected to their culture, heritage, and way of life.”

This project has been made possible, in part, through fund-

ing from the Government of Canada’s Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Program, a start-up grant from the County of Simcoe, and contributions from the Province of Ontario.

Through the County of

Simcoe’s Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Directed Growth initiative, the MNO has been awarded 32 child care spaces for 2026, including six infant spaces, 10 toddler spaces, and 16 preschool spaces.

The Little Harbour Métis

Child Care Centre will be located at 15 Sheffcote Street in Penetanguishene, with construction expected to start by the end of fall 2026. ∞

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MÉTIS
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SUBMISSION POLICY:

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) welcomes contributions from MNO citizens and staff. Community stories, citizen achievements, cultural reflections, youth voices, local council highlights, and tribute or remembrance pieces are all encouraged. If you're unsure whether an idea is a good fit, feel free to reach out first to discuss. All submissions are reviewed and edited for grammar, spelling, clarity, and conciseness. Submissions are also checked for accuracy to ensure that names, titles, and references to individuals, organizations, and agencies are correct.

The MNO does not accept submissions, including editorials and letters to the editor, that contain partisan political statements. References to government programs or policies may be included, provided they remain non-partisan. Submissions should generally be between 400 and 600 words. Shorter or longer pieces may be considered depending on content and available space. Content must be sent as a Word document or pasted into the body of an email. Any accompanying images should be high resolution (300 dpi) and include a brief caption and photo credit.

Contributors must ensure they have the right to share any submitted content, including text, images, and quotes, and that appropriate permissions are in place where required (including for tribute or remembrance pieces). By submitting material, contributors grant the MNO the right to edit and publish it across MNO communication channels, including print, web, and social media. Submissions are reviewed on a rolling basis. The MNO reserves the right to decline or postpone publication based on content relevance, editorial priorities, regional balance, timeliness, and space availability. Submissions can be sent to CommOps@metisnation.org. For any questions or to pitch an idea, please reach out to the same address.

A Message from

MARGARET FROH

Métis Nation of Ontario, President



Building our Future Together

Celebrating culture, community, and shared purpose.

As we move into the summer months, I want to begin by acknowledging all the good work happening across the Métis Nation of Ontario. Our community councils have been busy with local elections, annual meetings, rendezvous, cultural events, early learning camps, tree plantings, and many other gatherings that bring citizens together. Our Advisory Councils continue to do important outreach work and build capacity. Métis youth are participating in the Summer Youth Program and will be out in communities this summer sharing Métis culture and supporting conversations about our self-government journey. Citizens are taking part in environmental monitoring programs in many regions, and our Captains of the Hunt are preparing for the fall harvest.

The PCMNO and our Cabinet, working with the public service have also been making progress on key priorities and continuing to build the programs and services citizens rely on every day. Across areas such as family supports, youth, housing, education, community well-being, and Early Learning and Child Care, this work is focused on meeting citizens' needs in practical ways.

One important area of progress is Early Learning and Child Care. In June, we broke ground on the Little Harbour Métis Child Care Centre in Penetanguishene, while work continues on a new childcare centre in Thunder Bay. We are also developing another new childcare centre in Sault Ste. Marie and planning for one in the Niagara area. These projects will help create more child care spaces for Métis families and support children in learning, growing, and connecting with culture from an early age.

Housing also remains a major priority. This spring saw the return of the Emergency Housing Repair Program, which supports urgent repairs that help keep homes safe, secure, and accessible. In June, MNO leaders also attended the first Métis Policy Forum hosted by the Métis National Council, which focused on housing. It was a very successful gathering that brought five Métis governments together to share the work underway, discuss priorities, and identify ways we can continue to push Canada to renew its commitments to Métis housing capacity.

As we move further into summer, we are also preparing for one of the most important gatherings in the MNO calendar—our Annual General Assembly. This year's AGA will take place August 14 to 16 at Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay, with the Big Canoe Welcome taking place on August 13. It is an important opportunity for citizens to come together, hear reports on the work

being done on their behalf, reconnect with one another, celebrate our culture, and help shape the future of our government.

We will also be recognizing outstanding leadership through the MNO Volunteer of the Year Award, MNO Youth Leadership Award and the MNO Women's Council Women Honouring Women award. These awards help honour citizens who contribute to our communities, support others, and help strengthen the Métis Nation for future generations.

If you can attend, I encourage you to register. The AGA is one of the few times each year when so many citizens can be in the same place, hear the same updates, ask questions directly, and have the conversations that help guide where we go next as a government.

That same focus on the future is also at the heart of our ongoing self-government work. On June 27, we marked the anniversary of the signing of our first Métis Self-Government Agreement with Canada. This agreement was a historic milestone for the MNO. Since then, we have been working hard to implement our self-government agreements and move forward toward a modern self-government treaty with Canada.

As part of that anniversary, we hosted a Leadership Constitution Summit. This brought MNO leaders together to review a pre-consultation draft Constitution and continue the important work of building the future of our Métis government. This work brings together more than 30 years of governance-building we have already done together. It also reflects the more than 12,000 comments, submissions, and pieces of feedback citizens have shared through our constitution development process. All of that work is helping shape a Constitution that will support a strong, efficient, accountable, and inclusive Métis government for the decades to come.

We are now one step closer to having a draft Constitution ready to take to all citizens this fall. I look forward to that next stage of engagement and to the opportunity for citizens to review the draft, ask questions, share their views, and continue shaping the future of their government.

Of course, our work to advance Métis rights is not only about implementing our self-government agreements. It is also about defending them. The Federal Court recently released its judgment in Brunswick House First Nation et al v Canada and the MNO. This case was a legal challenge advanced by six First Nations in northeastern Ontario (Brunswick House, Chapleau Ojibwe, Flying Post, Matachewan, Mattagami, and Beaverhouse First Nations) against Canada

and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) for entering into the Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement (MGRSIA) on February 23, 2023. The Court granted the MNO's motion to strike the First Nations' application, finding that it was based on an "unfounded interpretation of what the [Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement] may do rather than on the unambiguous provisions in the [Agreement] itself of what it will do."

The Court also recognized "the purpose of the [MGRSIA] is to contribute to the implementation of UNDRIP as it relates to ... the "Métis Communities Represented by the MNO's" inherent right to self-determination, including the right of self-government, and to support, advance, and recognize that collectivity's ongoing exercise of its inherent right of self-government recognized and affirmed by Section 35 based upon Canada's constitutional responsibility to advance relationships with Indigenous Peoples and to engage in negotiations to recognize and delineate Métis Rights.

The MNO welcomes the clarity provided by the Federal Court. This decision affirms that the agreement is about the MNO's right to govern its own internal affairs, including citizenship, elections, leadership selection, and government administration. The Court also confirmed that the agreement does not negatively affect First Nations' Section 35 rights.

This is an important affirmation of our work, our rights, and the agreements we have secured. It also confirms what we have always said—Canada's recognition of the MNO's self-government rights does not impact or harm the land related rights of First Nations in Ontario. These rights co-exist in Ontario, like how our communities and First Nations have co-existed together for generations.

As you read through this issue of the Voyageur, I hope you will see the many ways citizens, leaders, Councils, staff, and communities are contributing to this shared work. From programs and services, to culture and harvesting, to housing and child care, to constitution-building and rights protection, we are continuing to build a strong future together.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe, healthy, and enjoyable summer. I hope to see many of you at Fort William Historical Park this August for the AGA. ∞

Margaret Froh

President, Métis Nation of Ontario



This is the Summer 2026 issue of **Métis Voyageur**. Our next issue is already in progress and is set to be mailed out in November 2026. The deadline for submissions is September 30, 2026.

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

NEWS



Educators, knowledge-holders, and community leaders gathered in Niagara-on-the-Lake for the 7th Annual MNO ELCC Conference.

EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE CONFERENCE

Beyond the Classroom

Land-based learning highlighted at 7th Annual MNO ELCC Conference

Educators, knowledge holders, and community leaders from across Ontario gathered in March for the Métis Nation of Ontario’s Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Conference, an event exploring the role of nature and land-based learning in early childhood education. The conference highlighted how Métis culture and ways of life can be woven into learning environments for young children.

Held over three days in Niagara-on-the-Lake at the White Oaks Resort and Spa, the conference provided opportunities for professionals to exchange ideas, participate in hands-on workshops, and celebrate Métis-specific early childhood education. The event reflects the MNO’s commitment to providing Métis families and children with culturally grounded learning, reinforced by the 2019 Canada–Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Accord.

A lively Kitchen Party on Friday eve-

ning set the tone for the weekend as music, food, and dance filled the air. The highlight of the evening was an engaging session with fiddler Alicia Blore and jiggers Megan and Teagan, as participants learned traditional Métis celebration activities.

The conference opened with a prayer from Niagara Region Métis Council Senator Jean-Jacques Seguin, followed by opening remarks from MNO Manager of Early Learning Infrastructure and Partnerships Louise Humphreys.

“This year’s conference, A Voyage through the Lands and Water Systems, explores nature, land, and water teachings,” said Humphreys. “Over the next few days, you will hear stories, share experiences, and participate in engaging conversations. We hope you leave feeling connected to one another, to your work, and to the land itself.”

Attendees also heard from Sarah Spethmann, MNO Early Learning Specialist, Pedagogy, who presented Bringing Métis Ways of Being into Learning Spaces. Her

presentation set the stage for discussions on how educators can incorporate Métis culture and perspectives into early learning settings.

Keynote speaker Adam Bienenstock inspired participants with his address, Getting Past the Grown-Ups, emphasizing the importance of safe and engaging outdoor spaces where children can explore, take risks, and deepen their connection to nature.

Breakout sessions explored key themes in Métis early learning, including outdoor play, language learning, and the cultural significance of land and water. Participants also supported Métis artisans and entrepreneurs at the vendor fair, connected with MNO staff, and took advantage of networking opportunities.

On the second day of the conference, Provincial Secretary of Education Mitch Case delivered remarks virtually, commending educators for the important work they do.

“Those who work in early childhood

education carry an extraordinary responsibility,” said Case. “Educators help shape identity, confidence, and resilience at the earliest and most critical stages of life. We encourage educators to work alongside us to help ensure Métis children remain connected to their culture and way of life.”

The conference was a reminder that learning is not confined to the classroom—it lives in the land, the water, and in the relationships that guide how children experience the world.

“The work you do every day as educators shapes the next generation of Métis leaders, knowledge keepers, and community builders,” said Dr. Bryanna Scott-Kay, Director of Education and Training. “Creating spaces where all children feel rooted, valued, and connected reflects the Métis Nation’s resilience and cultural richness.”

Maarsii to the organizers for making this year’s conference a success, and to the educators for their lasting impact on young learners. ∞

Culture, partnerships and innovation help grow Métis tourism

Indigenous tourism continues to grow as an important way to share culture, strengthen communities, and create opportunities for citizens across the homeland.

These themes were front and centre at the International Indigenous Tourism Conference in Edmonton, where tourism leaders from around the world gathered to share ideas, build partnerships, and explore innovative approaches to sustainable, culture-based tourism.

Representing the MNO were Councillor for the Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community Mitch Case and MNO Manager of Events and Strategic Initiatives Jennifer Pausé.

The conference also celebrated vibrant Métis culture, featuring an

inspiring performance by Métis fiddler Brianna Lizotte and the energetic Kikino Northern Lights Métis Dancers. These performances reminded attendees that music, dance, and storytelling remain at the heart of Métis tourism and cultural expression.

Sessions also highlighted the incredible work of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government in developing Métis Crossing into a premier Métis tourism destination and a globally recognized model for cultural tourism grounded in Métis identity, history, and community leadership.

Mitch and Jennifer returned inspired, bringing new ideas and strategies to support the continued growth of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Heritage Centre, Métis Tours, the Powley Institute Auditorium,

and other tourism initiatives and partnerships across the MNO.

Investing in Indigenous tourism strengthens communities, creates opportunities for citizens, and ensures Métis history, culture, and stories are shared with authenticity and pride—an effort the MNO looks forward to continuing as it builds on these ideas. ∞

Right: **MNO Councillor for the Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community Mitch Case and Manager of Events and Strategic Initiatives Jennifer Pausé representing the MNO at the International Indigenous Tourism Conference in Edmonton.**



Above: **Provincial Secretary of Health, Wellbeing and Seniors Sharon Cadeau and MNO Manager of Métis Health Equity Ryah Heavens with the Te Whānau o Waipareira team—a West Auckland-based charitable trust providing health, social, education, and justice services to Māori whānau and communities.**

MNO joins global conversations on Indigenous cancer care

Indigenous leaders, researchers, clinicians, advocates, patients, survivors, and whānau (family) from around the world gathered in New Zealand for the World Indigenous Cancer Conference, held at the Due Drops Events Centre in Manukau. Representing the MNO were Provincial Secretary of Health, Wellbeing and Seniors Sharon Cadeau and MNO Manager of Métis Health Equity Ryah Heavens.

The conference explored cancer care across the spectrum, with discussions focused on supporting Elders and youth, and looking beyond conventional approaches to palliative care. Themes of equity, ethics, safety, and the importance of family and community connection were woven throughout the weekend.

Over three days, attendees experienced a deeply grounded and inspiring program shaped by Indigenous knowledge, innovation, and leadership in cancer care and control. Attendees heard from and participated in concurrent sessions, panel discussions and keynote addresses.

"This conference offered such an enriching experience and I was overwhelmed by all the welcoming individuals who take a community centered approach to everything they do," says Provincial Secretary Cadeau. "We heard so many great ideas from all the knowledgeable individuals at the conference and look forward to bringing these back to our Métis communities."

Among the concurrent sessions was a presentation by Abigail Simms, Métis citizen and research partner at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences. In collaboration with the MNO, she shared insights on Métis sovereignty through a discussion on cancer surveillance and health promotion led by the Métis Nation of Ontario.

"The World Indigenous Cancer Conference helped transform global knowledge into meaningful, community-driven action, which we can use to advance culturally grounded care and shape a healthier future on our own terms," says Provincial Secretary Cadeau. ∞



Huron-Superior Métis Community launches website

Submitted by:
Mitch Case, PCMNO Councillor - Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community

The Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community (HSRMC) announced the launch of its new regional community hub website during a virtual event held on Monday, February 23, 2026. The website is designed to strengthen communication, transparency, and engagement with Métis citizens across the region.

The new website, developed in collaboration with Advocate Strategies Inc., will serve as a primary source of regional news and information, including community updates, program details, governance information, and event listings. The platform reflects the Region's commitment to open communication, accountability, and accessible information for all citizens.

The website content has been reviewed to ensure the stories, narratives and rights of the historic Métis community are respected, protected and rooted in history and facts.

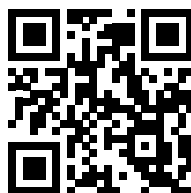
The launch brought together Council members, community leaders, staff, and citizens to celebrate this milestone. Attendees were able to explore the website's features, learn how to stay informed, and hear remarks from Regional leadership about the vision for

continued digital engagement.

"This website represents more than just a new online presence," said Mitch Case, Regional Councillor for the Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community. "It is a commitment to strengthening our connection with citizens and ensuring that regional information is shared in a timely, transparent, and accessible way."

The website is designed to be user-friendly and mobile-responsive, ensuring citizens can access important information wherever they are. It will continue to evolve as new content, programs and services, and resources are added to meet the needs of the community.

The Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community encourages all citizens to visit the new website and stay up to date on official regional communication, and strengthen community connection. To explore the regional programs and initiatives and learn more about the region, visit the website below. ∞



Visit the HSRMC's website to explore and learn more about the Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community:
www.huronsuperiormetis.ca

MNC HEALTH POLICY FORUM • OTTAWA

MNO leaders join national Métis health policy forum

Representatives from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) gathered in Ottawa with Métis leaders, health professionals, researchers, Elders, and youth from across the country for the 2026 National Métis Health Policy Forum.

The two-day forum, hosted by the Métis National Council and titled Honouring Métis Health through Trauma-Informed and Culturally Safe Care: Strengthening Bundles for the Health Workforce, highlighted Métis-led approaches to wellness grounded in culture, community, and self-determination.

Throughout the event, MNO staff and citizens shared both professional expertise and personal experience in the field of Métis health.

On Day 1, Director of Community Wellbeing Emily Pateron and Director of Healing and Wellness Shelley Cripps delivered a keynote presentation outlining MNO health programs, with a focus on trauma-informed and culturally safe care.

MNO President Margaret Froh also delivered leadership remarks, emphasizing the importance of Métis governments shaping health systems that reflect the lived ex-

periences and priorities of their citizens, and highlighting ongoing collaboration with the MNO's sister government in Alberta.

MNO staff also contributed to breakout sessions focused on strengthening the Métis health workforce.

Ryah Heavens and Aman Pabla from the MNO's Healing and Wellness Branch presented on building partnerships across sectors to support culturally safe service delivery. Dr. Sarah Edwards and MNO citizen and researcher Abby Simms participated in discussions on decolonizing research and ethical storytelling. MNO citizen and land-based educator Connor McNamara highlighted land-based learning as a holistic wellness practice rooted in Métis culture and connection to the land.

Youth leadership was also represented, with Evan Accettola, MNO Youth Council President & PCMNO Youth Rep, participating in a national fireside chat on Métis youth leadership in wellness, moderated by fellow MNO Youth Council member Bennett Woods.

Across keynote sessions and workshops, participants explored trauma-informed care, cultural safety and humility standards,



Above (left to right): **Highland Waters Métis Council President Lindsay Rogers, MNO2S+ Region 2 Rep Celine Wick, MNOWC Region 4 Rep June Smart, MNOYC President Evan Accettola, MNOWC Region 6 Rep Shannon Smith, MNO President Margaret Froh, MNOWC Rep Luanne Cunningham, MNO staff Erica Johnston, MNOVC President Brian Prairie, Clear Waters Métis Council Senator Nancy Bouchier, Chair of the MNOVC Paul Broadbent, and Provincial Secretary of Health, Wellbeing and Seniors Sharon Cadeau.**

Left: **Shelley Cripps, MNO Director of Healing and Wellness, Emily Patterson MNO Director of Community Wellbeing.**

land-based healing, traditional knowledge, and the role of language in wellness.

The forum closed with reflections on self-care and the importance of supporting those who care for others — a reminder that strengthening our “bundles” means strengthening relation-

ships, knowledge, and community capacity.

The Métis Nation of Ontario remains committed to advancing holistic, culturally grounded health programs and ensuring Métis voices continue to shape health policy and practice at the national level. ∞



Above: **Representatives from the MNO, Métis National Council, and Northwest Territories Métis Nation gather following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to support continued dialogue and collaboration among Métis governments.**

NATIONAL • NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MNO welcomes renewed dialogue among Métis governments

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) welcomes the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Métis National Council (MNC) and the Northwest Territories Métis Nation (NWTMN).

The agreement establishes a framework for dialogue and collaboration intended to strengthen cooperation between Métis governments and support work on shared priorities. The MNO sees value in dialogue and joint efforts among Métis governments as they work to advance shared in-

terests and address issues affecting their citizens and communities. Agreements like this help create space for ongoing relationship-building and collaboration on issues of shared concern.

“This agreement is a positive step in strengthening relationships between Métis governments. It creates space for continued dialogue and collaboration on shared priorities, and the Métis Nation of Ontario looks forward to those conversations with Métis partners,” said MNO President Margaret Froh. ∞



MNO participates in Canada's largest career development conference

The MNO was proud to participate in Cannexus, Canada's largest bilingual career development conference.

Cannexus brings together educators, career development professionals, researchers, and policymakers from across Canada to explore the latest research, tools, and strategies shaping the country's workforce. The conference provides a valuable opportunity for organizations to share best practices and build partnerships that support job seekers and learners nationwide.

While at Cannexus, MNO Employment and Training staff connected with attendees from across the country to showcase the wide range of supports available to Métis citizens. From

skills development and training opportunities to employment services and workforce partnerships, the team highlighted how the MNO supports Métis people in pursuing meaningful, sustainable careers.

Participation in events like Cannexus reflects the MNO's ongoing commitment to strengthening employment pathways and ensuring Métis citizens have access to the resources they need to succeed in today's labour market.

Merci à toutes celles et tous ceux qui sont passés en apprendre davantage sur la façon dont la MNO soutient les chercheuses et chercheurs d'emploi métis et renforce nos communautés! ∞

Building Safer Spaces for Métis Culture

Cultural safety dialogue with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government

Submitted by
Mitch Case, PCMNO
Councillor - Huron-Superior
Regional Métis Community

MNO representatives were honoured to attend a recent Promoting & Increasing Cultural Safety (PICS) engagement gathering hosted online by the Otipemisiwak Métis Government (OMG) Consultation Department.

PICS program was implemented as a means to learn from Citizens directly on how to better the cultural safety of the Métis women, youth, and 2SLGBTQQA+ community and to generally understand and support the cultural safety of these groups.

Cultural safety, on a broad understanding, takes into account the ability of a person to safely carry out (participate, learn, connect) in the Métis cultural activities without being hindered or excluded.

The OMG's Consultation Department serves as their governments "duty to consult" branch as established in the

2018 Consultation agreement between the OMG and the government of Canada.

Since August 2024, the department has travelled across Alberta, hosting group and one-on-one engagement sessions. These conversations looked at how communities participate in cultural practices today, as well as the challenges that people face in participating safely and completely in cultural activities.

Representing the MNO were; Mitch Case, Provincial Secretary of Education and MNC Board of Governors Representative; Cole Netherton, a member of the MNO Youth Council, and Jennifer Pauzé, Manager, Events and Strategic Initiatives.

The final PICS report has been released by the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and gives crucial guidance on how our Métis governments can be more inclusive and culturally safe. Its findings and recommendations provide a valuable pool of knowledge for addressing issues related to strengthening participation,

removing barriers, and making all Métis citizens feel safe when participating in culture and community life.

All Métis governments can benefit from reading the report and taking its recommendations seriously.

"It was an honour to be invited to the PICS Summit," said Netherton. Reports like this matter because cultural safety isn't just a concept or a checkbox — it's lived, felt, and carried in our communities all across the homeland. Honouring our diversity, celebrating our culture, and engaging in meaningful community consultation is what create lasting impact."

This participation work signifies an ongoing commitment of the MNO to listen, learn, and support initiatives that advance cultural safety, inclusion, and belonging for all citizens of the Métis nation.

Together, we continue to build communities where Métis people can practice their culture, share their knowledge and celebrate their identity without fear. ∞



Above (left to right): **MNO Youth Council Region 4 Representative Cole Netherton, Events Manager Jennifer Pauzé and Provincial Secretary of Education Mitch Case attend the Promoting & Increasing Cultural Safety (PICS) gathering.**

RENEW YOUR CITIZENSHIP CARD

Is your MNO citizenship card expired or about to expire? Make sure your card and contact information are up to date by completing a citizenship card renewal form, and submitting an updated photo and a copy of your proof of residency (e.g., a driver's license). You can renew your card online. If you have any questions, please contact the MNO registry:
1-855-798-1006 or info@mnoregistry.ca.



POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

New bursary program for Métis law students

A new partnership with the Law Foundation of Ontario will help Métis students from Ontario pursue legal, paralegal, and other justice-related studies through a bursary program available at institutions across Canada.

The program will help support the costs of tuition, books, travel, and/or student living expenses. This support creates more pathways for Métis students into legal, advocacy, and justice spaces, and will ensure greater long-term inclusion of Métis voices into Canada's legal system.

The MNO is pleased to build this partnership and is committed to supporting Métis students in achieving their academic aspirations. ∞





MNO vets join Persian Gulf War 35th anniversary commemorations

On a sunny Saturday in February, MNO Chief Operating Officer Brian Black (Métis Persian Gulf War Veteran) joined commemorations along the Halifax waterfront marking the 35th anniversary of the end of the Persian Gulf War. Held over several days, the event brought together veterans, families, and leaders to honour those who served and the loved ones who supported them. The Persian Gulf War remains a

significant chapter in Canada’s military history—one that continues to resonate with Métis citizens who served and experienced its impact. In 1991, Canada joined an international military coalition to restore peace and stability following Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait. Under Operation Friction, more than 5,100 members of the Canadian Armed Forces—including many Métis—served across land, sea, and air missions.

The significance of the waterfront location was central to the commemoration, as it is where Canadian warships Athabaskan, Terra Nova, and Protecteur sailed after returning from the conflict. Among those in attendance were Veterans Affairs Minister Jill McKnight, Associate Deputy Minister Christine McDowell, Veteran Ombudsman Nishika Jardine, and Senator and veteran Rebecca Patterson.

“This commemoration is a powerful reminder that service extends beyond the battlefield,” said Black. “I’d like to thank the staff at Veterans Affairs Canada for the care and dedication they showed this weekend—not only in supporting veterans, but in genuinely looking after their well-being.” We extend our sincere gratitude to all Indigenous Peoples who have served and continue to serve. Thank you—maarsii. ∞



Above (left to right): MNO Assoc. Director of Education & Training Simon Sutherland, TYRMC President Aimee Therrien, YU Manager of Indigenous & Partnership Engagement Jessica Gruchy, YU President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Julia Christensen Hughes, PCMNO Acting-Chair Sharon Cadeau, MNO COO Brian Black, MNO Post-Secondary Rep Ryan Lafleur, Métis fiddler Andrew Delbaere-Sawchuk.

Partnership supports Métis Post-secondary education

The Métis Nation of Ontario is proud to announce the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding with Yorkville University. The agreement will help expand post-secondary education opportunities for Métis citizens and reflects a shared commitment to supporting Métis learners and strengthening pathways to education and career development. Yorkville University will provide several supports aimed at helping MNO citizens access and pursue their studies. These include a waived application fee and tuition bursaries for Métis citizens enrolling in programs at Yorkville University and Toronto Film School. Additional bursaries will also be available to MNO employees and their immediate

family members who choose to study at the institution. Métis students who attend Yorkville will also have the opportunity to participate in Yorkville University’s Indigenous Student Advisory Council. The council helps ensure Indigenous perspectives inform the university’s approach to Indigenous education and student supports. The MNO is pleased to build this partnership with Yorkville University and remains committed to supporting Métis citizens as they pursue new educational opportunities. For more information, please contact admissions@yorkvilleu.ca. ∞



Above: Tony Davis, Manager of Capital Projects in the Housing and Infrastructure branch presenting at the Métis Housing Solutions Workshop hosted by the Métis National Council in Ottawa.

Stronger Métis-led housing through national collaboration

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) took part in the Métis Housing Solutions Workshop, contributing to national discussions on Métis-led housing approaches. The two-day workshop hosted by the Métis National Council (MNC) brought together staff and leadership from Métis governments, federal partners, and housing experts to advance solutions rooted in Métis priorities and realities. Participants included representatives from the MNO and Otipemisiwak Métis Government (OMG), alongside federal partners such as Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN), and Hous-

ing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC). Discussions focused on key issues impacting Métis housing, including housing trends, governance in housing delivery, workforce considerations, and culturally grounded, eco-smart housing design. The workshop also created space to share knowledge, strengthen partnerships, and identify practical approaches to improving housing outcomes for Métis citizens. MNO representatives presented on the upcoming MNO housing census, as well as current programs and services supporting Métis citizens across Ontario. MNO continues to advance Métis-led housing solutions in partnership with others, supporting the needs of Métis citizens and communities across Ontario. ∞

Captains' Corner

Métis stewardship safety, and shared responsibility on Ontario's waterways

Safe travel on De'leau
(the Water)



BEFORE HEADING OUT

- Wear a properly fitted life jacket or personal flotation device
- Check weather and water conditions before leaving
- Share your travel plan and location with someone you trust
- Carry required safety equipment and a first aid kit
- Follow the 1/3 fuel rule: 1/3 out, 1/3 back, 1/3 in reserve
- Inspect your boat, drain plug, steering, motor, and equipment
- Never boat while impaired. Clear judgement keeps everyone safer



PROTECTING DE'LEAU

- Clean plants, mud, algae, and debris from boats, trailers, and gear
- Drain standing water from plugs, wells, and equipment
- Dry your boat and gear thoroughly before entering another waterbody
- Disinfect equipment, when possible, especially when moving between water systems

These small actions help protect wetlands, fisheries, and future harvesting areas.



We share a responsibility to travel safely and protect the health of De'leau.

What enters the water –waste, fuel, debris or invasive species–can come back to our fish, our families, and our communities. Caring for the water helps ensure it continues to sustain future generations.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable spring and summer season.

– Captains' of the Hunt



Photo credit:
Todd J. Morris / DFO

SPECIES HIGHLIGHT QUAGGA MUSSELS: Small Species, Lasting Impact

Quagga mussels (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) are an invasive freshwater species found in parts of Ontario's waterways.

THE IMPACT OF QUAGGA MUSSELS

- Spread easily on boats, trailers, docks, and gear.
- Reproduce rapidly – up to 1 million eggs per female each season.
- Threaten aquatic ecosystems by disrupting fish habitat and food sources.
- Prevent their spread: clean, drain, dry boats and equipment.

HOW TO REPORT AN INVASIVE SPECIES:
Call: 1-800-563-7711
Email: info@invadingspecies.com
Website: EDDMapS.org/Ontario

or scan the QR code here:



DON'T GIVE MUSSELS A FREE RIDE • SPREAD THE WORD – NOT THE INVASIVE SPECIES



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

For MNO citizens

DID YOU KNOW?

- MNO has a dedicated Emergency Management team supporting citizens before, during, and after emergencies
- We help Métis communities prepare, prevent, respond, and recover

STAY CONNECTED

Visit: metisnation.org (search Emergency Preparedness)
Email: ContactUs@metisnation.org or scan the QR code for emergency alerts, resources, and updates.



SUMMER SAFETY FOCUS



72-HOUR PREPAREDNESS

Extreme weather can happen without warning. Every household should be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours during an emergency.

ESSENTIALS TO HAVE READY:

FOOD AND
DRINKING WATER

COMMUNICATION DEVICES
AND CHARGERS

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES
KIT

A HOUSEHOLD
EMERGENCY PLAN

Visit the MNO [Emergency Management webpage](#) and [Emergency Preparedness Infographic](#) for tips on building your 72-hour emergency kit.



CAMPER SAFETY

- Inspect propane lines for leaks, kinks, or damage
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms for operation.

If your camper doesn't have one and you are in need, please email ContactUs@metisnation.org with "EM-Smoke/CO Alarm" in the subject line (supplies are limited).



HOME MAINTENANCE

Summer home maintenance can help avoid costly and potentially dangerous winter home conditions – things to consider this season:

- Inspect insulation, ventilation, and chimneys. Clear window wells to ensure water drains properly and does not enter through windows.
- Protect against water intrusion by clearing window wells and testing sump pumps.
- Keep heating systems running efficiently with regular furnace filter replacements and maintenance.

LANDS, RESOURCES, AND CONSULTATIONS



Métis citizens shaping the future of climate action

MNO releases Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has released its new Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy—a community-driven roadmap focused on protecting lands, waters, and Métis ways of life for generations to come. Shaped by the voices and experiences of Métis citizens across the province, the Strategy highlights how climate change is already being felt in everyday life. From shorter and less predictable harvesting seasons to increased wildfires, flooding, and extreme weather, these changes are impacting not only the environment, but also culture, health, and community connections. At its core, the Strategy outlines six key priorities that will guide action moving forward:

- Métis Responsibilities to Care for All Our Relations
- Health and Well-Being
- Emergency Management
- Prosperity in a Low-Carbon Economy

- Sustainable Energy and Infrastructure
- Planning for Seven Generations

Grounded in Métis knowledge, values, and lived experience, the Strategy emphasizes the importance of Métis-led solutions—ensuring communities are supported to adapt, build resilience, and take part in a changing economy. It also recognizes that climate change does not impact everyone equally, and highlights the need for inclusive, community-based approaches that leave no citizen behind. This work will continue through the implementation of Regional Climate Action Plans, which will bring the Strategy to life at the local level, reflecting the unique priorities, environments, and cultures of Métis communities across Ontario. Together, this Strategy sets a strong path forward—supporting Métis citizens today while helping ensure a healthy, sustainable future. ∞



HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Building bright futures for Métis youth and families

Stronger partnerships and supports across Ontario

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) continued its work to strengthen supports for Métis families and youth through a series of meetings and site visits in Thunder Bay. MNO President Margaret Froh, CEO Dale LeClair, Provincial Secretary Mitch Case, Provincial Secretary Kathleen Anderson, and Director of Education and Training Bryanna Scott-Kay met with community partners to discuss ongoing developments in child care facilities in Penetanguishene and Thunder Bay, as well as future planning for the Powley Institute. These discussions are part of broader efforts to expand access to culturally grounded services for Métis citizens across the province. While in Thunder Bay, meetings also focused on the new youth transition home—an important community partnership supporting all Indigenous youth as they move toward independence. Time spent on the ground with partners reinforces the MNO’s commitment to ensuring programs and services reflect the needs and priorities of Métis families and youth across Ontario. ∞



TWO GREAT PROJECTS: (Above left and right) MNO leadership and Education & Training staff visited two Thunder Bay sites connected to ongoing child care developments and the new youth transition home.

Daughter of Red River Native Penetang Lady 95 Mother's Day

Midland, May 8—Sunday, Mother's Day, will be the 95th birthday of Mrs. Charles Longlade, pioneer resident of Penetanguishene.

Born at Highland Point, across the bay from the town, she can recall when Penetanguishene was a cedar swamp with a scattering of Indian wigwams and fishing shanties. Mrs. Longlade is the daughter of the



Mrs. Longlade

was born at Fort Garry, Red River, in 1820, and, in 1842, settled at Highland Point. Mrs. Longlade was born in 1847.

Married in Penetanguishene, 76 years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Longlade had three sons, Frank, 74, Charles, 72, Joseph, 70, and one daughter, Mary, 68. There are 26 grandchildren. Her husband died four years ago. One grandson, Xavier, was killed in the great war. Three grandsons now are serving in the Canadian army, one in England.

Mr. and Mrs. Longlade worked together most of their life, he a choreman, she as a cook, in many lumber camps. Mrs. Longlade's memory is still keen and she can remember Father Proulx and Father Clarest, pioneer missionaries. She recalls that during the influenza epidemic in 1900 she protected her

A very special Mother's Day

A May 1942 Toronto Star article, for example, celebrated a very special Mother's Day for Georgian Bay Métis Community matriarch, Elizabeth Longlade (nee Dusome) of Penetanguishene. Elizabeth was one of the "pioneer" members of the Georgian Bay Métis Community whose love and resilience helped to maintain their Métis community's traditions and solidarity in the generations following its relocation to Penetanguishene from Drummond Island after the War of 1812.

These incredible Métis matriarchs and many others like them continue to be remembered and celebrated within their Métis communities each and every Mother's Day. ∞



Deep Connections throughout the Métis homeland

Most people are aware of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Community's deep and rich history. But did you know it also has strong historical and contemporary connections throughout the Métis Nation Homeland? Elzéar Goulet, second-in-command of the Métis militia under Louis Riel during the Red River Resistance, became a martyr of the movement and had close family ties to the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Community. His grandmother, Louise Roussain, and the Nolin family were from the Upper Great Lakes and helped maintain longstanding connections between the Sault Ste. Marie and Red River Métis communities. ∞



SAVE THE MOTHERS



IN MEMORY OF PHIL MCGUIRE, CAPTAIN OF THE HUNT



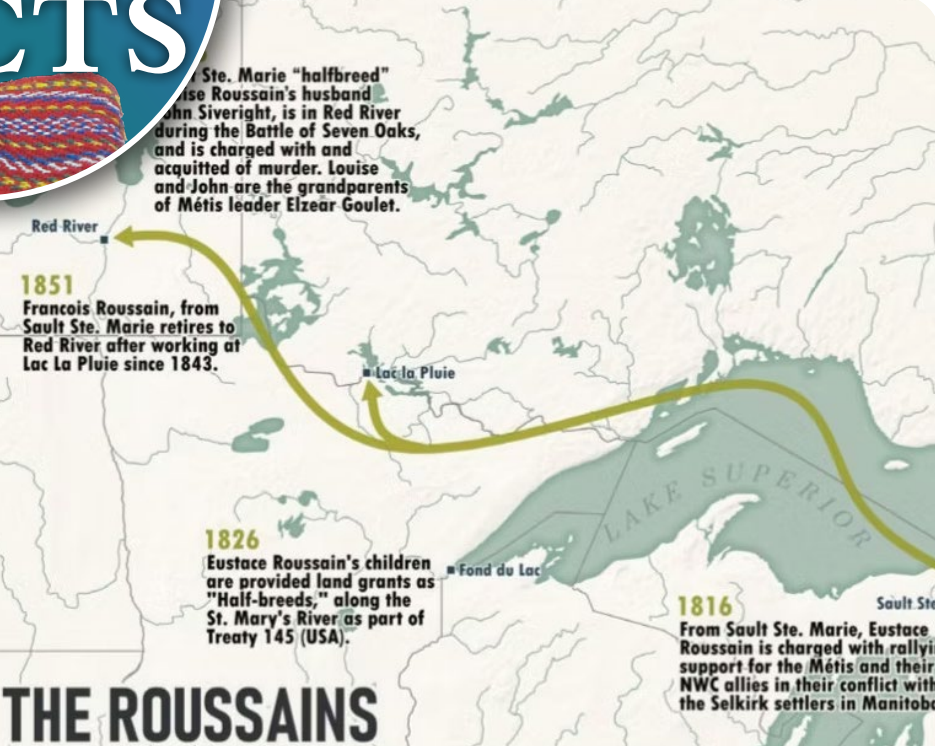
Métis Fishing and Resistance in Nipigon

For generations, family fishing has been central to the traditional Métis way of life in the Upper Great Lakes' Northern Lake Superior Historic Métis Community, particularly among Métis families around Lake Nipigon. Attempts to impose government fishing regulations sparked collective organizing and resistance. Families like the McGuires continued to uphold a strong commitment to conservation and protecting the region's natural heritage.

Before his passing, Métis Elder and Captain of the Hunt Phil McGuire led the "Save the Mothers" campaign, helping spawning walleye mothers reach their spawning grounds and leaving behind a lasting legacy of stewardship and enduring Métis fishing traditions. ∞



THE ROUSSAINS



1851 Francois Roussain, from Sault Ste. Marie, retires to Red River after working at Lac La Pluie since 1843.

1826 Eustace Roussain's children are provided land grants as "Half-breeds," along the St. Mary's River as part of Treaty 145 (USA).

1816 From Sault Ste. Marie, Eustace Roussain is charged with rallying support for the Métis and their NWC allies in their conflict with the Selkirk settlers in Manitoba.

St. Marie "halfbreed" Eustace Roussain's husband John Siveright, is in Red River during the Battle of Seven Oaks, and is charged with and acquitted of murder. Louise and John are the grandparents of Métis leader Elzéar Goulet.

Métis Advocates: The Roussain Family

The Roussain family of the historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis community played a significant role in Métis history across the Upper Great Lakes and Red River. In 1816, Eustace Roussain supported Cuthbert Grant during the Battle of Seven Oaks, while Louise Roussain and her husband John Siveright also maintained strong ties to the conflict and Métis resistance. Their descendants, including Joseph Goulet and her son Elzéar Goulet, continued these connections through Red River and support for Louis Riel's provisional government. Grounded in Upper Great Lakes Métis identity, the Roussain family's legacy of leadership and kinship across the Métis Homeland continues today. ∞



COMMUNITY



TORONTO & YORK REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL

Council celebrates community through sports, music, and culture

The MNO Toronto York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) has remained active this spring, bringing citizens and community members together through a variety of cultural and community events across Toronto.

On March 29, TYRMC citizens gathered to attend a Toronto Sceptres game as part of the team's Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration. Community members enjoyed cheering on the home team while sharing the experience with

fellow Métis citizens, making for a memorable day of connection and celebration.

Throughout April and May, TYRMC also participated in the City of Toronto's inaugural Métis Fiddle Concert Series, a four-part event hosted at several historic museum sites across the city. The series featured acclaimed Métis fiddler Alicia Blore, accompanied by guitarist Jacob Wanuch, while Megan Southwell led interactive jigging lessons for attendees. TYRMC Senator Paul Irvine shared insights into the his-

tory and evolution of Métis fiddle music at each event.

The series began on April 26 at Scarborough Museum. Blessed with beautiful spring weather, attendees of all ages enjoyed an afternoon of music, dancing, and learning outdoors.

The second concert took place on May 2 at Gibson House. During the performance, Jacob Wanuch introduced an original composition and invited audience members to join in singing the chorus. Following the concert, Senator Paul Irvine, Alicia Blore,

and Jacob Wanuch participated in a question-and-answer session, engaging attendees in discussions about Métis history, culture, and traditional instruments.

On May 13, the third concert was held at Montgomery's Inn, where audience members enthusiastically interacted with the performers and contributed thoughtful questions throughout the event.

The concert series concluded on May 22 at Colborne Lodge. The final performance featured music, dancing, and plenty of

audience participation. Attendees joined in by playing spoons alongside Alicia Blore and Jacob Wanuch, while Megan Southwell's lively jigging demonstrations encouraged many to try jigging themselves.

TYRMC extends its gratitude to the City of Toronto, Isabel Zaw-Tun and her team, and Toronto Museums & Heritage Services for hosting and supporting this successful celebration of Métis culture, music, and community. ∞

NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL

Council hosts pie-making and canning workshop

Submitted by
Lisa Boivin-Rutherford
South West Region (Region 9)
Manager

The Niagara Region Métis Council proudly welcomed citizens for a hands-on Pie Making and Canning Workshop in February which focused on food preservation, cultural teachings, and community connection.

Saddened by the recent passing of Secretary Kelly Brishke, the Council hosted the workshop in her honour; recognizing the importance of gathering, sharing knowledge, and continuing the work she cared deeply about. With the support of Councillor Lorraine Martin and Senator Gerry, the day became not only a learning opportunity, but also a quiet tribute to Kelly's dedication to community.

Participants began the day learning about the canning process, from safe preparation techniques to the importance

of preserving seasonal harvests. The workshop highlighted how food preservation connects to traditional Métis practices of sharing, caring for family, and ensuring that nothing goes to waste. These teachings reflect longstanding values of self-sufficiency, stewardship, and community responsibility.

Following the learning session, participants rolled up their sleeves to put knowledge into action. Together, they prepared pastry dough, created fillings, and assembled pies while exchanging stories, laughter, and memories. The room was filled not only with the comforting aroma of fresh ingredients, but with the warmth of community connection.

Attendees returned home with ready-to-bake pies and extra dough to use later, a sweet reminder of a meaningful day rooted in learning, tradition, remembrance, and togetherness. ∞



Above: MNO citizens gathered at the Niagara Region Métis Council's Pie Making and Canning Workshop, a day of learning, cultural teachings, and community connection held in honour of late Council Secretary Kelly Brishke.

MÉTIS YOUTH CAMPS



Youth from across the province made their way to Camp Kawartha for the 2026 Infinite Reach March Break Camp.

Infinite ∞ Reach

Métis students explore land-based learning at March Break camp

Métis students in grades 10–12 gathered at Camp Kawartha for the 2026 Infinite Reach March Break Camp—a five-day experience from March 16 to 20 centred on Métis culture, learning, and connection.

Nestled along the scenic shores of Clear Lake near Peterborough, Ontario, the camp provided a welcoming setting for students to connect, build friendships, and take part in shared learning.

Students arrived to camp in the late afternoon and got acquainted with their sleeping quarters for the next four days. They took part in icebreaker activities, reviewed safety guidelines, and enjoyed a hearty dinner to kick off the March Break Camp.

The following morning, students gathered in the camp's main hall to learn about MNO programs and services available to support them as they pursue post-secondary pathways. This session introduced the Infinite Reach Student

Solidarity Network—the camp's central theme and the MNO's mentorship program for Métis post-secondary students across the province.

Throughout the academic year, Infinite Reach Facilitators connect mentees with culturally relevant programs, services, and supports that enhance their academic experience. With many campers preparing to begin their post-secondary journeys, the camp's focus on Infinite Reach provided them with valuable tools, guidance, and a strong foundation for success.

The same morning, the campers enjoyed an engaging session on species endangerment and lake/water conservation led by Thames Bluewater Métis Council Senator Kevin Rath, who joined on behalf of the MNO Great Lakes Advisory Council. That afternoon, students headed out on a snowshoe hike, where they learned about local flora and practiced fire-starting using flint and steel. Before dinner, they returned to camp for

a spile-making lesson in recognition of maple syrup season.

On day three, students participated in an orienteering activity, using compasses to navigate the surrounding forest and locate checkpoints. After lunch, they continued fostering their outdoor skills with a winter survival lesson, learning how to construct a quinzhee—a Canadian snow shelter made from a large pile of loose snow that is shaped, then hollowed—and create stable shelter using a tarp and rope. The day wrapped up with an embroidery workshop followed by a campfire social.

During the final full day of camp, students explored the significance of the Métis sash and took part in a finger-weaving workshop. In the afternoon, they enjoyed a Métis music lesson and spent time outdoors learning traditional games and dances.

As their time at camp came to an end, the students gathered for a special closing ceremony to reflect on their

experiences, offer a prayer, thank the dedicated MNO staff, and celebrate the youth graduating from the program. The evening also welcomed six new members to the camp community through a sash presentation. Among the eight other campers are many returning participants who enjoy the experience so much that they come back camp after camp.

"It's rewarding to see students genuinely engaged and excited about these camps," says Métis Youth Culture Camp Project Coordinator André Nault. "Even more meaningful are the lifelong connections formed here, helping to build a strong sense of community."

Students departed Camp Kawartha with lasting memories, new friendships, and a deeper appreciation for the knowledge and traditions shared throughout the experience.

Maarsii to this year's students and staff who made the week unforgettable. ∞



Financier of Choice for Métis Entrepreneurs

Whether you're looking to grow your existing business or start a new one, MVDF is here to help. We offer qualified applicants preferred financing, expert business planning, and ongoing support to ensure long-term success.

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Youth from across the province gathered in Thunder Bay for the 2026 MNO Youth Culture Camp.

Métis youth gather to learn, harvest, and connect

Fishing, hiking, harvesting, crafting, and evenings around the campfire helped bring Métis youth together in Thunder Bay for the 2026 MNO Youth Culture Camp, held May 1 to 4 at Fort William Historical Park. The four-day camp gave participants the opportunity to explore Métis culture, history, land-based learning, and one another through a variety of hands-on activities and shared experiences. Facilitated by the MNO Education and Training branch, the camp created space for youth to strengthen

cultural connections while learning practical outdoor and harvesting skills. The camp began with icebreakers, local Métis history sessions, and lessons focused on safety on the land and water, helping youth build connections while learning important outdoor skills. Participants were also introduced to fishing basics before ending the evening around the campfire. Throughout the weekend, youth took part in a wide range of outdoor and cultural activities. Day two focused on harvesting on the water, where participants

learned fishing techniques and explored the fish species found throughout the Upper Great Lakes and surrounding river systems. Although weather conditions were challenging at times, the evening still included a fish fry, cultural crafting, and more time gathered around the campfire. On the third day, participants explored harvesting on the land with a hike through Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park and teachings about local plants. Fun-filled games

and a closing ceremony at Height of Land helped bring the experience to a meaningful close. The MNO Youth Culture Camp created space for young Métis to strengthen cultural connections, learn valuable land-based skills, and build lasting friendships while spending time together on the land. ∞



FORT FRANCES • SAULT STE MARIE

Métis communities taking steps to sustainability through solar

Two Métis communities in Ontario are taking another step toward sustainability. New solar installations are now helping power MNO office buildings: the Sunset Country Métis Council buildings in Fort Frances and three buildings on John Street in Sault Ste. Marie, supporting cleaner energy use and long-term sustainability. Part of the broader MNO Solar Panel Program, the initiative brings renewable energy to both citizens' homes and MNO-owned buildings where installation is possible. The new grid-tied solar systems use net metering to send excess energy back to the provincial grid during peak sunlight hours and draw power when needed, providing reliable energy without the need for costly battery systems. "Seeing solar power installed at the Sunset Country Métis Council Fort Frances office and hall is an exciting step forward for the community," says Northwestern Ontario Métis Community PCMNO Councillor Theresa Stenlund. "This project reflects our commitment to protecting



Above (left): Solar panels being installed in Sault Ste. Marie and Sunset Country Métis Council buildings in Fort Frances (right).

the environment while investing in sustainable solutions that will benefit future generations of Métis citizens." "The solar installations in Sault Ste. Marie are a meaningful example of how our communities can lead by example in environmental stewardship," says Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community PCMNO Councillor Mitch Case. "By embracing renewable

energy, we're creating more sustainable community spaces and contributing to a cleaner future for Ontario." ∞

Mental Health Week highlights the importance of connection and care

Every year Mental Health Week provides an opportunity for Métis citizens across Ontario to learn, connect, and explore practical approaches to supporting mental wellness. This past May, MNO Community Wellbeing branch staff realized a variety of workshops, discussions, and community outreach activities.

Here are some highlights:

- As part of the MNO Mental Wellness Connection Series, participants joined a virtual session exploring resilience and grit. The discussion focused on strategies for navigating difficult emotions and building resilience in everyday life.
- Even small moments of self-care can make a meaningful difference. During a wellness workshop for busy moms, participants explored strategies for supporting their mental health while balancing the demands of daily family life.
- More than 150 local service providers gathered in North Bay to learn about the MNO Mental Wellness Program and other supports available to Métis citizens while strengthening connections



Above: Photos showcasing the Community Wellbeing Wellness Room, which offers event participants a quiet space to pause, recharge, and reflect. The initiative has been featured at several MNO gatherings, including the 32nd Annual General Assembly, 2025 Family Rendezvous, and 2026 ELCC Conference.

across the community.

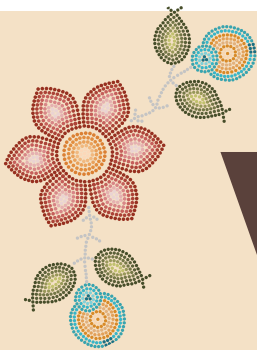
While Mental Health Week helps shine a spotlight on wellness, the MNO offers mental health supports, resources, and learning opportunities to Métis communities year-round.

One of the newer additions is the Wellness Room. Over the past year, Wellness Rooms have been featured at the MNO Annual General Assembly, Family Rendezvous, and Early Learning and Child Care Conference. Designed as a calming space where

participants can pause, recharge, and reflect, the rooms offer a variety of activities and resources that encourage rest, connection, and self-care.

Whether through workshops, community outreach, educational opportunities, or dedicated

wellness spaces, the MNO remains committed to helping Métis citizens access the tools and supports they need to thrive. ∞



VOLUNTEER of the YEAR AWARD



Do you know an outstanding Métis citizen whose hard work deserves recognition?

Nominate them for the Volunteer of the Year Award!

Deadline for submissions:
August 7, 2026



3rd Annual Youth Wise Ones Gathering returns in Thunder Bay

*What does the water say?
Are you listening?
Can you hear her?*

This August, Métis youth, elders and community leaders will gather in Thunder Bay to share knowledge, discuss the future of the Great Lakes, and strengthen connections to the waters that have sustained Métis communities for generations.

Taking place on August 13, 2026, the 3rd Annual Youth Wise Ones Gathering will bring together MNO youth, Community Council Presidents, Senators, and Captains of the Hunt for a day of learning, discussion, and connection. Participants will be invited to share their perspectives on the Great Lakes, their watersheds, and the role these waters play in the health and well-being of Métis communities.

Hosted by the MNO Great Lakes Advisory Group in conjunction with the MNO Youth Leadership Conference and Annual General Assembly (AGA),

the gathering will be held near the historic Mountain Portage Trail on the Kaministiquia River. This important route once connected Great Lakes Métis communities with communities to the north and west, offering a meaningful setting to reflect on the deep relationship between Métis people and the waters that have long supported travel, trade, harvesting, and community life.

This year's gathering will focus on Lake Superior and the Great Lakes Basin—the health of these waters, the communities that depend on them, and the shared responsibility to protect them for future generations. Through intergenerational dialogue and knowledge sharing, participants will explore how Métis knowledge, experience, and stewardship can help guide future conversations about the Great Lakes.

The ideas, experiences, and perspectives shared throughout the gathering will help inform ongoing discussions about water stewardship and support future work led by the Great Lakes Advisory Group. ∞



Above: **Thames Bluewater Métis Council Senator Kevin Rath, Northwestern Ontario Métis Community Regional Councillor Theresa Stenlund and youth Hayden Stenlund at the Youth 2025 Youth Wise Ones Gathering.**



Above: **The symbolic First Maple Tapping Event at the Art Gallery of Algoma marking the start of the maple season, with the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council and the Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community present.**

First tapping event celebrates maple season in Sault Ste. Marie

Submitted by
Mitch Case, PCMNO Councillor - Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community

The symbolic First Maple Tapping Event at the Art Gallery of Algoma marked the start of the maple season, with the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council and the Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community honoured to be represented.

Council Chair Samantha Case attended alongside Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community Policy Analyst Ethan Roy, joining maple producers, agri-food partners, and community leaders for this important milestone. The ceremony featured a symbolic first tap, brief remarks, and opportunities to connect with those who help sustain and grow the maple

sector in Northern Ontario.

Métis people have deep and longstanding connections to maple sugar harvesting in the Sault Ste. Marie region. For generations, Métis families harvested sap, produced maple sugar, and contributed to the local economy while maintaining strong relationships with the land. Events like this provide an opportunity to recognize that legacy while celebrating the continued growth of the maple industry today.

The Huron-Superior Region looks forward to working with conference organizers and community partners to share its rich Métis history and enduring connection to maple sugar—both historically and today—as Sault Ste. Marie prepares to welcome guests from across North America this fall. ∞

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SOUTH WEST REGION

South West strengthening connections with citizens

Submitted by
Lisa Boivin-Rutherford,
South West Region Manager

The South West Region continues to enhance communication across the region through regular collaboration and new outreach initiatives. Monthly leadership meetings held at the Guelph and London MNO offices provide opportunities to discuss priorities, upcoming initiatives, and ways to support citizen engagement.

In May 2026, the region launched a new website to serve as a hub for regional news, events, council updates, resources, and engagement opportunities, making it easier for citizens to stay informed and connected.

The region has also expanded its communications efforts

through quarterly Koffee with Kathleen virtual Zoom sessions hosted by PCMNO Regional Councillor Kathleen Anderson. These sessions provide citizens with an opportunity to hear updates, ask questions, and take part in open discussion with leadership. Please see the QR code below to register for the next session.

In addition, the South West Region quarterly newsletter shares updates on regional initiatives, community stories, council activities, and upcoming events.

Through these ongoing efforts, the South West Region is strengthening connections, improving access to information, and creating more opportunities for citizens to engage with regional leadership. ∞



Above: Leadership from the MNO South West Region connecting with community members and participating in monthly meetings to discuss priorities, upcoming initiatives, and ways to support citizen engagement.

Visit the MNO
South West
Region website:
bit.ly/4gsoakt



Register for
Koffee with
Kathleen:
bit.ly/4uGdOKs



SOUTH WEST REGION

South West Region expands community engagement on Métis Self-Government

Submitted by
Lisa Boivin-Rutherford,
South West Region Manager

Earlier this year, the MNO South West Region hosted 10 community engagement sessions focused on Métis Self-Government across Southwestern Ontario. Titled Conversation and Community Meals: Métis Self-Government, the sessions gave citizens an opportunity to learn more about the Self-Government journey, ask questions, discuss the developing constitution process, and connect with one another over a shared meal.

Sessions were hosted in Hamilton, Brantford, Chatham, Windsor, Stratford, Guelph, Sarnia, Exeter, St. Catharines, and Welland.

Thanks go out to the Clear Waters Métis Council, Thames Bluewater Métis Council, and Niagara Region Métis Council for their partnership in hosting these meetings and supporting community dialogue.

The region also recognizes PCMNO South West Regional Councillor Kathleen Anderson, Ryan Schubert, Michelle Dionne, and Kaitlyn Anderson-

Michell for their contributions to the sessions, as well as South West Regional Manager Lisa Boivin-Rutherford for coordinating communications and logistics.

Citizens are encouraged to watch their email and regional communications channels for future updates and upcoming engagement opportunities.

Maarsii to everyone who helped make these gatherings meaningful and community-centred. The South West Region looks forward to continuing these conversations and creating more opportunities for citizens to connect as part of the Self-Government journey. ∞



Right: MNO South West Region and members of the Self-Government team hosting community engagement sessions across the region to discuss our Self-Government journey.

ABITIBI INLAND MÉTIS COMMUNITY

Métis entrepreneurs recognized in local pitch competition

Couzy Tree Services awarded \$10,000 grand prize

The Abitibi Inland Métis Community is proud to announce the winners of its Second Annual Business Pitch Competition, an initiative designed to support and celebrate Métis entrepreneurship across the region.

This year, ten Métis-owned businesses submitted applications to the competition. Following a review process, six finalists were selected to present their business pitches to a panel of judges representing Kidd Operations, the event sponsor, The Venture Centre, and the

Chapleau Métis Council.

The competition's grand prize of \$10,000 was awarded to Couzy Tree Services, a Métis-owned business operated by Patrick Cousineau of Cochrane, Ontario. Couzy Tree Services provides a range of professional tree care services, including tree removal, trimming, and stump grinding. The funding will help support the continued growth and development of the business.

The competition also highlighted the achievements of Austin, a 17-year-old Métis

entrepreneur and owner of Rustic Rhythms DJ Services. Austin impressed judges with his professional business pitch and was awarded \$5,000 to purchase a trailer for transporting his DJ equipment between events.

Building on the success of its first two years, the Abitibi Inland Métis Community plans to continue offering the Business Pitch Competition annually to encourage Métis business ownership, foster economic development, and support the next generation of entrepreneurs. ∞



Above: Pat Cousineau (right) was presented with a \$10,000 cheque from PCMNO Councillor Jacques Picotte as the Grand Prize winner of the Region 3 business pitch contest.

Young entrepreneur turns creativity into community impact

3D entrepreneur making a difference

Young entrepreneur Zak, founder of Printy McPrintFace, combined creativity and community spirit through a special Mother's Day fundraising campaign this May.

By selling 3D-printed heart stands, Zak raised an impressive \$630 for the Timmins and District Hospital Breast Wellness Centre, helping support breast

wellness services in the region. His thoughtful initiative honoured mothers and caregivers while making a meaningful difference for local patients and families.

Congratulations to Zak on this inspiring example of youth entrepreneurship, generosity, and community leadership. ∞



Above: Youth entrepreneur Zak poses next to his 3D-printed heart phone stands that he sold to raise funds for Timmins and District Hospital Breast Wellness Centre.

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada stated that the Métis experiences of Residential Schooling has been overlooked and that much is still unknown. The Métis Experience in Residential Schools Research Project project seeks to gather information about this important subject.

Interviewers will speak to people who have knowledge of the Métis experiences of Residential Schools, Industrial Schools, and Day Schools. Information from the interviews will guide future research.

To learn more, visit the website:



Reach the project team directly at MERSRP@metisnation.org or 613-482-0207. Please provide your name and contact information.

We understand that some of this information may be triggering. If you need immediate assistance, please contact the **24-Hour National Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419**, the **Hope for Wellness Helpline at 1-855-242-3310** or connect to the online chat at www.hopeforwellness.ca, or **Suicide Crisis Helpline by texting 9-8-8**.

Métis Voices

Sharing What Self-Government Means ...

"Our constitution needs to highlight our MNO democratic process."

"(It's) important to have representatives for diverse groups within our community."

"Preservation of our heritage, language and culture"

"(Our) Constitution shouldn't be too long, it should show what we need"

"Bylaws and other laws are best suited for greater depth and detail."

A Message from **President Froh**

I would like to update you on our self-government journey and the Constitution process. This work continues to be guided by the voices, values, and priorities of Métis citizens across the province. Every conversation, question, and piece of feedback helps strengthen this work and brings us closer to a Constitution built by our people and guided by our values.

Altogether, more than 12,000 comments, submissions, and pieces of feedback helped inform the draft Constitution that is now being refined and prepared for broader citizen engagement anticipated this fall. What continues to impress me is just how deeply citizens care about helping shape the future of our government. Citizens have shared thoughtful ideas, important questions, hopes for future generations, and a strong desire to ensure Métis values remain at the centre of this work. A real focus throughout this process has been accessibility. Meeting citizens where they are, and creating opportunities for meaningful participation.

And youth, especially, have shared very clearly that they want more flexible and self-directed learning opportunities, including more video-based information and accessible engagement tools. That feedback is already shaping the next phase of engagement.

We're hopeful that we'll have a preliminary draft Constitution ready to share with citizens later this year, with engagement continuing on the draft throughout 2026 and into 2027. Building on the consultation process undertaken to date through Streams 1-3, the next stage of engagement will continue to have spaces for leadership discussions, regional gatherings, virtual sessions, and province-wide citizen input. These sessions will be another opportunity for citizens to stay informed, ask questions, and continue being part of shaping this work together.



The goal remains the same: to keep citizens at the centre of this process and ensure the Constitution reflects Métis communities here in Ontario.

WHAT IS A CONSTITUTION?

A constitution is a document that outlines the fundamental values and principles—often referred to as the supreme law—by which a Nation or People is organized and governed. A constitution answers the key questions, such as "who are our people", "how do we decide things", "what our government looks like", and "how do we take care of one another?".

WHY IS A CONSTITUTION IMPORTANT?

MNO citizens and Métis Communities in Ontario, and successive MNO Annual General Assemblies have called for the MNO to develop and adopt a Constitution - as Métis Law -instead of continuing to rely on corporate bylaws and related documents.

A constitution is meant to reflect the people and therefore no two constitutions are the same. The MNO's future constitution will reflect us, the Métis in Ontario, and our shared understandings of what the MNO, as our Métis Government, will do for our collective well-being.

WHY ENGAGEMENT MATTERS

Strong governments are built through informed and engaged citizens. Every question, perspective, and conversation help shape our future. At the end of the day, whether the MNO ultimately adopts a Constitution will be in the hands of all our citizens and the Métis Communities in Ontario - where it should be!

BY THE NUMBERS

12,000+

MNO Citizens' comments and submissions

33

Province-wide Roundtable sessions

37

Supplemental Regional Self-Governmental Sessions

26

Province-wide informational sessions

MÉTIS VALUES WORD SEARCH

Find and circle the words in the grid below. Be sure to check backwards, vertically, and diagonally.

P N L N I H H I N R T A C U N N E G A E S I S C G
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- PRESERVATION

RESPECT

WELLNESS

COLLECTIVE RIGHTS

RESILIENCE

JUSTICE
- HONESTY

ACCOUNTABILITY

ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

KINDNESS

RESPONSIBILITY

INCLUSIVITY
- TRANSPARENCY

CONNECTION

EQUALITY

DEMOCRACY

SELF DETERMINATION

HARMONY

IS IT TOO LATE TO GET INVOLVED?

No. It's not too late to begin engaging in the self-government journey. There will continue to be opportunities for citizens to learn more, ask questions, and share feedback as the Constitution process moves forward.

Ways to Get Involved:

- Read self-government information shared through emails, the website, print materials, and more.
- Attend engagement sessions and events.
- Ask questions.
- Share your feedback.
- Vote when the time comes.

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?

Citizens do not need to be experts to participate. Learning, asking questions, and staying informed are all important parts of the journey. Please contact the Self-Government Team with any comments or questions:

**Métis Self-Government Suite 1100,
66 Slater Street, Ottawa, ON K1P 5H1**
Call: 1-800-263-4889 Ext. 7 (One MNO)
E: Self.Government@metisnation.org
www.metisnation.org/Self-Government

LOOKING TO LEARN MORE?

For more background information and all updated details, visit our Linktree:

**[www.linktr.ee/
MNOSelfGovernment](http://www.linktr.ee/MNOSelfGovernment)**



STARS IN OUR SKY



MÉTIS CITIZEN FROM THUNDER BAY RECOGNIZED WITH COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD : Educator, community leader, resident of Thunder Bay and proud Métis citizen Emily Kerton has spent more than 15 years of cumulative volunteer service in her community. Making a lasting impact on the social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of the community, her approach to service is rooted in inclusion, care, and a strong sense of responsibility to the land. Emily's dedication to her community is why she was selected to be the recipient of the 2026 Spirit of Thunder Bay Award. This award recognizes an individual who has volunteered time to improve and enrich the community of Thunder Bay. Emily says that, "when it comes to environmental advocacy, we all have the capacity to do something. Even the smallest action will help in the long run."



BRINGING MÉTIS STORIES TO THE SCREEN: Métis filmmaker and MNO citizen Trevor Cameron is using film to share stories rooted in culture, community, and identity. Cameron says his heritage continues to shape both his personal journey and his creative work. Now based in Toronto, Cameron has built a career telling stories that explore belonging, resilience, and the experiences of Indigenous peoples. As his newest film begins screening at festivals, he hopes it will spark conversations and help increase Indigenous representation in the film industry. Cameron believes storytelling is a powerful way to preserve culture and connect people across communities. Through his work, he aims to inspire future generations of Métis creators while ensuring Métis voices and perspectives continue to be seen and heard.



KNOW A MÉTIS CITIZEN WITH A STORY TO CELEBRATE? Stars in Our Sky highlights Métis citizen achievements in *Métis Voyageur* and online. Scan the code or email CommOps@metisnation.org to share their accomplishments with the MNO community!



TWO WET DOGS MAPLE SYRUP REFLECTS A PASSION FOR THE LAND: For Hunter and Ann, founders of Two Wet Dogs Maple Syrup in Loring, Ontario, maple syrup is more than a business—it's a connection to the land, community, and their Métis heritage. What began as a neighbourhood pastime has grown into an award-winning operation producing up to 900 litres of syrup each year from 1,000 tapped trees. Named after their two Labrador retrievers, the business reflects their values of sustainability, stewardship, and giving back. Hunter's journey reconnecting with his Métis roots has shaped their work and strengthened ties to the Métis community. Through environmentally conscious practices and support for Métis Nation of Ontario initiatives, Hunter and Ann continue to share their knowledge while fostering meaningful connections between people, culture, and the land.



Education
SPOTLIGHT

Madeleine
Rae



MADELEINE RAE is a Métis citizen, illustrator, animator, and Documentation Specialist for the MNO's Early Learning & Child Care team. We had a chance to sit down with Madeleine to learn more about the importance of graphic design and her Métis heritage.



Education
SPOTLIGHT

Skyler
Gruner



SKYLER GRUNER is a Métis citizen, Infinite Reach Facilitator, and exemplary student in Queen's University's Health Sciences program. We sat down with Skyler to learn more about her thoughts on the importance of the Infinite Reach program, science, decolonization on campus, and her Métis heritage.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Council President receives Mayor's Medal

Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC) President Derrick Pont received the Town of Lincoln Mayor's Medal for his leadership and work advancing Indigenous relations in the region.

Presented by Mayor Sandra Easton, this recognition honours individuals, businesses, and leaders who demonstrate outstanding community service, collaboration, and dedication to enhancing the town's quality of life.

Derrick has dedicated 18 years to the NRMC since joining in 2008 and is now in his fourth term as president. In the community, Derrick is known for his contribution to shaping and inspiring young learners. Over the past decade, Derrick has been committed to sharing Métis ways of life, history, and heritage with students. He also spent 15 years volunteering with Scouts Canada.

"It's an honour to be recognized as an Indigenous leader in this community," says Derrick. "To have a municipality acknowledge my commitment to sharing Métis culture and teachings with young learners is deeply meaningful. It reflects a growing respect for our people, our knowledge, and the importance of passing those teachings on to future generations."

On behalf of the Métis Nation of



Above: MNO citizen and Niagara Region Métis Council President Derrick Pont was honoured with the Town of Lincoln Mayor's Medal for his leadership, community service, and commitment to sharing Métis culture and heritage with future generations.

Ontario, we congratulate Derrick for receiving this award. Bravo and maarsii for your hard work. ∞

Métis artist selected for national fibre art exhibition

Submitted by
Greg Garratt, PCMNO Councillor -
 Georgian Bay Métis Community

What began as a way to preserve family memories has grown into a powerful form of storytelling for Georgian Bay Métis community author and quilt artist Theresa Lafrenière Fama.

Theresa has been selected to showcase her work in the Grand National Fibre Art Exhibition. Her quilt, Sweet Water—Droplets in Time, will tour across Canada from June 2026 to June 2027.

Over the years, Theresa's quilting has evolved from a personal creative outlet into a way of sharing Métis history, culture, and lived experiences. Her work has been featured in newspapers, libraries, museums, storytelling groups, quilt guilds, radio programs, and online platforms. In 2024, she joined the Kooskopi Art Collective and has since displayed her quilts at Métis gatherings across Ontario.

"I began quilting for personal reasons—to preserve my childhood memories for future generations to appreciate their ancestors' history," says Theresa. "I never realized it would be such a powerful form of art, capable of conveying feelings, memories, and experiences. It's my passion."



Her selected quilt, Sweet Water—Droplets in Time, weaves together her ancestry with a traditional story about the discovery of sweet water.

Theresa brings this story to life through scenes of women gathering and boiling sweet water and sharing it with French settlers who arrived in Canada years later. Through her quilting, she connects stories of the land, family, and community in a way that invites viewers to reflect on the histories and traditions that continue to shape us today. ∞

For exhibition dates, locations, and more information, please visit: bit.ly/4ec8hgO



Young Métis skater earns bronze at Ontario Provincial Championships

After just six months skating together, 11-year-old Emersyn and her partner weren't expecting to reach the podium at the 2026 Ontario Provincial Championships—but that's exactly what they did.

Competing from March 20–22 in Hamilton, Ontario, the pair stayed focused on skating their best rather than the outcome.

"We felt calm but really excited," Emersyn recalls of the day of the competition. "We went in focused on skating our best and not worrying about the results."

To their delight, Emersyn and her partner placed third, earning a bronze medal.

Emersyn has been figure skating since she was four years old. She enjoys the challenge of the sport and how it continues to push her to improve and reach new goals. "I really enjoy the speed, the artistry, and the control on the ice," she says. The friendships she has built and the coaches she has worked with have also shaped her love of skating.

Over the years, Emersyn and her family have been supported by several MNO programs, including the ELCC Extra-Curricular Program and, more recently, the ELCC Summer Subsidy. These supports have helped reduce financial barriers and made a meaningful difference as the family manages the costs of figure skating.

Looking ahead, Emersyn and her partner will move up to a higher level, where they will continue to train and develop their ice dance skills. Emersyn will also continue competing in singles as she works toward qualifying for Provincials in both disciplines. ∞



Above: Emersyn and her skating partner competing at the 2026 Ontario Provincial Championships in Hamilton.



Above: Grade 12 student and Métis citizen Eleanor posing with her beadwork piece, Turtle Island: A Relationship to Land and Water, which won her first place in the MacLaren Art Centre's 34th Annual Portfolio Exhibition.

Métis student wins first place in art exhibition

Eleanor, a Grade 12 student at Innisdale Secondary School and Métis citizen connected to the Barrie South Simcoe Métis Council, has won first place in the MacLaren Art Centre's 34th Annual Portfolio Exhibition.

The annual exhibition showcases the work of secondary school students from across the region and highlights emerging artistic talent.

Her beadwork piece, Turtle Island: A Relationship to Land and Water, was selected for display at the MacLaren Art Centre from May 2 to May 31. Through beadwork, the piece explores themes of land, water, belonging, and connections to the environment. ∞



PCMNO Meetings

February—April 2026

Over the past several months, Métis leadership from across Ontario have continued work focused on supporting citizens, strengthening communities, and advancing the long-term foundations of Métis self-government in Ontario. Discussions at PCMNO included child and family services, economic development, cultural preservation, governance planning, and infrastructure projects.

Métis Family & Child Project Moving Forward

PCMNO approved the next steps to move forward with the Métis Family Centred Program and to formally request that the MNO be listed as an Indigenous Community under Ontario's child welfare law. For years, citizens have said the child welfare system does not always understand Métis culture or connect families to Métis supports. This new program would allow the MNO to play a stronger role when Métis children and youth are involved with child welfare services, including being notified and participating in decisions that affect them.

The program would operate within the MNO, offering centralized intake and local supports across participating Regions. This decision moves the MNO closer to ensuring Métis children grow up connected to their families, communities, and culture.

Planning for Government Infrastructure

PCMNO received an update from Provincial Secretary Kathleen Anderson on long-term infrastructure planning. Following a June 29 competitive process, Colliers was selected to develop a government infrastructure plan for the MNO.

Work is expected to begin in April or May. The review will assess current buildings, systems, and space needs and develop a long-term growth plan to support the MNO as a Métis government. The final plan is expected by the end of December 2026, with PCMNO reviewing it in early 2027.

Supporting Métis Businesses

PCMNO heard about a new project from PS Anderson, being developed with Chief Strategy Officer Paul Robitaille, to support Métis business owners. The project will include learning sessions, coaching, and practical assignments to help business owners understand how to access procurement and contracting opportunities. This includes contracts with all levels of government and with the MNO. This work complements the strong services offered by the Métis Voyageur Development Fund and recognizes that not all Métis businesses qualify for MVDF programs.

Protecting Historic Métis Buildings

PCMNO discussed the importance of preserving historic Métis buildings in Ontario and the need to act when culturally significant sites may be at risk. Members spoke about the importance of protecting places that help tell the story of Métis families, communities, and presence across Ontario. Protecting them helps ensure Métis history and stories remain visible for future generations.

Members also talked about what is needed to care for

historic buildings. This can include funding, ownership, repairs, long-term care, and future use. While more planning is still needed, PCMNO agreed that setting aside funds would help the MNO be ready to act when important historic buildings need protection.

Chief Electoral Officer Reappointed

PCMNO confirmed the reappointment of Paul DeVillers as the MNO's Chief Electoral Officer for the 2026–27 fiscal year.

Deputy CEO and Chief of Staff Jennifer St. Germain brought forward the recommendation, noting the importance of ensuring elections are conducted fairly and consistently across the province. During the discussion, members also asked about future planning for the role. Staff shared that work is underway to document processes and build internal capacity over time.

Recognizing Métis Businesses

PCMNO approved a new Métis Business Recognition Framework to recognize Métis-owned and Métis-affiliated businesses. This work responds to direction from the 2025 Annual General Assembly and supports long-term economic growth for Métis citizens and communities.

The framework introduces three types of recognition: Verified Métis Business, Métis Family Business, and Métis Affiliated Business. These categories reflect different ways businesses are connected to Métis citizens and communities and will help create clearer pathways to opportunities, including procurement and contracting.

MNOCC Update

President Froh also provided an update on the Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission (MNOCC) and the work underway to strengthen its role. MNOCC has updated its by-laws to align with current non-profit requirements, helping ensure a strong and stable foundation moving forward.

Work is also underway to expand its role, including the development of a land trust. This includes registering with Canada's Ecological Gifts Program, which would allow land to be donated and protected for long-term environmental and community benefit. MNOCC has already acquired some parcels of land and is developing a more formal fund-raising approach. A call for new board members is expected, with a focus on building a skilled and active board to support this next phase of work.

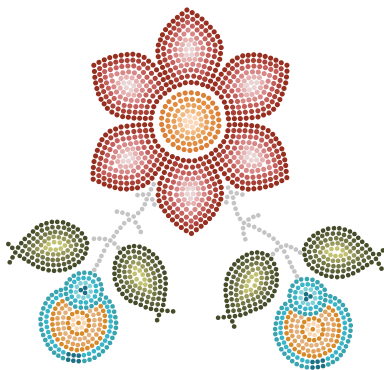
Powley Institute Progress

PCMNO received an update on the continued development of the Powley Institute, where work is steadily moving forward. Recent upgrades to the building include electrical improvements and the installation of electric vehicle charging stations. Revenue from these chargers will help support the Institute's operations. More work is still needed, including accessibility upgrades and zoning approvals. At the same time, the space is already being used for meetings, marking an important step forward. ∞

IN MEMORIAM



Remembering Jean Camirand



The MNO extends heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of Jean Louis Camirand, who passed away on April 26, 2026, at the age of 76.

A proud Métis citizen, decorated Canadian Armed Forces veteran, and respected community leader, Jean dedicated much of his life to service to both to his country and to the Métis community in northwestern Ontario. Within the Thunder Bay Métis Council, Jean served as both President and Senator, offering steady leadership, guidance, and a deep commitment to community and Métis culture.

Born in Fort Frances, Ontario, Jean was known for his love of the outdoors, his passion for hunting and fishing, and his many talents, ranging from woodworking and archery to music and storytelling. Those who knew him remember a man of integrity, humour, and compassion who always made time for others.

Jean remained deeply committed to supporting Indigenous Veterans throughout his life. In 2025, he was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of his dedication to the Indigenous veteran community. Most recently, he helped honour and preserve the final resting places of Indigenous Veterans, reflecting his lifelong respect for remembrance and service.

The MNO honours Jean's many contributions to the Métis community and extends sincere condolences to his children, grandchildren, siblings, extended family, and all who knew him. His leadership, service, and stories will be remembered for years to come. ∞

Scan the QR code to share
a message of condolence
with the family.



Attention Parents of Kids age 0-6 years!

Mini Métis
PLAYGROUP

KINGSTON
107-61 Hyperion Court
9 - 11 AM EST
First Wednesday every month

MIDLAND
845 King Street, Unit 10
9:30 - 11:30 AM EST
First Thursday every month

MINI MÉTIS PLAYGROUPS: Our playgroups are continuing into 2026 in Kingston and Midland for families with children ages 0–6. Enjoy sensory play, crafts, songs, and story time in a relaxed, inclusive space. Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinators and Developmental Resource Consultants will be available to support. **Planning to attend? Contact your local coordinator:**
Kingston – TracyR@metisnation.org
Midland – LisaT@metisnation.org

MÉTIS EARLY LEARNING

SUMMER
CHILDCARE
SUBSIDY PROGRAM

SUMMER CHILD CARE AND DAY CAMP SUBSIDY PROGRAM: The MNO Summer Child Care and Day Camp Subsidy Program is available to eligible Métis families with children aged 5 to 12. The program provides financial support to help cover the cost of child care or day camps during the summer break (late June to Labour Day weekend). Applications are open until October 3.



HOME CHILD CARE
PROGRAM

HOME CHILD CARE PROGRAM: The MNO is pleased to offer start-up support, funding, and professional development to eligible MNO citizens interested in becoming Licensed Home Child Care Providers. This program is open to citizens with a complete registry file and includes ongoing access to resources and training opportunities.



Early Learning & Child Care

∞Tiny
Tribune

MÉTIS KIDS
MÉTIS STORIES
MÉTIS CULTURE

A fun and engaging newsletter for Métis families, filled with crafts, stories, and updates – all rooted in Métis tradition.

READ THE LATEST
ISSUE NOW!

Scan the QR code
to explore!

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

EMERGENCY
REPAIR
PROGRAM

One-time forgivable loan for MNO citizen homeowners to complete emergency health-and-safety repairs

EMERGENCY REPAIR PROGRAM: Applications are still open for the MNO Emergency Repair Program (ERP) which aims to provide low-to-moderate income Métis Citizen home owners with a one-time forgivable loan to complete necessary emergency repairs that would compromise the homes integrity and/or improve accessibility for persons with disabilities up to maximum of \$15,000.00.



Scholar
Talks

CALLING ALL SCHOLARS
& GRAD STUDENTS:

Apply to present your academic research at a *Scholar Talks* event!

SCHOLAR TALKS: Are you an MNO citizen who is a scholar or graduate student? The MNO is seeking virtual presenters for our Scholar Talks series. Scholar Talks is a live event series featuring virtual presentations from Métis scholars and experts across Ontario. Presenters are invited to share their research with the broader Métis community in a 20–30 minute presentation. Interested? Scan the QR code to complete the presenter form.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

HOME BUYERS
CONTRIBUTION
PROGRAM

Up to 15% of purchase price for eligible MNO citizen first-time home buyers

HOME BUYERS CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM: Applications are open for the MNO Home Buyers Contribution (HBC) Program, which helps eligible first-time home buyers with their down payment. The program aims to increase down payments and reduce homeownership costs. The MNO contribution is a no-payment loan registered on title as a shared equity mortgage behind the first mortgage.





August 13 to 16, 2026 • Fort William Historical Park • Thunder Bay

The Métis Nation of Ontario's Annual General Assembly (AGA) is Métis self-government in action. Every year, MNO leadership and citizens from Métis communities across Ontario gather to make their voices heard, review the successes of the past year, and set a course for the coming year. This year's AGA is one that you won't want to miss!

AGA 2026 will be held at Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay from August 14 to 16, 2026. All Métis citizens are encouraged to participate.

As always, the AGA is about strengthening

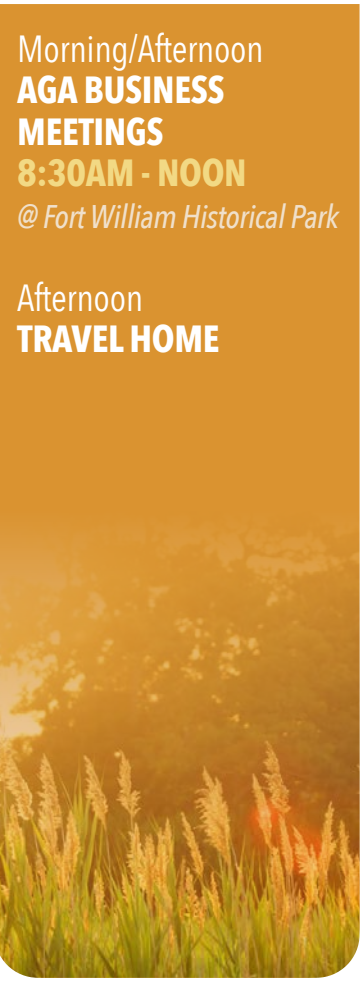
the Nation through governance, gathering, and community. The Northern Superior Region is honoured to welcome citizens from across Ontario and beyond.

We are excited to host the return of the MNO "We Aspire" Golf Tournament, along with business meetings at Valhalla Hotel and Fort William Historical Park. Highlights include the President's Welcome and Canoe Arrival, Camp AGA children's programming, the Kooshkopayiw Métis Art Council Exhibit, vendor fairs, a gala dinner, and more.

REGISTER HERE!
All MNO citizens are encouraged to participate. If you require support with your registration, contact: Events@metisnation.org

For full schedule or more information, visit:
metisnation.org/aga2026
Or scan the QR code:



WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12	THURSDAY AUGUST 13	FRIDAY AUGUST 14	SATURDAY AUGUST 15	SUNDAY AUGUST 16
 WE ASPIRE GOLF TOURNAMENT 12:30 - 5PM Dinner to follow (Registration 11:30AM) @ Strathcona Golf Course Evening Event SENATORS MEETING 6 - 7PM SENATORS MEET & GREET RECEPTION 7 - 9PM @ Valhalla Hotel	 Morning/Afternoon MNO 25+ INTERIM COUNCIL AGM 11:30AM - 1:30PM @ Valhalla Hotel VETERANS' COUNCIL AGM 1:30 - 3:30PM @ Valhalla Hotel Evening Event PRESIDENTS WELCOME AND CANOE LANDING 6 - 7PM @ Fort William Historical Park	 Morning/Afternoon AGA BUSINESS MEETINGS 8:30AM @ Fort William Historical Park All Day Kooshkopayiw ART EXHIBIT & VENDOR FAIR @ Fort William Historical Park Evening Event MNO WOMEN'S COUNCIL MEETING 6:30 - 9PM @ Valhalla Hotel	 Morning/Afternoon AGA BUSINESS MEETINGS 8:30AM @ Fort William Historical Park All Day Kooshkopayiw ART EXHIBIT & VENDOR FAIR @ Fort William Historical Park Evening Event GALA DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT 6 - 9PM @ Fort William Historical Park	 Morning/Afternoon AGA BUSINESS MEETINGS 8:30AM - NOON @ Fort William Historical Park Afternoon TRAVEL HOME

CAMP AGA

The MNO is pleased to offer Camp AGA, a day camp for children during MNO AGA 2026. Available to MNO citizens, delegates, or staff, Camp AGA provides child care for children ages 0-12 during daytime programming led by the amazing MNO Early Learning and Childcare Team.

To access Camp AGA, you must first complete your AGA registration. **Deadline to register for Camp AGA is August 7 at 4:30 PM EST.**



We Aspire
GOLF TOURNAMENT
2026

August 12
Strathcona Golf Course, Thunder Bay

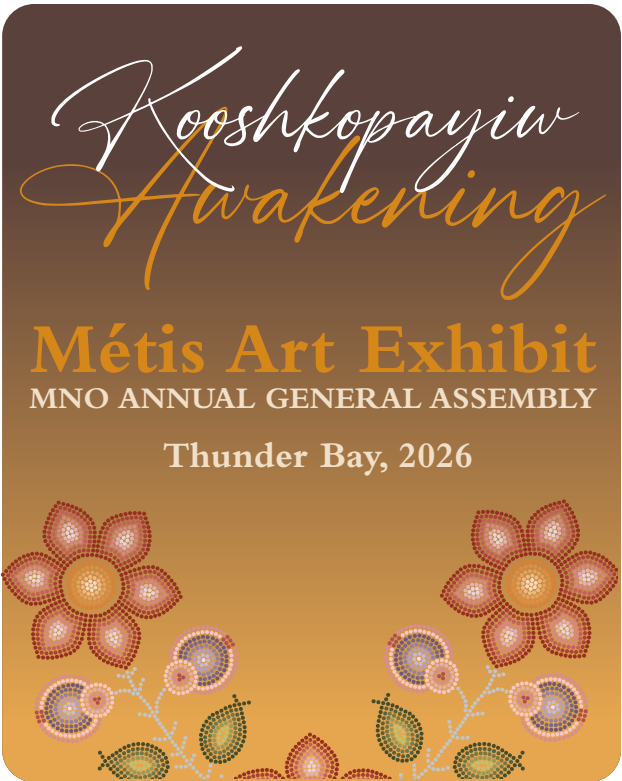
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Métis Art Exhibit
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