

YEAR IN REVIEW

MNO 32nd AGA / MNO Annual Report 2024-25

Name of PCMNO Councilor	Region / Position
Kate Stewart-McNeil	Region 8

Introductory Message about work within the Region in 2024-25

This year in Region 8 we focused on making tangible progress towards fair, accountable, and transparent internal operations, decision-making processes, and collaborative direction setting.

We wrapped up our consultations with Region 8 Community Council leadership on how they wanted to see our Regional Implementation Plan (RIA) brought to life. Our RIA Workplan lays out an incremental approach to building self-governance capacity in a sustainable way throughout Region 8, and it created our Region 8 Regional Self-Governance Committee (R8-RSGC). This committee brings together all three Region 8 Community Councils with the PCMNO Region 8 Councillor and Self-Government branch in quarterly meetings to advance progress towards promoting Region 8 citizens' full participation in MNO's self-governance.

Looking forward to 2026, we hope to realize leadership skills workshops for citizens, fiscal governance skills workshops for elected leaders, self-governance incubators, and greater consistency of access to events and activities for citizens throughout Region 8.

I am grateful for the privilege and honour it is to serve my fellow citizens of Region 8 who live a distance away from the traditional territory of their historic community. We are a vital part of the Métis Nation within Ontario, and we have much to contribute to the self-governance work of our Métis Government. We must know our stories in order to bring the voices of our ancestors forward to guide the next generations. As leaders within the MNO, it is incumbent upon all of us to role model the process of learning, holding, and feeding our stories by sharing them with our relatives every day.

We must also take an unwavering stance on protecting and defending the water, the earth, and her ecosystems. Region 8 events typically begin with prayer, songs, and stories, and conclude with an enviro cleanup. Though it is just a drop in the bucket, we have removed more than six (6) bags of garbage from the environment this year.

Our socials have been very successful, and have offered spaces to connect with fiddle music, jigging, each other, and fun activities like painting plant pots and planting seeds. The more we are able to come together and visit, the less we are alone.

The Gathering of the Wise Oldsters, an initiative created by the TYRMC during the covid-19 lockdown, continued into its fourth iteration this year, and for the first time was officially expanded to welcome citizens 55+ throughout Region 8 to participate in both the gatherings themselves and the steering committee. From Finding our Stories to Honour our Ancestors (year 3) to Connecting our Stories to Honour our Ancestors (year 4), the theme planned for this year will build on the relationships we have established, welcome new folks into the gathering, and expand how we are able to empower each other by listening. Stay tuned for details this fall! Connect with your local Council to learn more!

Highlights and Key Achievements

- R8-CRMC RIA Workplan Review meeting — June 24, 2024
- **Region 8 Environmental Cleanup, JC Saddington Park — July 12, 2024**
- R8-TYRMC RIA Workplan Review meeting — July 29, 2024
- R8-ODRMC RIA Workplan Review meeting — August 12, 2024
- R8 Virtual Wellness Circle — September 10, 2024
- R8 Leadership Townhall — October 3, 2024
- **Region 8 Solstice Social — December 1, 2024**
- R8 & TYRMC collaboration on the R8-wide Gathering of the Wise Oldsters Sessions — November 2024-April 2025 (11 sessions)
- R8 Final Reviews of RIA Workplan — December 18, 2024 & January 13, 2025
- **Region 8 New Year's Social — January 25, 2025**
- R8 RIA Workplan signed — February 26, 2025
- R8 Coronation Medals ceremony — March 31, 2025
- R6 & R8 collaboration meeting — May 6, 2025
- **Region 8 Spring Social — May 25, 2025**
- R6-8-9 Self-Government & LRC meeting — May 31, 2025
- R8-Youth Self-Government engagement — June 15, 2025
- R6-8-9 Association of Municipalities of Ontario engagement — June 30, 2025
- R8 all-Council meeting re: building our understanding of appropriate applications of the duty to consult, with MNO Legal Counsel — July 2, 2025



Meetings / Projects / Partnerships / Committee Participation / Other Activity

Regional Councillor numbers since August 2024:

- 28 PCMNO meetings and workshops
- 7 CRMC meetings
- 4 ODRMC meetings
- 5 TYRMC meetings
- 38 Region 8 various other progress building meetings
- 15 Self-Government Wednesday Roundtables

Initiatives, events, and meetings Region 8 collaborated on and/or attended:

- TYRMC AGM — May 30, 2024
- TYRMC participation in 2S Pow Wow at Downsview Park — June 1, 2024
- MNO Community Well-Being Family Stories event — June 9, 2024
- TYRMC Citizens' Volunteer Town Hall — June 18, 2024
- ODRMC Métis Heritage Celebration — June 22, 2024
- TYRMC participation in National Indigenous Peoples Day at Aga Kahn Museum — June 21, 2024
- R8 Presidents' meeting re: upcoming regional engagements on RIA Workplan — July 11, 2024
- Back to Batoche — July 18-21, 2024
- MNO AGA — August 15-18, 2024
- Presidents' meeting re: upcoming regional engagements on Climate Change, Economic Development, and MNO Land Trust — September 17, 2024
- TYRMC participation in Indigenous Legacy Gathering at Nathan Phillips Square — September 27-30, 2024
- CRMC AGM — September 16, 2024
- TYRMC participation in Indigenous Heritage Engagement Project with City of Toronto — October 15, 2024 (1 of 2)
- MNO Louis Riel Day at Queens Park — November 16, 2024
- TYRMC Louis Riel Day at Toronto City Hall — November 16, 2024
- TYRMC participation in Indigenous Heritage Engagement Project with City of Toronto — November 19, 2024 (2 of 2)
- ODRMC AGM — November 24, 2024
- CRMC Annual Council New Year's dinner — February 2, 2025
- TYRMC Rendezvous — February 21-23, 2025
- MNO Housing & Homelessness conference — March 6-7, 2025
- TYRMC Strategic Planning workshop — April 26, 2025
- TYRMC AGM — May 22, 2025
- R8 MNO Staff open house — May 26, 2025
- CRMC Community Meeting — June 2, 2025
- ODRMC Métis Heritage Celebration — June 21, 2025

Other Comments

PCMNO Liaison to MNO Two Spirit+ Council (MNO2S+C) — 2024-25 Update to AGA

The MNO2S+C held an in-person gathering on March 8-10, 2025. The Council attended to items including: the Performance Measurement Framework development for Pathways to Safety, and MNO's anti-hate and anti-Indigenous racism engagement work. This meeting was possible because of Ontario's Indigenous Women's Advisory Council, with support provided by MNO's Community Well-Being branch. For more details about the Council's work throughout the year, please view their Annual Report to this AGA.

PCMNO Liaison to MNO Women's Council (MNOWC) — 2024-25 Update to AGA

The MNOWC held an in-person meeting on February 22-23, 2025. The Council attended to items including: MNO's anti-human trafficking initiatives, and building a prevention-focused relationship with the OPP to increase safety for Indigenous women and girls. This meeting was possible because of Ontario's Indigenous Women's Advisory Council, with support provided by MNO's Community Well-Being branch. For more details about the Council's work throughout the year, please view their Annual Report to this AGA.

Formalizing the relationship between the Advisory Councils and the PCMNO, and formalizing their governing documents within the Bylaws of the MNO, is a productive step forward that has been long advocated for by both the Women's Council and the Two Spirit+ Council. Doing so would also provide these existing Advisory Councils of the MNO with clear guidance for navigating both future opportunities and challenges. The process of moving the needle on this is underway. It is important that we centre the good work we can achieve when we are working together in collaboration.

It is difficult to witness so many people fighting — that is the broader context in which we find ourselves here in 2025. This truth must be stated so that eventually we can find our way through the conflict and into a more equitable, safer future.

There are opportunities for both the Two Spirit+ Council and the Women's Council, as Advisory Councils of the MNO among their peers, to advise PCMNO on matters related to their unique intersectional lived-experiences and expertise. As leaders serving on PCMNO it serves us well to acknowledge that we don't know everything, and to expand our point of view by seeking to hear diverse perspectives from those willing to share them with us. I hope that in 2025-26 regular and productive meetings between the Two Spirit+ Council, the Women's Council, and the PCMNO can occur, and that through listening to each other we can weave together a stronger future for our Nation.