

YEAR IN REVIEW

MNO 33rd AGA / MNO Annual Report 2025/26

Name of PCMNO Councilor	Region / Position
Alicia Brink	Region 2, Regional Councilor

Introductory Message about work within the Region in 2025/26

I got a call informing me that I had been appointed to the position of Regional Councillor on Powley Day. I started on September 23rd and began learning the job. This involved reading the political, historical, and legal decisions that led to the inception of the MNO. I learned how Métis people fit within Aboriginal law and the Constitution, as well as developing an understanding of the Expert Panel reports.

I learned the extent of the projects and agreements within the region and began my role as Chair of the Regional Consultation Committee within my first few weeks. I also became well acquainted with the programs, services, and departments of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

My appointment coincided with the departure of the previous Regional Manager, and the region remained without that position until early in the new year. I helped guide processes until Reed Lecomte joined the team on January 12th.

There has been much learning and growth, as well as new ways of working together. In addition to gaining a deep footing in the roles and responsibilities of the position and advocating for our region on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario, I have also been working to get the region back on track with items that had been on hold prior to my arrival.

I have also been working to increase Métis visibility in Indigenous spaces, committees, and community events—in ways that are grounded in Métis pride, reciprocity, and a commitment to building strong relationships.

Over the past nine months I have helped strengthen regional engagement, support consultation, and rebuild momentum on important initiatives.

Highlights and Key Achievements

There were many outstanding issues in the Region upon taking a leadership position, some of these involved working with the Regional Consultation Committee (R2CC) to form, and sign a Transfer Payment Agreements that would allow the flow of Resource Revenue Shared dollars to the Region.

Some of the Community Benefit Agreements (CBA) signed with the region needed amendments as well as getting back on track with some of the agreed upon actions (ex – positions to be filled, and appointments to environmental committees). An example of this was working with Green Stone Gold Mine, legal counsel to amend a mistake in the CBA, working with the R2CC to establish an environmental committee, hire positions laid out in the agreement, receive the funds agreed upon in the CBA.

There were also Metis Nation of Ontario departmental requirements, policies and procedures that needed to be navigated to assist councils to receive access to their regional funds for events, and R2CC motioned decisions.

Meetings / Projects / Partnerships / Committee Participation / Other Activity

My work within the Region has been an exciting mix of duties and responsibilities. As the Regional Councilor I am the Chair of the Regional Consultation Committee (R2CC). I help facilitate the meetings, from logistics such as agenda, and maintaining flow, as well as the Metis Rules of Order – a safe place for governance from all voices. This has also included attending consultation meetings with proponents, and projects within the region. Some of which are initiatory relationships prior to projects government approval, and some involves consultation on work and projects already in within the region.

The R2CC has consulted on projects such as the Greenstone Transmission line, Moose research, land stewardship, GenPGM, to name a few. These meetings ensure that Metis concerns about environment, water, Metis way of life, and animal habitat are heard and mitigated when appropriate.

I have also attended two conferences to learn about and understand the environmental and political landscape of Critical Minerals, as well as the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association 2026 Exploration Showcase.

I sit on the Thunder Bay Museums Indigenous Advisory Board, and have attended

advisory meetings put on by the Northern School of Medicine, such as the Indigenous Research Innovation Gather, and the Indigenous Partners event.

In my role as Regional Councilor I have also had the honor of attending many events in the region from Louis Riel Day celebrations to Annual General Meeting of the Thunder Bay and District Council, and the Superior North Shore Metis council, as well as a General Meeting put on by the Greenstone Metis council.

I have attended public community events, such as flag raisings for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and I recently spoke at Fort William First Nations Pow Wow on National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Other Comments

I have also begun working with individual departments (when asked) at the MNO office to help connect them to regional/local organizations, councils and other departments to help them with their departmental goals. These connections are very rewarding as the MNO has many amazing programs and staff. And they have been working on some really interesting programs.

For example, the Lands and Resource branch has purchased two properties within the Region for the purpose of Land Stewardship. They are located on Loon Lake and Valley Road. Talks.

The Education and Training branch is working hard to open Thunder Bays own First Metis Daycare facility. And the Housing branch has been working in partnership with the Indigenous Friendship centre on Youth Transitional Housing.