

MNO PRESIDENT GARY LIPINSKI'S UPDATE:

“Big” Principles



Since being elected in May, President Gary Lipinski has been busy moving the MNO's agenda forward. The leadership of the MNO is dedicated to ensuring that the rights of the Métis community are protected and that the

Métis voice is heard. President Lipinski, Executive, PCMNO, Community Councils, citizens, volunteers and staff must continue to work tirelessly to make this happen. Below is an update of the ongoing work that the MNO continues to be involved in:

February 6th, 2009 • Ottawa, ON

REGISTRY THINK TANK

President Gary Lipinski, Chair France Picotte, Vice-Chair Sharon McBride and Secretary Treasurer Tim Pile attended an MNO Registry 'Think Tank' session at the Chimo Hotel in Ottawa, with the main purpose of examining the overall structure of the Registry system. The two-day session was an opportunity to educate new Directors about the critical role of the Registry in MNO and ended with an in-depth look at the “big” principles of the MNO Registry.

February 17th, 2009 • Toronto, ON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM

The Métis Nation of Ontario hosted a one-day economic development forum to bring together Ontario Métis entrepreneurs, key representatives of culturally relevant corporate sectors, and government staff who administer programs and services for business development. President Lipinski described the importance of this forum, especially in obtaining feedback from for the MNO on how it can best support Métis entrepreneurs. The comments and recommendations from the forum will give guidance to the MNO for its economic development strategies and how it provides services to Métis businesses.

February 18th, 2009 • Toronto, ON

CCAB MEETING (CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR ABORIGINAL BUSINESS)

President Lipinski and MNO Chair France Picotte connected with 500 business and Aboriginal business and community leaders

gathering in Toronto to celebrate the 25th Anniversary for the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB). The afternoon and evening event covered how Canadian companies initiate, build and sustain positive relationships with Aboriginal communities.

February 19th, 2009 • Sault Ste. Marie, ON

CONSULTATION PROTOCOL REVIEW

The first of two Consultation Protocol review meetings took place in Historic Sault Ste. Marie. MNO President Gary Lipinski and Community Council Presidents Kim Powley of the Historic Sault Ste Marie Métis Council and Rick Bennett of the North Channel Métis Council shared with local citizens how the regional consultation protocols will work. The group reviewed with the President and MNO staff the proposed consultation agreement and discussed when it will be signed. A question and answer period followed.

February 24-25th, 2009 • Ottawa, ON

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION SUMMIT

President Lipinski and MNO Chair France Picotte and 40 leaders in education, several Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs and provincial and territorial Ministers in education at a summit hosted by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC).

The Summit is an important step forward in addressing the gaps in Métis, First Nations, and Inuit education in Canada. Ongoing commitment from every level of government is necessary to ensure that all national, provincial and territorial strategies on education, training and skills development include processes designed specifically for Métis learners.

February 26th, 2009 • Midland, ON

GEORGIAN BAY COMMUNITY MEETING

A second Consultation Protocol Review meeting with the Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) took place in Pentanguishene. The community meeting was attended by President Gary Lipinski, Chair France Picotte, Region 7 Councillor, Pauline Saulnier, Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt, Louise Goulding, GBMC President Alden Barty, Grey-Owen Sound Métis Council President, Malcolm Dixon, Moon River Métis Council President, Larry Duval, many GBMC citizens and various MNO staff.

President Lipinski supplied an update on new and ongoing MNO initiatives and provided a greater understanding of the Duty to Consult and Accommodate with Métis in Ontario. A chronology of the proposed protocol implementation and a word for word account of the protocol was also given. Citizens took part in a question and answer period to end the meeting.



UPCOMING • MARCH 2009

- 03/17 - Thunder Bay Education Consultation
- 03/19 - Ottawa Education Consultation
- 03/22 - Captains of the Hunt Meeting, Toronto
- 03/24 - Toronto Education Consultation
- 03/24 - PCMNO Executive Meeting, Toronto
- 03/25 - PCMNO Meeting, Toronto
- 03/27 - Finance Meeting/Upper Canada Law Society Symposium, Toronto
- 03/28 - Duty to Consult Symposium for Community Council President's, Toronto
- 03/29 - Sault Ste. Marie Education Consultation

the Métis Nation of Ontario