

2026

Annual General Meeting Package



6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Métis Nation of Ontario

Women's Council

8/14/2026

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Annual General Meeting (AGM) Agenda

August 14, 2026 6:00 – 9:00 PM Delta Hotels Toronto Airport and Conference Centre, Toronto

1. 6:30 PM Call to Order (Establishment of Quorum) (June Smart)
2. Land Acknowledgement (Luanne Cunningham)
3. Opening Prayer (Tina-Marie Jameson)
4. Welcome from President Samantha Loney
5. Greetings from President Margaret Froh
6. Greetings from PCMNO Liaison Kate Stewart-McNeil
7. Four Agreements (Suzanne Fraser)
8. Review Métis Rules of Order (Kim Sanftenberg)
9. Chair's Remarks & Housekeeping (June Smart)
10. Motion 08/14/26-1 Approval of Agenda
11. Motion 08/14/26-2 Approval of Minutes from 2025 AGM
12. Motion 08/14/26-3 Approval of Financial Report as Presented
13. President, Regional Representatives & Elder Reports
14. MNOWC Terms of Reference (Samantha Loney)
15. General Discussion – Charter, Survey, Ordinary Resolution (Samantha Loney)
16. Motions from the Floor
17. Presentations - MNOWC Women Honouring Women Award
18. Closing Prayer (Tina-Marie Jameson)
19. Door Prize Draws (Luanne Cunningham)
20. Adjournment
21. Refreshments & Social Networking

Four Agreements

Agreement #1

Be impeccable with your word – Speak with integrity. Say only what you mean. Avoid using the word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your word in the direction of truth and love.

Agreement #2

Don't take anything personally – Nothing others do is because of you. What others say and do is a projection of their own reality, their own dream. When you are immune to the opinions and actions of others, you won't be the victim of needless suffering.

Agreement #3

Don't make assumptions – Find the courage to ask questions and to express what you really want. Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid misunderstandings, sadness and drama. With just this one agreement, you can completely transform your life.

Agreement #4

Always do your best – Your best is going to change from moment to moment; it will be different when you are healthy as opposed to sick. Under any circumstance, simply do your best, and you will avoid self-judgment, self-abuse and regret.

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MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO WOMEN'S COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

August 15, 2025

Minutes of the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council (MNOWC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) held August 15, 2025, at the Delta Hotels Sault Ste. Marie Waterfront, 208 St. Mary's River Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, prepared by Lampel Odeste, Recording Secretary.

MEETING ATTENDANCE (*joined by videoconference) MNOWC:

Lynne Gouliquer, President	Suzanne Fraser, Region 7 Representative**
Jennifer Rollins, Region 1 Representative	Luanne Cunningham, Region 8 Representative, Vice- Chair**
Nicole Taylor, Region 2 Representative*	Pandora Wilhelm, Region 9 Representative**
June Smart, Region 4 Representative, Chair	Tina-Marie Jameson, Elder
Kim Sanftenberg, Region 5 Representative, Treasurer	
Shannon Fitzgerald Smith, Region 6 Representative*	

ALSO PRESENT:

Margaret Froh, President, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)	Chelsea Smith, CR Graphics & Comms Specialist
Dale LeClair, Chief Executive Officer	Theresa Stenlund, PCMNO Region 1 Councilor and Co-Provincial Secretary for Métis Rights, Inter-Governmental Relations, and Communications
Melanie Brisson, Community Relations (CR) Resolution Specialist	Kate Stewart-McNeil, PCMNO Region 8 Councilor, PCMNO Liaison to the MNO Two Spirit+ Council and PCMNO Liaison to the MNOWC
Russell Ott, CR Technical Advisor, MNO	
Loma Rowlinson, CR Manager	

DELEGATES:

Claire Accettola	Dorothy Eastman	Debra La Rush	Lindsay Rogers
Sue Barnes	Liliane Ethier, Senator	Tanya La Rush	Roxanne Shank
Nancy Bouchier	Diane Foster	Debbie LeClair	Brenda Stewart
Angie Coture	Donna Grenier, Senator	Morgyn McDonald	Amie Therrien
Lori VanWyck Fussold	Amanda Beaudry	Julia Mitchell	Rebecca Toman*
Julia Hazell	Norine Malloy	Melodie Loney	Sandy Triskle
Sophie Gravelle	Carol Trotter	Elizabeth Campbell	Danika Warman
Carol Lacasse	Erin Sinclair	Lisa Kisom	Michelle Curtis
Katherine Cole	Meghan Barnes	Carleigh Milburn	Danielle Curtis
Patti Belanger	Sandra Nascimento	Crystal VanWyck	Trudy Bellamy
Mellissa Buchanan	Wendy Houston	Paulette Steeues	Brandy Robbins
Anastasia Dufour	Melanie Brisson	Tracey-Mae Chambers	Shirley Debassige
Christina Gates	Kaitlyn Anderson- Mitchell	Samantha Loney	Morgan Macdonald**
Kelly Camacho		Vicki Jenkins	Santana Sanftenburg**
		Karen Belcourt	

**not included in the sign-up sheet but presence was acknowledged during the meeting

AGENDA VARIED

Items in these minutes are presented in the order they were considered and numbered in accordance with the approved Agenda.

1. CALL TO ORDER (Establishment of Quorum)

Chair June Smart, Region 4 Representative, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and confirmed a quorum was present.

The Chair introduced the newly elected Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council:

President: Lynne Gouliquer

Elder: Tina-Marie Jameson

Region 1: Jennifer Rollins

Region 2: Nicole Taylor

Region 3: Vacant

Region 4: June Smart (Chair)

Region 5: Kim Sanftenberg (Treasurer)

Region 6: Shannon Fitzgerald Smith

Region 7: Suzanne Fraser

Region 8: Luanne Cunningham (Vice-Chair)

Region 9: Pandora Wilhelm

Chair Smart acknowledged previous representatives Tina Nichol, Region 3 and Rebecca Toman, Region 6.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Luanne Cunningham, Region 8 Representative, offered the Land Acknowledgement.

3. OPENING PRAYER

Elder Tina-Marie Jameson offered an Opening Prayer.

4. WELCOME FROM PRESIDENT LYNNE GOULIQUER

MNOWC President Lynne Gouliquer provided remarks welcoming delegates to the meeting. President Gouliquer highlighted MNOWC's achievements and its continuous goal on seeking a dedicated position for women within the leadership.

5. GREETINGS FROM MNO PRESIDENT MARGARET FROH

President Margaret Froh thanked all delegates joining online and in person and acknowledged the strong turnout of attendees as a reflection of the MNOWC's engagement and dedication. President Froh emphasized the importance of continuous cultural preservation and encouraged delegates to continue promoting stories of Métis women by sharing personal and ancestral stories through journals and social media.

President Froh encouraged the MNOWC to discuss and define their vision, goals and desired outcomes to inform the Council's future planning and resource allocation. To support such

efforts, President Froh commented on funding mechanisms established within the MNO including the recruitment of a dedicated grant writer who can assist with accessing gender-focused funding. Three additional staff were hired, including two full-time staff to support the MNOWC and an Advisory Coordinator.

President Froh introduced the MNO's new Chief Executive Officer Dale LeClair and commented on his longstanding contributions in the areas of education, childcare, housing and other core programs. President Froh also shared of the upcoming launch of the Powley Institute, as a platform to promote the voices and storytelling of Métis women.

6. GREETINGS FROM PCMNO LIAISON KATE STEWART-MCNEIL

Kate Stewart-McNeil, PCMNO Liaison, expressed appreciation to all delegates and commented on progress regarding the collaboration and alignment of the vision between the PCMNO and MNOWC. PCMNO Liaison Kate Stewart-McNeil shared that the two priorities established, to increase recognition and fostering meaningful partnerships can be achieved through collective commitment and dedication to safety and empowerment of women and youth.

7. FOUR AGREEMENTS

Suzanne Fraser, Region 7 Representative, reviewed the "Four Agreements" included in the MNOWC Code of Conduct.

8. REVIEW MÉTIS RULES OF ORDER

Kim Sanftenberg, Region 5 Representative, reviewed the six fundamental Principles for Debates from the Métis Rules of Order.

9. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was MOVED (Daniella Rush) and SECONDED (Susan Bart)

That the agenda for the August 15, 2025, Annual General Meeting of the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council, be adopted as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNOWC-AGM-250815-01)

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 2024 AGM

It was MOVED (Morgyn McDonald) and SECONDED (Dorothy Eastman)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council Annual General Meeting held August 16, 2024, be adopted as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNOWC-AGM-250815-02)

11. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Chair Smart referred to the distributed Treasurer's Report.

It was MOVED (Santana Sanftenburg) and SECONDED (Morgyn McDonald)

That the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNOWC-AGM-250815-03)

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- The distributed report covers the period August 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

- As the funds relating to pins were realized in May 2025, they were not included in the report.
- The MNOWC AGM meeting package was sent by MNO Communication via email in July and August 2025, printed copies of the meeting package are provided at each table along with a QR code should a delegate wish to access them online.
- The MNOWC currently maintains one bank account under the MNO Secretariat and a separate account (as the party seat) with the Royal Bank of Canada:
 - o While it is understood there was prior discussion and concern raised regarding keeping one single account, direction regarding closure of the MNOWC's independent account has not been recorded in any meeting minutes.
 - o Given that there are no further comments or objections, this matter is considered resolved.

12. **APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT, REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES & ELDERS REPORT**

Chair Smart referred to the distributed President and Regional Women Representatives Reports provided for information.

It was MOVED (Morgyn McDonald) and SECONDED (Melodie Loney)

That the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council President, Regional Representative and Elders Reports be accepted as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNOWC-AGM-250815-04)

13. **APPROVAL OF NEW PROPOSED MNOWC TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Chair Smart reviewed the proposed MNOWC Terms of Reference (TOR) as distributed and a motion was tabled to approve the TOR.

During discussion on the resolution and proposed TOR, comments were offered on:

- Objection to approving the proposed TOR given that some Regions may not have been consulted on the draft and that they were not also brought forward to the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) for consideration.
- The proposed TOR having been thoroughly reviewed and being developed based on several current MNO Community Council Charters and By-Laws.
- The proposed TOR were distributed in advance of the meeting.
- There is a need for delegates to ensure their email addresses/contact details are up-to-date in the MNO Registry.

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 7:31 p.m. and resumed at 7:40 p.m.

During continued discussion, comments were offered on suggestions to check the ability of MNO's Nation Builder to send an email distribution and ensure in the future, all communications from Nation Builder include a clear subject line indicating the importance of material.

It was MOVED (Anastasia Dufour) and SECONDED (Vicki Jenkins)

That the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council Terms of Reference be approved as presented.

RESOLVED (MNOWC-AGM-250815-05)

(29 in favour; 21 opposed; 5 abstentions)

14. MOTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

No motions were received from the floor.

15. MNOWC WOMEN HONOURING WOMEN AWARD PRESENTATION

Chair Smart announced that Carleigh Candice Milburn, from Region 6, was the recipient of the 2025 Métis Women Honouring Women Award. Chair Smart shared that Carleigh Candice Milburn is an artist, an educator and a founder of a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting women across Canada, and is a PhD candidate specializing in Indigenous studies, art education, and artificial intelligence.

16. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chair Smart invited feedback on the Special Business Resolution being presented at the 2025 MNO AGA, for the creation of a Women's Council Representative Position on the PCMNO seeking one dedicated position to address ongoing inequities faced by Métis women and the need for a formal voice to advocate for cultural representation and systemic change, which prompted the following comments:

- Concerns regarding the impact on existing roles, lack of consultation, accountability in core issues and inclusive representation across Councils.
- A shared commitment to gender equity and continued engagement and refinement of the resolution through collaborative discussion.

In response to question regarding outstanding funds for the missing paddles from Region 9 the Chair confirmed that the MNOWC complaint process should be utilized. The MNOWC will follow up with this concern.

17. CLOSING PRAYER

Elder Tina-Marie Jameson offered a Closing Prayer.

18. CONCLUSION

The Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council Annual General Meeting, held August 16, 2025, concluded at 8.47 p.m.

* * * * *

This is a true and correct copy of the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council Annual General Meeting held August 16, 2024 and incorporates any and all amendments made at the time of adoption.

June Smart, MNOWC Chair

LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were provided for information at the meeting:

1. Draft Agenda for the August 15, 2025, MNOWC Annual General Meeting (AGM)
2. Draft Minutes of the August 16, 2024 MNOWC AGM
3. Four Agreements
4. MNOWC 2024-2025 Financial Report
5. President and Regional Women Representative Reports 2025
6. MNOWC 2022 Terms of Reference
7. MNOWC New Proposed Terms of Reference



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO WOMEN'S COUNCIL

2025-2026 Financial Report

AUGUST 1, 2025 - MARCH 31, 2026

REVENUES

MNOWC Account: Silent Auction at AGA 2025	\$2,685.00	
MNOWC Account: Food Security Funding 2025/2026	\$2,000.00	
MNOWC Account: Food Security Funding (over budget reimbursement 2024/2025)	\$293.99	
MNO Account: PCMNO Support Fund	\$5,000.00	
TOTAL REVENUES		<u>\$9,978.99</u>

EXPENSES

Bank Charges	\$60.65	
WHWA Recipient Ribbon Skirt Gift Motion #04/14/24-4	\$150.00	
WHWA Recipient Engraving Plaque Motion #06/22/25-11	\$10.17	
Kim Sanftenberg Expenses to AGM/AGA 2025 Motion #07/31/25-1	\$616.83	
Tina Marie Jameson Expenses to AGM/AGA 2025 Motion #07/31/25-1	\$1,852.40	
Luanne Cunningham Expenses to AGM/AGA 2025 Motion #07/31/25-1	\$2,007.13	
Luanne Cunningham Expenses (Luggage) to AGM/AGA 2025 Motion #11/24/25-8	\$197.75	
Luanne Cunningham Expenses (Uber) to AGM/AGA 2025 Motion #7/31/25-1	\$17.30	
Purolator Courier to ship Paddles from Region 9 to June Smart Motion #11/24/25-9	\$100.58	
Flowers sent to June Smart Motion #1/19/26-5	\$130.46	
Food Security Funding Reimbursement - Christine Vien Motion #03/30/26-9	\$223.60	
Food Security Funding Reimbursement - June Smart Motion #03/30/26-9	\$226.84	
Food Security Funding Reimbursement - Kim Sanftenberg Motion #03/30/26-9	\$756.01	
Food Security Funding Reimbursement - Alison Billings Motion #03/30/26-9	\$247.96	
Food Security Funding Reimbursement - Suzanne Fraser Motion #03/30/26-9	\$235.17	
Food Security Funding Reimbursement - Luanne Cunningham Motion #03/30/26-9	\$249.87	
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$7,082.72</u>
SURPLUS		<u>\$2,896.27</u>



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO WOMEN'S COUNCIL REPORTS

President's Report

President – Samantha Loney

As President of the MNOWC, my role is to ensure that the MNOWC is running smoothly so that we can successfully work on behalf of Métis Nation of Ontario citizens who identify as women. As President of the MNOWC it is my responsibility to ensure there is open communication between the women citizens of the MNO and their Community Council Women's Representative (CCWR), who then can communicate their needs to their Regional Women's Representatives (RWR) who report to me at monthly meetings. During these monthly meetings, we discuss various issues concerning women in our community, after which it is my responsibility to ensure these issues are brought to our Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). While this process hasn't always been clear or easy, it is my goal as President to develop an improved process of doing so.



As of the writing of this report, I will have been President of the MNOWC for four and a half months. I have attended all, but one monthly MNOWC meeting. I have also sat in on every subcommittee meeting, of which there are several, including our Executive, Social Media, AGM, Governance, Funding and Proposals and Newsletter. While four months seems like a short amount of time, with the help of Council, we have been able to accomplish several tasks. Which include:

- Release of the Listening to Our Women Survey
- Release of our newsletter, The Métis Matriarch
- Building and strengthening relationships with the MNO Secretariat, PCMNO and other advisory councils
- Building relationships with other Métis women's organizations
- Developed a partnership with the Rural Ontario Institute's Community Changemaker's Program
- Holding a fundraiser at the Honouring Our Grandmother's Métis Cultural Festival in Barrie
- Organizing our annual in person meeting
- Discussions concerning the creation of the MNOWC's charter or formal MOU with the MNO
- Collaborate with the Healing and Wellness Branch to discuss palliative care while holding a medicine bag workshop in Thunder Bay before the AGA
- Put forth an Ordinary Resolution at the AGA requesting the MNO consider a dedicated permanent women's representative at the PCMNO level

- Disbursement of seeds to Community Council Women's Representatives to hold food security workshops.

All of these accomplishments would not have been possible without the strong foundation that was built by the previous President and council members before my tenure as President began. I owe a great deal of thanks to the many women who have chosen to volunteer their time on Council to make sure we are honouring our Grandmother's, Grand Mere's and Kookums, as well as leaving a better world for the Métis women who come after.

Although the MNOWC is still processing the data obtained by our survey, while attending several community events, women citizens have shared with me the issues and concerns that are important to them. I have also had the pleasure of consulting with several women who have previously served on the MNOWC, who have also informed my list of priorities while I serve as President of the MNOWC. As of the writing of this report, some priorities I hope to focus on during the remainder of my term as President are:

- Ensuring there is a consistent stream of funding for the MNOWC
- Ensuring the presence of the MNOWC at national and provincial events
- Ensuring women's voices are heard during the building of our constitution while we move toward self-government
- More collaboration between RWR's and their PCMNO Councilors
- Creation of a mentorship program with the Youth Council and the MNOWC
- Creation of cervical cancer awareness program
- Programs for anti-human trafficking
- Engagement with men in our community to educate them on how to create safer spaces for women
- More collaboration with other Métis Governments and organizations.
- An annual in person gathering for Métis women in Ontario
- Encouragement and promotion of more Métis women pursuing roles in leadership

In addition to my role as President of the MNOWC, I currently sit on several committees, councils and have a career in which I am involved in the Métis and Indigenous community. My roles are:

- Councilor on the Barrie South Simcoe Métis Council
- Member of the Kooshkopayiw Métis Art Collective
- Citizen Representative on the Heritage Barrie Committee
- Producer/host of the Travelling Métis Podcast
- Writer/Story coordinator for Stevie and the Sacred Animals on APTN & CBC

There are many issues and concerns for Métis women in Ontario. The MNOWC's priorities will always remain flexible and fluid as we continue to consult with the women in our community.

As President of the MNOWC, I will continue to keep my door open to all other leaders within the MNO to understand how we can collaborate in the work we do on behalf of the women in our community. In order to be an effective leader, it is important to listen and be transparent. As of the writing of this report, I am scheduled to go before the PCMNO at their July meeting to detail the issues of importance to the women in our community and what the MNOWC needs to move forward in a good way. The MNOWC hopes to continue this dialogue with the PCMNO with scheduled quarterly meetings.

Samantha Loney
MNOWC President

Regional Women Representative/Elder Reports

Region 1 Women's Representative Report – Jennifer Rollins



Marsii, Hello, Thank you to all the Women of the Metis Nation; especially to all those residing in Region 1 who have given me this opportunity to sit on the Metis Nation of Ontario Women's Council.

The council has been working tirelessly to represent all the women of the nation by giving us a voice within the MNO, including our hopes of working towards becoming an advisory council to sit with the PCMNO in order to project the strong Metis Women's voices to our government. We have been working at finding funding or obtaining funding from the MNO to operate our council and help to create initiatives for our Regional Women's Representatives. Which would allow our RWR's to provide the ability to our Community Council Women's Representatives to have the ability to provide workshops to each council area. I have had the privilege to attend some events including celebrations held in Fort Frances in September for the celebration of the signing of the Treaty 3 Halfbreed adhesion. As well as partaking in a workshop in Dryden organized by the Northwest Metis Council Women's Representative; which was a ribbon skirt making, moccasin making, and beading initiative. Which was a wonderful way to experience the local Metis community. We at the MNOWC are continuing to work towards keeping our strong female voice and have also published the new website for the MNOWC, and now also have a newsletter in publication. We are working towards different surveys that will guide us towards reaching our Ontario Women's goals, and Objectives.

Looking forward to what the MNOWC will continue to do for us all.

Jennifer Rollins

MNOWC Region 1 Women's Rep

Region 2 Women's Representative Report – Nicole Tetreault

My name is Nicole Tetreault Busniuk and I recently joined the MNOWC Council as the new Region 2 Women's Representative in May 2026. I am proud to be Métis and grateful for the opportunity to become more involved within the community, learn from others, and support the important work being done through the MNOWC.

Although I am new to this role, I am passionate about creating connections, supporting our women's voices, and advocacy. I look forward to meeting and working alongside everyone while growing in this journey together.

Moving forward, my focus is dedicated to the safety, and holistic well-being of Métis women and girls. I hope to achieve this by creating inclusive, safe spaces, where our citizens can safely share their lived experiences, and connect in a deeply supportive and culturally grounded environment.

I would like to become more familiar with the programs and services being offered in Region 2 and how we can build positive relationships that will benefit our Métis community.



Nicole Tetreault Busniuk

MNOWC Region 2 Women's Rep

Region 3 Women's Representative Report – Vacant

The MNOWC is working with Community Relations to fill this vacancy.

Region 4 Women's Representative Report – June Smart

Reported by June Smart: MNOWC Region 4 Women's Representative:

- Appointed as MNOWC Region 4 Women's Rep (RWR) September 2017-November 2020
- Appointed as MNOWC Region 4 Women's Rep (RWR) January 12, 2022
- Acclaimed as MNOWC Region 4 Women's Rep (RWR) July 19, 2024
- Voted in as MNOWC Chair September 15, 2024 & September 22, 2025
- Member MNOWC Executive Committee
- Appointed MNOWC Sub-Chair of Governance/Policy Committee
- Appointed MNOWC Sub-Chair of Women Honoring Women Award (WHWA) Committee
- Member MNOWC Annual General Meeting (AGM) Planning Committee
- Member of MNOWC Communications Committee (includes: "The Métis Matriarch" newsletter, social media and survey committees)
- Attended MNO Research Study - Region 4 Titled Métis perspectives on suicide prevention and life promotion: Supporting the development of a community-based training program in Sault Ste Marie on September 13, 2025
- Invited to a gathering on the occasion of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Rideau Hall held in Ottawa on September 29, 2025
- Assumed the role of MNOWC Acting President November 2025-February 2026
- Attended via zoom the National Indigenous-Federal-Provincial-Territorial Meeting on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQI+ People held in Ottawa February 11-12, 2026
- Attended the Métis National Council (MNC) Health Forum 2026 held in Ottawa February 25-26, 2026
- Attended International Women's Day event held in Sault Ste Marie March 7, 2026
- Attended Health Fair held in Sault Ste Marie March 8, 2026
- Attended the Honouring Our Grandmother's Métis Cultural Event held in Barrie May 3, 2026
- Attended a reception at the Delta in Sault Ste Marie for the Self-Government "Main Table" negotiations team June 3, 2026



- Invited to give the Robinson-Huron Treaty Territory Land Acknowledgement at the Central Algoma Secondary School (CASS) Grades 8&12 Graduations in Desbarats on June 24&25, 2026
- Invited to speak in commemoration of “Sisters in Spirit Day” in Sault Ste Marie on October 4, 2026

Reported by June Smart: Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veteran:

- Attended Women Veterans Engagement Workshop “Invisible No More Project” held in Ottawa on October 30, 2025
- Attended the Métis National Council (MNC) National Wellness Gathering for Veterans held in Vancouver March 11-12, 2026
- Attended Veterans Affairs Canada and DND/CAF “Her Story, Her Strength” 2026 Joint Women Veterans Forum held in Ottawa June 9-10, 2026
- “Six Sisters” members of the Métis Nation of Ontario Veteran’s Council (MNOVC)

2026 Region 4 Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community – North Channel Métis Council (NMC)/Historic Sault Ste Marie (HSSM):

Reported by June Smart: NMC Chair:

- Acclaimed as NMC Chair September 23, 2025
- Representative on Algoma District School Board (ADSB) & Huron Superior Catholic District School Board (HSCDSB) Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC)
- Representative on NMC Indigenous Education Committee (IEC)
- Attended Open House | MNO Land, Resources & Consultations at Canadian Bushplane Museum held in Sault Ste Marie March 28, 2026
- Attended a harvesting workshop held at the NMC Office April 18, 2026
- Attended Historic Sault Ste Marie Métis Council Mother’s Day Tea held at the Powley Institute in Sault Ste Marie May 9, 2026
- Chair of the NMC Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the Blind River Legion May 30, 2026

Reported by Norine Malloy: NMC Women’s Representative:

- Appointed NMC Women’s Representative December 6, 2025 and received Women’s Council Sash from June Smart, MNOWC Region 4 Women’s Rep
- Assisted with Christmas gift cards for citizens in Blind River December 6, 2025
- Attended via zoom Community Council Governance Training January 12&13, 2026 and March 10, 2026

- Participated in the NCMC Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the Blind River Legion May 30, 2026
- Attended a reception at the Delta in Sault Ste Marie for the Self-Government “Main Table” negotiations team June 3, 2026
- Hosted a healing blanket workshop held at the NCMC Office June 6, 2026
- Attended via zoom Community Council Governance Training June 8&9, 2026
- Hosted a strawberry social for citizens held at the NCMC Office June 28, 2026

Reported by Lisa Kisch: HSSM Women’s Representative:

Research Project: Métis Perspectives on Suicide Prevention and Life Promotion

September 13, 2025 Participated in a full-day research study dedicated to collecting Métis-specific perspectives on suicide and life promotion. The insights gathered will directly support the development of a community-based training program aimed at supporting Métis individuals experiencing crisis.

Powley Day Community Commemoration & Luncheon

September 19, 2025 (Annual Celebration) Attended and supported local community gatherings honoring the landmark Supreme Court victory by Steve and Roddy Powley. Participated in an event at the Powley Centre and a community luncheon reinforcing the historical significance of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community as the root of recognized Section 35 Métis harvesting rights.

Inauguration of the Métis Women's Book Club

October 2025 Co-led and organized a monthly literary circle alongside Cultural Coordinator Shelby Storozuk. Designed to explore Métis identity, kinship, and history through literature, the group grew to nearly 20 active participants, fostering a consistent safe space for monthly discussions regarding the traditional roles, struggles, and contemporary leadership of Métis women. There is a summer hiatus for the Métis Women's Book Club after ten consecutive months of successful programming with over 20 participants. To maintain independent engagement during this rest period, members were provided with the book and documentary “*Stories of Métis Women - Tales My Kookum Told Me*” to read before the autumn relaunch.

Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO) Reproductive Rights Engagement Session

November 1, 2025 Traveled to Winnipeg to participate in an LFMO engagement session focused on Métis women and reproductive rights. Contributed to strategic ideas on how Métis community frameworks can better support maternal health, bodily autonomy, and family wellness.

Honoring Ancestors at Louis Riel's Gravesite

November 2, 2025 Traveled to the gravesite of Louis Riel, Marie-Anne Gaboury (Louis Riel's grandmother), and Celeste Lagimodiere (cousin), to lay the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Women's Advisory Council sash on the tombstones as a way to personally recognize the foundational and important role women play in Métis history.

Louis Riel Day Tea and Storytime Circle

November 16, 2025 Co-facilitated an interactive community circle discussion in honor of Louis Riel Day alongside Cultural Coordinator Shelby Storozuk. Guided attendees through a structured dialogue focusing on historical resilience and modern political advocacy, alongside sharing personal stories about traditional hunting.

Community Healing Blanket Wellness Event

November 25, 2025 Collaborated with Community Wellness Coordinator Donna St. Jule and Cultural Coordinator Shelby Storozuk to host a workshop making healing blankets as a way to support community members on their healing journeys. Attended by approximately 15 women, the session culminated in the creation of four healing blankets, which were gifted to community members navigating significant life transitions.

Food Sustainability Gift Card Giveaway (HSSMMC)

November 29, 2025 Assisted council and Cultural Coordinator Shelby Storozuk in distributing \$200 grocery gift cards to over 75 families. This initiative provided direct, crucial relief to community members facing high food costs just ahead of the holiday season.

HSSMMC Annual Family Christmas Party

December 13, 2025 Volunteered as Mrs. Claus for the annual HSSMMC family Christmas gathering. Utilized this festive platform to engage directly with children and parents, visually embodying and celebrating the traditional, nurturing leadership roles that matriarchs hold in seasonal community celebrations.

Reflections on Wise Ones & Stitched with Spirit

2025 – 2026 Volunteered to teach four Zoom circles with The **Wise Ones** (group run by Diabetic Coordinator, MNO, Nicole Foster) to provide sessions of connection, comfort, and shared purpose first by making a felt heart and then by using photo transfers of our ancestors and to craft stitched memory piece calling it **Stitched With Spirit**. Bringing our hands and hearts together across the virtual space allowed us to hold ceremony in everyday moments, stitch together our stories, and lift up one another through shared wisdom. Whether gathering as Wise Ones to reflect and guide, or coming together with needle, thread, and ancestral photos in *Stitched with Spirit*, these online circles ensured our people remained supported, heard, and deeply connected—no matter the distance.

International Women's Day Celebration

March 7, 2026 Alongside Cultural Coordinator Shelby Storozuk, helped organize and host a major community milestone event that brought together over 75 women and children to celebrate International Women's Day. The afternoon was intentionally

structured "in a Métis way," incorporating cultural crafts and interactive activities prioritizing maternal bonds, intergenerational connection, and youth empowerment.

Regional Community Wellness Fair & Food Sustainability Outreach

March 8, 2026 Managed the HSSMMC outreach table during the regional health fair. Actively educated the public on the council's ongoing programs, highlighted the essential leadership roles of women within local governance, and conducted recruitment for the *Stitched with Spirit* traditional crafting classes. Additionally, seed packets funded through Region 4 Food Sustainability initiatives—featuring contact information for the HSSM Women's Representative—were distributed at the Wellness Fair, the International Women's Day celebration, and other community gatherings, including the Métis Women's Book Club.

Mother's Day Tea Event at the Powley Centre

May 9, 2026 Participated in this event with over 50 participants gathered to celebrate the unique and vital roles of Métis women in the community and nation. Welcomed special guest June Smart (Region 4 Women's Representative), alongside her sisters and local mothers in attendance.

Curated Tour of Rosalie Favell's *Belonging* Exhibit (Art Gallery of Algoma)

June 11, 2026 In coordination with Community Wellness Branch Coordinator Melanie McLaughlin and alongside Cultural Coordinator Shelby Storozuk, organized and attended a dedicated group visit for Métis women to view a specialized exhibition by the prominent Métis photographer and mixed-media artist. Facilitated an interactive dialogue following the viewing to discuss how contemporary visual media can preserve ancestral memory, challenge historical narratives, and map out Métis identity.

Acclaimed as Senator for Historic Sault Ste Marie Métis Council June 4, 2026.

June Smart

MNOWC Region 4 Women's Rep

Region 5 Women's Representative Report – Kim Sanftenberg



As the elected Region 5 Women's Representative for the MNOWC, my year has been busy yet rewarding. I have hosted and participated in numerous events and workshops to celebrate and strengthen our Métis heritage.

In addition to serving as Treasurer for the MNOWC, I actively contribute to several Subcommittees, including Governance/Policy, AGA/AGM, Funding/Proposals, Women Honouring Women Award, and Indigenous Women Advisory Committees. Our council is currently collaborating with the MNO on a draft Charter for the MNOWC, and I remain actively involved in this process.

I have had the privilege of meeting inspiring Métis women, hearing their stories, and advocating for Métis-led initiatives such as Doula and Midwifery training. I attended key events including the Public Health Annual Fall Harvest Feast, MMIWG2S Tree Lighting Ceremony, Violence Against Women Seminar, and the PICS Leadership Summit Cultural Training.

Additionally, The Getting Better Conference and the 2026 Victims & Survivors of Crime/Angels of Hope Lunch & Learn.

Currently in my second term on the HSN Indigenous Health Advisory Committee as a Métis representative, I recently attended the Indigenous Health meeting at Mamaweswen, North Shore Tribal Council Office in Mississauga First Nation, Blind River.

I am also collaborating with Region 5 council Presidents, Regional Manager, and Councillor to bring cultural workshops to our Métis women in Mattawa, North Bay, and Sudbury, alongside our CCWR's.

I had the opportunity to attend the Mattawa Métis Community AGM and sash the newly elected Women's Representative.

As the Sudbury Community Council Women's Representative, I've organized various events including the Métis flag raising ceremony, Louis Riel pancake breakfast, worked with Love Yourself First Breast screening. Hosted Healthy Hands Training workshop, hosted Métis cooking workshops, Women's Health & Wellness Workshop, Paint Social, Red Dress Day educational activities, Winter Sowing Seed Workshop, Senior Kitchen Party, and Perimenopause Workshop.

These events flourish through the collaborative efforts of the Sudbury Métis Council and our dedicated Knowledge Keepers.

Kim Sanftenberg

MNOWC Region 5 Women's Rep

Region 6 Women's Representative Report – Shannon Fitzgerald Smith

Hello everyone, I have been appointed as the MNOWC Region 6 Rep for just over a year. I am very interested in learning about the Métis Nation of Ontario organization and how the MNOWC Advisory Committee fits into the structure.

I attended the Métis National Council (MNC) Health Forum 2026 held in Ottawa February 25-26, 2026.

Invited to attend a food security workshop in Apr 26 with Community Council Women's Rep Allison Billings where we made soup jars, as well as strawberry jam, and were given seed packets.

I collaborated with Lindsay Rogers, President of the Two Spirit Council, conducting water testing around the region with the MNO's LRC Water Monitoring program.

I look forward to working with Métis citizens within Region 6.

Shannon Fitzgerald Smith

MNOWC Region 6 Women's Rep



Region 7 Women's Representative Report – Suzanne Fraser



Since our AGM on August 15, 2025, I have

- Participated in all but one of the MNOWC monthly meetings.
- Governance Committee
- Social media Committee
- Communications Committee
- Women Honoring Award
- AGM planning Committee

Other Representation

I represent the Metis on the Barrie Area Advisory Circle Board of Directors as Secretary and hold a seat on the North Simcoe Muskoka Indigenous Health Circle. This provides me a voice with several Indigenous Services provided in the region including Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin and 5 of the region's hospitals; thereby improving access to culturally safe and relevant health care including: addictions, medical treatment, mental health and recreational services for the Metis.

As the MNOWC Region 7 Women's Representative

- Attended 4 MNO Governance training opportunities.
- Participated in a Kayros Blanket teaching.
- Attended a Bruce Power Plant information and tour event.
- Followed the Great Lakes Metis and Moon River Council elections and congratulated and reached out to both Community Council Women's Reps.
- Participated in the Elders Wisdom and Knowledge event and the Palliative Care Honouring The Journey Gathering hosted by BANAC/Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin.
- Attended the Local MNO staffs' Christmas Lunch.
- Attended the Indigenous Health Forum in Rama.
- Participated in the Food Security Funding event by providing Vegetable seeds to the Great Lakes Metis Council, Barrie South-Simcoe Metis Council and Georgian Bay Metis Council.
- Helped the Barrie South-Simcoe Women's Representative to facilitate and coordinate a Ribbon Skirt Workshop for their women citizens.
- Attended 2 MNO Townhalls.

Suzanne Fraser

MNOWC Region 7 Women's Rep

Region 8 Women's Representative Report – Luanne Cunningham

MNOWC Monthly Council Meetings:

- Acclaimed Vice Chair of the MNO Women's Council
- Attended all monthly Council meetings and Executive meetings

MNOWC Sub Committee Meetings:

- Attended the governance/policy meetings and the AGM planning meetings
- As the Chair of the Social Media, the Metis Matriarch Newsletter, Website and the Survey Committees attended all meetings. This group of committees will soon be amalgamated into a single committee: the Communications Committee
- I sit on both the IWAC and Women Honouring Women Award (WHWA) committees
- Attended all MNOWC Council Charter Meetings



MNOWC Fundraising:

- Led the MNOWC Silent Auction, which was held at the 2025 AGA in Sault Ste Marie, ON.
- Planning the 2026 MNOWC Silent Auction to be held at the AGA in Thunder Bay in August 2026.
- Assisted the MNOWC President with a raffle table at the Barrie Grandmothers' event on Sunday, May 3, 2026

Region 8 Tri-Council Meetings:

- Regional updates from each Community Council Women Reps (CCWR), brainstorming for regional activities/projects, shared the Region 8 Women's Survey conducted in November 2022 (*follow-up needed), and encouraged the CCWRs to join MNOWC regular monthly meetings. Made telephone check-ins on a bi-weekly/monthly basis to two of the women's reps. Regional updates from two CCWRs; discussion of upcoming AGA and MNOWC AGM. Samantha still needs to be sashed and will do so at her earliest convenience.
- I would like to thank the CCWRs Claire Kearns, Tanya La Rush, and Samantha Brabant for their commitment to helping the Métis sisters in their communities. Thanks, maarsii, Tanya, and Claire, for participating in the Seed Swap Project earlier this year. It's been a pleasure getting to know you both and working alongside you

Region 8 Community Meetings:

- The Harm Reduction Strategy meets monthly with Indigenous partners in the healthcare sector and Toronto Public Health to develop a strategy to assist our Métis community.
- Indigenous Wellness Committee monthly meetings with Indigenous healthcare providers in Toronto and the surrounding area, along with Toronto Public Health, are creating a pathway to assist our Métis and other Indigenous relatives in better health outcomes.

- Involved in several place-naming projects with the City of Toronto, and one I am especially proud of is the naming of the new Island at the mouth of the Don River, Ookwemin Minising and a park within the Island called Biidaasige Park. Phenomenal experience and grateful to be included in such an incredible group of Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers, such as Shelley Charles and Duke Redbird.
- MMIWG2S+ Advisory Group with Toronto Council Fire, meetings from April to October 2026

440 Parkside Collective:

- Weekly meetings to share knowledge and learn from knowledge keepers, elders, High Park Turtle Protectors, community liaisons and the City of Toronto Indigenous Affairs Office. Tend a community garden with sacred medicines and other native plants. Learned to create a Bear Bundle (extraordinary), participated in ceremonial fires and elder gatherings, and assisted with the annual High Park prescribed burn.

Summary of some of the other meetings attended, such as:

- Toronto and York Region Community Council (TYRMC) monthly meetings
- Region 8 Oldsters Sunday Meetings bi-weekly
- Monthly MNO Meetings, PCMNO and Townhalls
- ICKC Indigenous Monthly Meetings
- TYRMC Voyager Paddle, July 17, 2025
- MMIWG2s+ with the City of Toronto, August 27, 2025
- Downsview Redevelopment Project, September 10, 2025
- Junction Indigenous Heritage with Phillip Cote, September 15, 2025
- MNO Suicide Prevention, Region 8, September 17, 2025
- TYRMC Event at Allan Gardens, September 25, 2025
- Toronto Island Master Plan September 30, 2026
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, TYRMC Tepee at Nathan Phillips Square, September 29 and 30, 2025
- MMIWG Day at Toronto Police Headquarters and Native Women's Centre, May 5, 2025
- Ending Homelessness St. Michaels Hospital October 6, 2025
- Indigenous Veterans Day Celebration at the Spirit Garden, November 8, 2025
- Remembrance Day at Queen's Park, November 11, 2025
- Louis Riel Day at City Hall with TYRMC November 16, 2025
- Metis Louis Riel Day with Ontario Health, November 19, 2025
- City of Toronto Indigenous Knowledge Keepers Meeting, Allan Gardens, November, 20, 2025
- Indigenous Healthcare event at Newmarket Hospital, December 4, 2025
- National Day of Remembrance & Action – Violence Against Women, December 8, 2025
- Ribbon Skirt Celebration, January 9, 2026
- Indigenous Meeting - The Grange (renaming) Project, January 28, 2026

- City of Toronto – Ramsden Park Place Naming meeting, January 29, 2026
- Bear Moon Teachings Luanna Skirt, February 4, 2026
- MMIWG Day at Toronto Police Headquarters, February 14, 2026
- Nuclear Energy Climate Change Meeting, March 7, 2026
- MNC Health Forum, Ottawa, March 12 & 13, 2026
- 2 Spirit Council meeting, March 21, 2026
- MNC Kinship Meeting Edmonton, March 25 & 26, 2026
- Council Fire health gathering March 31, 2026
- Oshawa and Durham Region Seed Swap, April 11, 2026
- TYRMC Seed Swap Allan Gardens, April 22, 2026
- Biidaasige Park Shade Drum Celebration, May 9, 2026
- Tommy Thompson Park, Indigenous Sharing meeting, City of Toronto, Bob Goulais, May 19, 2026
- City of Toronto – Ramsden Park Place Naming meeting, June 4, 2026
- Ontario Science Centre – Indigenous Celebration June 6, 2026
- Strawberry Teachings, Native Women's Centre, June 9, 2026
- Dreamcatcher Teachings – June 11, 2026
- OAHAS Summer Solstice – Harm Reduction – Unveiling of the beaded Naloxone Kit, June 18, 2026
- Indigenous Arts Festival with TYRMC at Biidaasige Park, June 20, 2026
- National Indigenous Peoples Day Sunrise Ceremony, Biidaasige Park, June 21, 2026
- TYRMC Community Garden at Allan Gardens, assisting with planting and caring for the gardens throughout the summer of 2026
- MNOWC In-person meeting July 19-21, 2026 in Toronto

Conducted four **Love Yourself Breast Screening and Education Events** in North Bay, Sudbury, New Market and Ottawa with four more planned in 2026. We will be at the MNO AGA for the very first time in Thunder Bay. We are in our fourth year, assisting our Métis Sisters to gain education and awareness, and then to take action by loving themselves first and getting screened for breast cancer. We have had multiple meetings and are planning for Thorold, Hamilton, Sault Ste Marie and Georgian Bay. A special 'thank you' to all the Councils, especially the Women's Reps, who have worked alongside the healthcare teams in their areas to make these sessions so amazing and, in turn, help our Métis sisters to 'Love Yourself First'. I have had the opportunity to present the Love Yourself First program at many different Council meetings and community events this year. Beyond grateful.

Serving on this Council as the Region 8 Women's Representative is truly an honour; maarsii for the opportunity and the friendships made.

Luanne Cunningham

MNOWC Region 8 Women's Rep

Region 9 Women's Representative Report – Pandora Wilhelm



Throughout 2026, my focus as the Region 9 Women's Representative has been on increasing Métis visibility within urban Indigenous communities, strengthening relationships with citizens, supporting families, advocating for accurate Métis education, and building partnerships that improve access to services for Métis citizens across Region 9. As an urban representative, much of my work takes place in community spaces where Métis people may not always feel visible or represented. Wearing my Métis sash or Women's Council sash at public events has created countless opportunities to connect with citizens, answer questions, and promote respectful conversations about Métis identity.

Community Engagement

During the reporting period, I attended and represented the Métis Nation of Ontario at several community events, including:

- Brock University Pow Wow
- Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre Pow Wow
- Conestoga College Pow Wow
- Waterloo Region Indigenous Community Pow Wow
- Region 9 Rendezvous
- Grand River Métis Council Rendezvous
- Georgian Bay Rendezvous
- Toronto Round Dance
- Indigenous Honouring Ceremony during JUNO Week
- KW Titans Orange Jersey Game alongside the Orange Shirt Society and Phyllis Webstad
- Canadian Independent Music Association Indigenous After Party

At each event, I wore my Métis sash or Women's Council sash and actively connected with Métis citizens, First Nations community members, and members of the public. These conversations frequently included questions about the Métis Nation of Ontario, Métis identity, and ongoing discussions surrounding Indigenous identity. Whenever appropriate, I directed individuals to the Ontario Métis Facts website as a reliable educational resource and encouraged respectful, informed dialogue.

At the Waterloo Region Indigenous Community Pow Wow, I also volunteered throughout the event, supporting organizers while connecting with community members and helping ensure a welcoming and successful gathering.

At the KW Titans Orange Jersey Game, I was formally introduced as the Region 9 Women's Representative, providing another opportunity to raise awareness of the Women's Council and the work being done throughout our region.

Building Community Connections

Through my employment within the Indigenous community, I regularly participated in workshops hosted by Wisahk in Kitchener, where I connected with several Métis citizens over the course of the year.

I also attended meetings of the **Region of Waterloo Reconciliation Action Partnership**, contributing a Métis perspective to regional reconciliation initiatives and strengthening relationships with Indigenous and municipal partners working toward shared goals. Recognizing the importance of increasing Métis awareness among service providers, I facilitated a partnership between my Executive Director and Region 9 Councilor Kathleen Anderson to provide Métis identity education during an organizational staff retreat. This initiative will help staff better understand Métis history, identity, and available supports, strengthening services for Métis youth and families.

I also developed an internal resource guide containing Métis Nation of Ontario staff contacts across multiple departments, including education, mental health, childcare, and other citizen services, to ensure staff can confidently refer Métis community members to appropriate supports.

Region 9 Community Connections

I attended the Region 9 Rendezvous with my family, where I had the opportunity to connect with citizens and elected officials from across the region. The event was exceptionally well attended and demonstrated the continued strength of our community. Prior to the event, I also assisted in identifying a local caterer to support the gathering.

I also attended both the **Grand River Métis Council Rendezvous** and the **Georgian Bay Rendezvous**, strengthening relationships with Community Councils and citizens across region 9. Following the Annual General Assembly, I received the Women's Council paddles from MNO President Margaret Froh and coordinated their distribution to Community Councils throughout the region. During the reporting period, I presented paddles to both the **Grand River Métis Council** and the **Niagara Region Métis Council**. Plans are also in place to present the remaining paddles to the **Thames Bluewater Métis Council** and the **Credit River Métis Council** in the coming weeks, continuing the Women's Council tradition of recognizing and strengthening community connections across Region 9.

Community Support Initiatives

During the holiday season, I independently organized and coordinated a Christmas Hamper Program serving urban Indigenous families throughout Waterloo Region.

The program supported **76 Indigenous families**, including several Métis citizens and families. While the initiative welcomed all self-identified Indigenous community members, it reflected my commitment to ensuring Métis families also had access to

practical supports during the holiday season while strengthening relationships within the broader urban Indigenous community.

Advocacy and Representation

Throughout the year, I continued advocating for Métis visibility and education in urban spaces. Unfortunately, discussions surrounding Métis identity and misinformation about the Métis Nation of Ontario continue to present challenges. Following online backlash related to misinformation describing Ontario Métis as “fake Métis,” I experienced harassment that affected my ability to publicly promote Métis-specific programming within some local Indigenous community groups.

These experiences reinforced the importance of respectful education and community engagement. During this period, I sought guidance and support from the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario while continuing to represent Region 9 in a thoughtful and professional manner.

Current Initiatives

Current projects underway include:

- Developing a seed distribution project in partnership with a local seed company.
- Preparing a citizen survey to better understand advocacy priorities and support needs within region 9.
- Establishing a schedule to visit each Region 9 Community Council by attending one meeting and one community event per quarter to strengthen relationships and improve communication throughout the region.

Looking Ahead

As I continue serving Region 9, my priorities remain focused on increasing Métis visibility, strengthening relationships with citizens, supporting women and families, building partnerships with Indigenous organizations, and creating more opportunities for education and community connection. I remain committed to representing the women of Region 9 with integrity, compassion, and pride while continuing to advocate for stronger supports and greater understanding of Métis history, identity, and culture throughout our communities.

Pandora Wilhelm

MNOWC Region 9 Women’s Rep

Elder's Report – Tina-Marie Jameson

I have had the honour to participate in a variety of events throughout the year that supported community engagement, cultural sharing, wellness, and Métis traditions.

Annual General Assembly – August 2025

I attended the Annual General Assembly (AGA) in August 2025, where I had the privilege of providing both the Opening and Closing Prayers for the MNOWC Annual General Meeting. During the gathering, I was available to assist community members by offering support and addressing any questions or concerns they may have had. It was a meaningful opportunity to contribute to the gathering and support our members.



Region 9 Urban Walk Challenge – September 2025

In September 2025, I participated in the Region 9 Urban Walk Challenge. This virtual challenge encouraged participants to stay active and prioritize their health and wellness. I enjoyed taking part in this initiative and appreciated the opportunity to connect with others in a positive and healthy way.

Love Yourself First Event – October 4, 2025

On October 4, 2025, I had the honour of providing the Opening and Closing Prayers for the **Love Yourself First** event held in Newmarket. This Métis Breast Cancer Screening Information Session focused on the importance of regular breast cancer screening and the positive impact early detection can have on health outcomes. The event provided valuable information about available screening services and resources, as well as support options for women living with breast cancer. It was an important opportunity to support awareness, education, and the well-being of Métis women in our community.

Region 9 Harvest Potluck

I participated in the Region 9 Harvest Potluck held at Balls Falls Bird Sanctuary. For this event, I prepared and shared a traditional Moose Stew. I felt it was important to provide an opportunity for those who may not have had the chance to experience moose meat before. Sharing traditional foods is an important way to celebrate our culture, educate others, and bring people together through community gatherings.

Moon River Métis Kitchen Party – April 25, 2026

On April 25, 2026, I displayed my skull artwork at the Moon River Métis Kitchen Party. This event provided community members with an opportunity to meet and speak with individuals who were running for council positions. It was a wonderful gathering that encouraged community engagement while also allowing me to share my artwork and discuss its cultural significance.

Honouring Métis Grandmothers Cultural Festival – May 3, 2026

On May 3, 2026, I displayed my beaded animal skull artwork at the Honouring Métis Grandmothers Cultural Festival in Barrie. During the event, I spoke with attendees about the importance of harvesting and the role it plays in providing for my family. I shared the significance of maintaining our Métis traditions and cultural practices through responsible harvesting. I also discussed the importance of respecting the land, expressing gratitude for the animals that provide sustenance, and teaching future generations the values of stewardship, respect, and thankfulness.

Closing Remarks

This past year has provided many opportunities to share Métis culture, traditions, and teachings through community events, wellness initiatives, cultural displays, and conversations with community members. Through prayer, community involvement, cultural education, and artistic expression, I have been grateful for the opportunity to serve and support Métis citizens throughout the year.

As an Elder, I remain committed to supporting our community, preserving our traditions, and sharing knowledge that helps strengthen our Métis identity for future generations.

Tina-Marie Jameson

MNOWC Elder