

YEAR IN REVIEW

MNO 33rd AGA / MNO Annual Report 2025/26

Name of PCMNO Councilor	Region / Position
Mitch Case	Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community - 4

Introductory Message about work within the Region in 2025/26

The 2025–2026 fiscal year was one of significant growth, collaboration, and achievement for the Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community. Throughout the year, the region remained committed to strengthening self-government, preserving and celebrating Métis history and culture, expanding services to citizens, and building meaningful partnerships that will benefit our communities for years to come.

This year saw the successful hosting of the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie, bringing citizens from across Ontario to the historic River Lots of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Community. In addition to a successful meeting of the General Assembly, the AGA saw a great display of Métis music, dance, food, art and raising of funds to support the construction of the Sacred Heart Cemetery monument.

We also welcomed citizens to two regional Self-Government Sessions, creating in-person opportunities to contribute to the development of the Métis Constitution and furthering our collective journey toward self-government.

Community engagement remained at the heart of our work. From cultural events, workshops, and gatherings to the launch of new programs and resources, we created opportunities for citizens to connect, learn, and celebrate our shared Métis identity. The continued growth of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Heritage Centre, the launch of our regional website and digital resources, and the expansion of citizen support programs all reflect our commitment to preserving our history while meeting the evolving needs of our communities.

Through strong leadership, strategic partnerships, and the dedication of our staff, volunteers, councils, and citizens, the Huron-Superior Region continues to build a strong foundation for the future. The accomplishments highlighted in this report demonstrate our ongoing commitment to advancing Métis culture, governance, community well-being, and regional development, while ensuring that our citizens remain at the centre of everything we do.

Highlights and Key Achievements

Heritage Centre & Metis Tours

- Officially opened the SSMMHC to public visitation August 13, 2025
- Launched the HC dedicated visitor website on August 20, 2025 reaching 2, 242 lifetime views by March 31, 2026 www.ssmmetisheritage.ca
- Delivered 23 Métis Tours, providing cultural and historical interpretation to community members and visitors
- Welcomed visitors over 49 public operating days, with a total of 106 visitors.

Cultural Events Coordinator Program

- Established the **HSSMMC Women's Book Club**, providing a monthly gathering for Métis

women to connect through Indigenous literature, with a focus on Métis authors and the experiences of Métis women.

Policy Analyst

- Published the Regional Harvester Guidebook to support citizens in exercising their Métis harvesting rights
- Developed the Citizen Support Program Policy, providing a framework for the successful implementation of the Help Around the House and Food Security Programs
- Drafted, implemented, and utilized the Property Acquisition Policy.

Regional

- Hosted a special concert featuring acclaimed Métis artist Amanda Rheame, bringing together citizens of the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council and the North Channel Métis Council for an evening of music, culture, and community. Attendees were among the first to hear songs from her album *The Truth We Hold*, including "One of These Days," written in remembrance of the burning of the Métis village at Agawa Bay
- Successfully hosted the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly at the Roberta Bondar Pavilion, welcoming Métis citizens from across the province to gather on the historic River Lots of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Community. The weekend showcased the region's history and culture through guided tours of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Heritage Centre and walking and paddling tours delivered in partnership with the Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy, providing visitors with an immersive experience of the community's heritage
- Successfully launched the Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community website (www.huronsuperiormetis.ca), creating a centralized hub for regional news, events, registration, and Community Support Programs
- Delivered the Regional Community Support Programs, assisting 48 families through the Métis Food Security Program and Help Around the House Program
- Hosted two hybrid Self-Government Sessions—one in Sault Ste. Marie and one in North Channel—bringing Métis citizens together to participate in the discussion and contribute to the development of the Métis Constitution

Meetings / Projects / Partnerships / Committee Participation / Other Activity

Heritage Centre & Métis Tours

- Was a participant in Sault Ste. Marie's Multiculturalism Day Celebration
- Was a participant in Doors Open Sault Ste. Marie
- Hosted a vendor booth for the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre's Bushplane Days

Cultural Events Program

- Hosted the HSSMMC First Annual Christmas Party, bringing citizens together for a community celebration featuring crafts, lunch, and a visit from Métis Santa and Mrs. Claus
- Hosted the NCMC First Annual Strawberry Social, providing citizens with a day of gardening, crafts, food, and community connection
- Organized the NCMC Healing Blanket Workshop, where participants created healing blankets to support citizens in need

Policy Analyst

- Delivered a Restorative Justice Circle and training for the Region 5 COTH and other members of the Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community RJC

- Worked collaboratively with the City of Sault Ste. Marie to help inform updates to the City's Cemetery By-law, ensuring traditional Métis burial practices were recognized

Other Comments

The 2025–2026 fiscal year laid a strong foundation for continued growth across the Huron-Superior Region. Many of the initiatives launched this year—including expanded citizen support programs, digital resources, cultural programming, and community engagement opportunities—will continue to grow and evolve as we build on this year's successes.

The Huron-Superior Regional Leadership and Staff extend our sincere appreciation to our citizens, Community Councils, volunteers, community partners, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers for their ongoing support, collaboration, and dedication. The accomplishments highlighted throughout this report would not have been possible without our shared commitment to strengthening our community and practicing, celebrating, and preserving our Métis culture, history, and traditions.