



The MNO South West Region brings together Métis citizens and four Community Councils across southwestern Ontario, led by one PCMNO Regional Councillor and four elected Presidents, with support from the Regional Manager.

Regional News

Explore the latest regional updates and activities for the last quarter.



As spring has finally sprung and we move closer and closer to the long hot summer days. It has been a busy three months for those of us working to build a strong region.

The big announcement we really want to highlight is the launch of our long-awaited regional website. This site is a place for everyone in the region to access all the up to date news about our region. It highlights, news and information of not only regional activities, but council activities, MNO highlights, access points to MNO programs, and the MNO business directory. You can check it out at www.southwestregion.metisnation.org. Make sure you book mark it for future reference.

In March, which seems so long ago now, Lisa and I travelled throughout the region and met with citizens and family members in 10 meetings over a four-week period. The conversations were engaging and constructive, and ranged across numerous topics. While the focus was key topics related to self-government and the impending release of our draft constitution, they more often than not covered numerous other topics of particular interest to those in attendance. While it was a time to discuss this very important and critical topic for each and every one of us, it was also a time for community connection and community bonding.

A brief update on our draft constitution. After almost five years of citizen engagement, numerous in person and virtual discussions, the draft constitution is in its final stages of development and should be released within the next several months. It is critical that every citizen, 16 years of age and over, pay attention to it's release. As the foundational law for our new self government Treaty and government, it is key to our future success. Once it is released, there are plans being developed to do another round of meetings throughout the region. We look forward to hearing from you in those conversations.

On another front, we are very pleased to announce that the 2027 Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly will be held at Guelph Lake Conservation Area in the Island Stage area. Mark your calendars. This is the first time that the AGA has been held in our region, making it the most accessible to our citizens. It will likely be sometime before it comes back to our region.

The last reminder, our regional rendezvous coming this Powley Day, September 19th, Guelph Lake Conservation Area.

Over the next couple of months there will be more exciting news. Stay tuned.

Building a strong, resilient nation through a strong, resilient region!



South West Region Lauches Website

The South West Region is pleased to announce the launch of its new regional website, officially unveiled during our May the Fourth-themed *Koffee with Kathleen* virtual sessions.

Created through the vision and support of the South West Regional Leadership Team, the website serves as a central hub for regional news, events, resources, and community updates. It also features dedicated pages for each council, making it easier for citizens to stay informed and connected with both local and regional initiatives.

“This website reflects our commitment to strengthening communication and connection across the South West Region,” shared Regional Councillor Kathleen Anderson. “It provides a space to share information, celebrate community successes, and help citizens stay engaged with the important work happening across our region.”

The website will continue to grow with regular updates, stories, and opportunities from across the region.

We invite all citizens to explore the new website and check back often for the latest news and events.

Visit: southwestregion.metisnation.org

Mobile Registry

Save the dates! MNO Registry staff will be available to assist Métis with citizenship and harvesting applications on:

- September 15th in Thorold
- September 16th in Hamilton
- September 17th in Kitchener
- September 18th in London and
- September 19th at the South West Regional Rendezvous at Guelph Lake Conservation

Walk-ins are welcome or call the MNO Registry in advance to arrange an appointment! Bring your completed Citizenship or Harvesting application form or get assistance filling out the form from our Registry team. We will have forms on hand and can take photos for your card!

For application forms and more information about the documents to bring: [Métis Nation of Ontario | Registry | Métis of Ontario](#) Feel free to bring the whole family, as Métis children of all ages are eligible to apply for MNO Citizenship. For more info contact MNO Registry at 1-855-798-1006 or info@mnoregistry.ca.



SOUTH WEST REGIONAL
**MÉTIS FAMILY
RENDEZVOUS**

September 19 @ 10AM - 4PM

Métis Nation
of Ontario ∞

**South West Region – Powley Day Regional Rendezvous 2026 Returns
September 19th, 2026**

The South West Region is excited to invite citizens, families, and friends to join us for the 2026 Powley Day Regional Rendezvous on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at Guelph Lake Conservation Area.

This is our 2nd annual Regional Rendezvous and is the region's largest celebration, bringing together Métis citizens from across South West Ontario for a day filled with culture, community, learning, and connection. Whether you are attending for the first time or returning to reconnect with friends and family, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Throughout the day, guests can look forward to live entertainment, cultural demonstrations, hands-on activities, opportunities to learn traditional skills, a vibrant vendor marketplace, children's activities, and much more. The Regional Rendezvous

is a chance to celebrate our shared Métis culture while strengthening relationships across our communities and region.

Our vendor marketplace continues to grow each year, and spaces are filling quickly. While a limited number of spots remain available, interested vendors are encouraged to register soon. Please click [here](#) for more information on vending with us.

We are also currently seeking volunteers to help make this event a success. High school students are welcome, and we are happy to validate hours as needed. Volunteers play an important role in welcoming guests, supporting activities, assisting with event logistics, and helping create a positive experience for everyone who attends. Those interested in volunteering can find more information [here](#) on our website.

Our Call for Community Entertainers has now closed. We are grateful to those who stepped forward to share their talents and interest in performing at this year's gathering. The Regional Leadership Team has reviewed the submissions, and we will be reaching out to applicants soon with next steps. Thank you to everyone who expressed interest in helping make this year's celebration special.

The South West Regional Leadership Team looks forward to bringing our region together once again for a day of culture, connection, and celebration. We hope to see you there!

The guest registration is now open! Please click the button below to register.

Register Here for the Regional Rendezvous!



President Derrick Pont Receives Town of Lincoln Mayor's Medal

The South West Region extends heartfelt congratulations to Derrick Pont, President of the Niagara Region Métis Council, on being awarded the Town of Lincoln Mayor's Medal.

On Monday, May 4, 2026, during a Town Council meeting at Lincoln Town Hall, Mayor Easton presented President Pont with this distinguished honour in recognition of his leadership and dedication to advancing Indigenous relations throughout the region.

Introduced in 2017, the Mayor's Medal is presented to individuals, businesses, and community leaders who have made exceptional contributions to the Town of Lincoln through service, collaboration, and efforts that enhance the quality of life for residents.

President Pont was recognized for his ongoing work to strengthen relationships, promote understanding, and support meaningful reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Through his leadership with the Niagara Region Métis Council and his commitment to community engagement, he continues to make a lasting and positive impact across the region.

Bravo, Derrick, and maarsii for your hard work, leadership, and dedication to our Métis communities. This recognition is both well deserved and a reflection of the meaningful difference you continue to make.



Building Our Future Together: Reflections on the South West Region's Conversation & Community Meal Series

This past February and March, the South West Region welcomed citizens to ten Conversation & Community Meal sessions focused on Métis self-government, community connection, and the future of our Nation.

Hosted in Hamilton, Brantford, Chatham, Windsor, Stratford, Guelph, Sarnia, Exeter, St. Catharines, and Welland, these gatherings provided opportunities for citizens to learn, ask questions, share perspectives, and connect with fellow Métis citizens over a meal.

The South West Regional Leadership Team extends its sincere thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to these conversations. The thoughtful questions, respectful dialogue, and strong participation demonstrated the value of creating space for citizens to come together and engage in important discussions about our collective future.

We would like to thank PCMNO South West Regional Councillor Kathleen Anderson for her leadership and facilitation throughout the series, as well as Ryan Schubert (Associate Director of Self-Government) and Michelle Dionne (Fiscal Governance Lead) from the MNO Self-Government Team for sharing their knowledge and helping guide discussions.

Special thanks to the Niagara Region Métis Council, Thames Bluewater Métis Council, and Clear Waters Métis Council for their partnership in hosting these events within their communities. We also recognize South West Regional Manager Lisa Boivin-Rutherford for coordinating the communications, logistics, planning, and delivery of this ten-community engagement series.

Most importantly, this is not the end of the conversation.

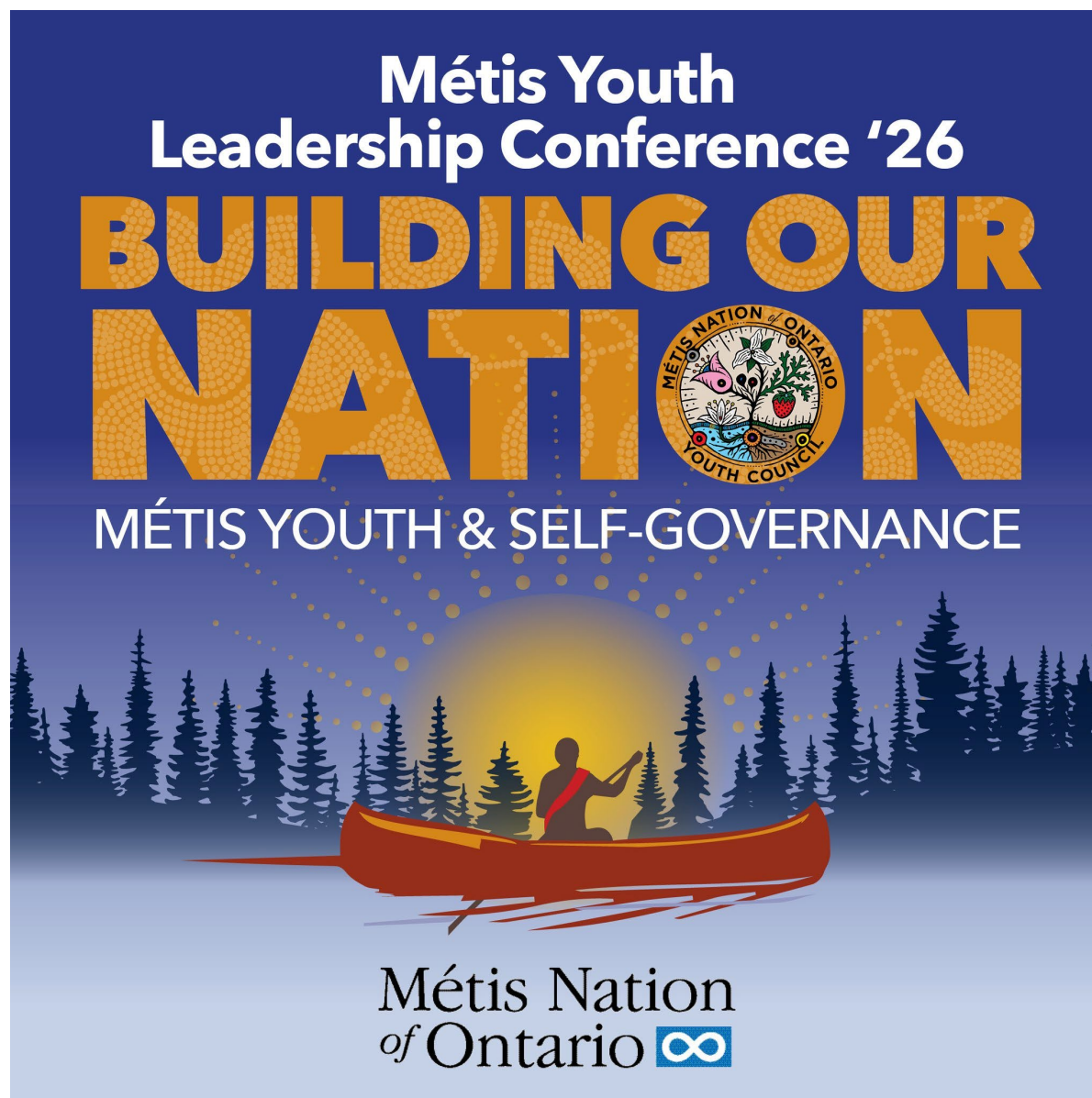
Following the release of the Draft Constitution, the South West Region has committed to hosting another round of community engagement meetings to ensure citizens continue to have opportunities to learn, ask questions, and participate in discussions about the future of Métis self-government.

As we continue this journey together, we look forward to creating more opportunities for connection, dialogue, and engagement across the region. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make these gatherings such a success. Together, we are building a stronger region and a stronger Métis Nation.

Maarsii.



**A Message from Kaitlyn Anderson-Mitchell, South West Regional
Youth Representative**



**Métis Youth: Your Voice Matters — Apply for the 2026 Youth Leadership
Conference**

I want to encourage Métis youth across our region to consider applying for the 2026 Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Leadership Conference (YLC), taking place August 11–12 in Thunder Bay.

The Youth Leadership Conference brings together Métis youth from communities across Ontario for two days of learning, leadership development, cultural connection, and relationship building. This year's theme, **"Building Our Nation: Métis Youth and Self-Governance"** will explore the important role young people play in shaping the future of our Nation. Participants can expect engaging workshops, land-based learning opportunities, storytelling, and meaningful discussions about Métis leadership and governance.

One of the most valuable parts of the conference is the opportunity to connect with other Métis youth from across the province. Whether you are already involved in your community or looking for a way to become more engaged, the YLC is a welcoming space to learn, share experiences, build confidence, and develop new friendships.

Applications are open to verified MNO citizens between the ages of 16 and 29. Youth under the age of 18 will require a chaperone. All expenses are covered. Space is limited, and applications will be reviewed to ensure representation from communities across Ontario.

The application deadline is **Friday, June 19, 2026**. Applicants will be notified of their application status by the end of June.

I encourage all eligible youth in the South West Region to take advantage of this opportunity. Your ideas, perspectives, and leadership are important to the future of our Métis Nation, and I would love to see strong representation from our region at this year's conference.

For more information and to apply, please click [here](#).

I hope to see many of you there!

Maarsii,

Kaitlyn Anderson-Mitchell
South West Regional Youth Representative

A Message from Jim Tolles, South West Captain of the Hunt Liaison



Sharing Harvesting Knowledge in Niagara

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Niagara Region Métis Council for inviting me to host a Harvesting Information Meeting for citizens in the Niagara catchment area this spring.

On May 3, I had the pleasure of spending the afternoon with citizens and families at the NRMCM office in Thorold, sharing teachings and practical information about Métis harvesting traditions. Together, we discussed topics such as traplines, beaver trapping, and general harvesting practices, while creating space for questions, stories, and conversation.

One of the highlights for me was seeing the youth get involved. We explored traditional skills through hands-on demonstrations, including snare making, bow drill fire starting, and firearm safety using Nerf guns as a fun and age-appropriate teaching tool. There were plenty of smiles, laughs, and learning throughout the day.

Gatherings like these are important opportunities to pass along knowledge, build confidence, and strengthen our connection to the Métis way of life. Whether you are an experienced harvester or simply curious to learn more, there is always something new to discover and someone willing to share.

Maarsii to everyone who attended and helped make the day such a success. I look forward to future opportunities to learn, share, and connect with citizens across the South West Region.

Community Council Updates and Activities

Explore the latest regional updates and activities for the last quarter.

Clear Water Métis Council



Clear Waters Métis Council Tree Planting Event

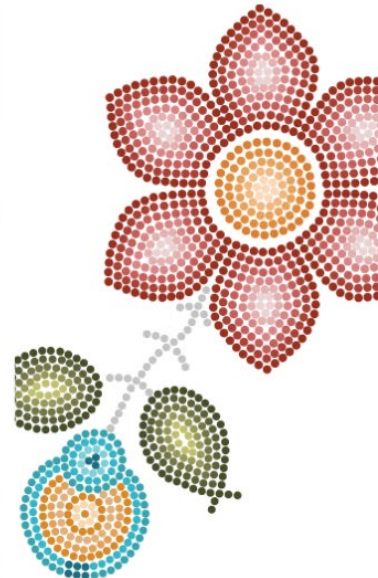
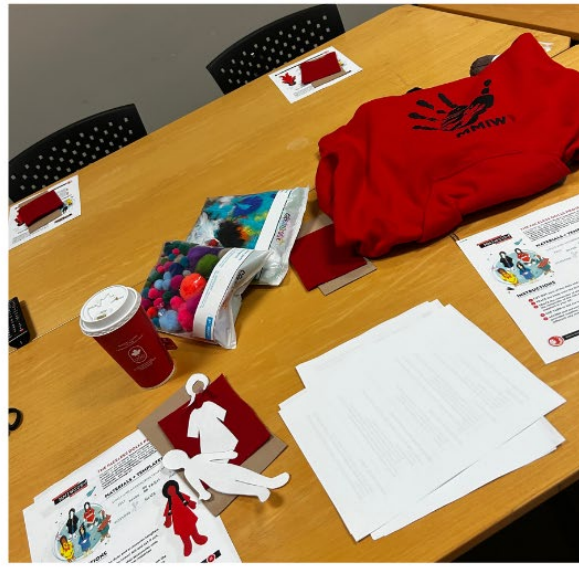
On Saturday, May 9, 2026, Clear Waters Métis Council (CWMC), in partnership with the Métis Nation of Ontario Land, Resources and Consultations Branch (LRC), hosted a community tree planting event at Fisher's Pond in collaboration with the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

Participants first gathered at the Alton Community Centre before carpooling to the planting site. With beautiful weather and a strong turnout, community members spent the afternoon planting trees, connecting with the land, and enjoying time

together in nature. Over 150 trees were planted, and 10 of these trees were planted in memorial of citizens and family members.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy provided technical guidance throughout the day to help ensure the planting was successful, while MNO's LRC Branch supported the event as part of ongoing efforts to care for and restore the natural environment.

Maarsii to everyone who attended and contributed to this meaningful day, and special thanks to the dedicated CWMC volunteers, Camille from the LRC Branch, and the Bruce Trail Conservancy for helping make this event such a success. Together, we are strengthening our connection to the land and helping to create a healthier environment for future generations.



Honouring Red Dress Day Through Reflection and Creation

In recognition of Red Dress Day, Clear Waters Métis Council (CWMC) partnered with the Hamilton Métis Nation of Ontario Wellness Program to host a meaningful hybrid Faceless Doll Making Workshop.

Citizens gathered in person and virtually to create faceless dolls while learning, reflecting, and engaging in conversations about the significance of Red Dress Day. The workshop provided an opportunity to come together in a creative and supportive environment while honouring the lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+).

As participants carefully crafted their dolls, the activity created space for reflection, connection, and remembrance. The faceless dolls serve as a powerful symbol, reminding us of the many Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people whose stories, identities, and voices must never be forgotten.

CWMC extends its sincere thanks to the Hamilton MNO Wellness Program for partnering in this important initiative and to everyone who participated. By gathering in community, sharing space, and engaging in acts of remembrance, we continue to honour those who are missing, support affected families and communities, and reaffirm our collective commitment to awareness, healing, and reconciliation.

Maarsii to all who joined us for this meaningful day of learning, reflection, and community.

Grand River Métis Council

Save the date for these Upcoming GRMC Events:

- June 14th, 2026 - [Women's Drop-In](#)
- June 18th, 2026 - [Café 55](#)
- June 20th - [Family Rendezvous](#)
- July 19th, 2026 - [Women's Drop-In](#)

Niagara Region Métis Council



Niagara Region Métis Council Plants Trees in Honour of Kelly Brishke

The Niagara Region Métis Council welcomed citizens and families to Balls Falls Conservation Area on Saturday, April 25, 2026, for its Forest of the Future Tree Planting event.

Held in partnership with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, the event brought community members together to give back to the land, connect with one another, and help create a greener future for generations to come.

This year's tree planting held special meaning, as the 23 trees planted were dedicated to the memory of Kelly Brishke, the Niagara Region Métis Council's

longtime Secretary, who recently passed away after a courageous battle with cancer.

Kelly was a dedicated council member and a beloved friend to many within the NRMC community. Her commitment, kindness, and service left a lasting impact, and this living tribute ensures her memory will continue to grow alongside the trees planted in her honour.

Following the tree planting, members of the council returned during the Family Fun Day on Saturday, May 9, 2026, to place a dedication plaque near one of the newly planted trees. President Pont, Senator Sequin, and Councillor Martin participated in this meaningful tribute.

Maarsii to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and to all the citizens and families who joined in this special event. Together, we honoured Kelly's memory while helping to grow a healthier and greener future for generations to come.



Niagara Region Métis Council Holds Successful 2026 Annual General Meeting

The Niagara Region Métis Council welcomed citizens to its 2026 Annual General Meeting on Monday, April 20, 2026, at the council office in Thorold.

The evening provided an opportunity to reflect on the council's accomplishments over the past year, share important updates, and discuss the many initiatives and

events planned for the year ahead. It was also a meaningful occasion for citizens to come together, ask questions, offer feedback, and strengthen connections within the community.

The Niagara Region Métis Council extends its sincere thanks to all citizens who attended and took part in the discussion. Together, we continue to build a strong, connected, and engaged community.



Niagara Region Métis Youth Build Skills and Prepare for Spring Fishing Adventures

The Niagara Region Métis Council welcomed Métis youth to the council office in Thorold on Sunday, April 12, 2026, for an engaging afternoon of learning, cultural activities, and planning during the Métis Skills & Planning Day.

The gathering brought together youth who have been actively involved in the Niagara Region Métis Youth Group throughout the year. The session focused on preparing participants for upcoming fishing opportunities while also strengthening practical outdoor skills and cultural connections.

During the afternoon, youth received fishing supplies and learned how to set up and care for their equipment. They practiced tying several important knots, including a stopper knot used in beadwork, the knot used to attach fishing line to a reel, and the knot used to secure a fishing leader. Once their reels were set up, participants threaded their lines through their backpack fishing rods and headed outside to practice casting.

In addition to fishing instruction, youth took part in beadwork using kits provided by the program and engaged in conversations about Métis identity and self-government. To help prepare for the group's upcoming fishing day on May 30, each participant received a backpack camp chair so they can relax and enjoy a day on the water.

The Métis Skills & Planning Day was a wonderful opportunity for youth to build confidence, develop practical land-based skills, and strengthen friendships within the Métis community.

Maarsii to all the youth who continue to make the Niagara Region Métis Youth Group such a vibrant and supportive community.

Thames Bluewater Métis Council



Citizens Get Creative at Sausage-Making Workshop

Thames Bluewater Métis Council (TBWMC) citizens enjoyed a hands-on culinary experience through a Sausage-Making Workshop hosted in partnership with Growing Chefs. The event brought community members together to learn new skills, share stories, and celebrate food traditions in a fun and welcoming environment.

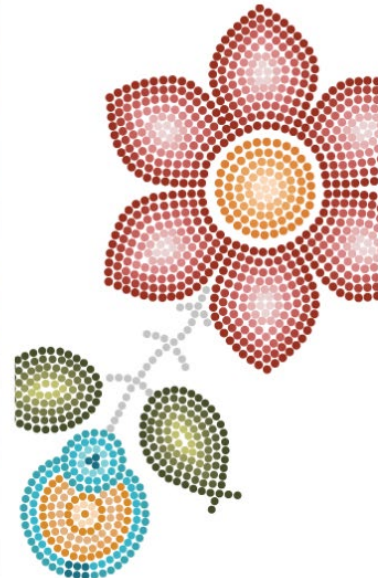
Participants rolled up their sleeves and worked alongside the Growing Chefs team to create three unique sausage recipes: a Pemmican-inspired sausage, a Wild Onion and Juniper Turkey Patty Sausage, and a Garlic and Leek Sausage. Throughout the

workshop, citizens learned about flavour combinations, food preparation techniques, and the ingredients that make each recipe unique.

The laughter and conversation flowing throughout the day made it clear that everyone was having a great time. After the cooking was complete, participants gathered around the table to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Growing Chefs, featuring some of the sausages they had helped create. Each participant had the opportunity to take home a portion of their handcrafted sausages to share with family and friends.

Food has a special way of bringing people together, creating opportunities to learn, connect, and strengthen community bonds. This workshop provided all of that and more, leaving participants with new skills, full stomachs, and great memories.

Maarsii to the team at Growing Chefs for sharing their expertise and enthusiasm, to the dedicated TBWMC volunteers who helped make the event possible, and to all the citizens who joined us for this memorable day. We look forward to gathering together again for future workshops and community events.



Planting Seeds for the Future

On Tuesday, April 21, citizens gathered at the London MNO office for a hands-on Seed Planting Workshop hosted by Melissa W., Community Wellness Coordinator, and the Thames Bluewater Métis Council.

Participants joined in-person or virtually by zoom to share an afternoon of planting seeds to grow their own gardens, while enjoying conversation, learning, and community connection. Whether participants were experienced gardeners or trying their hand at growing food for the first time, the workshop offered a welcoming space to learn and share knowledge.

Growing our own food provides many benefits. It encourages healthy eating, fosters self-sufficiency, and offers a deeper appreciation for the time and care required to bring food from seed to table. Gardening also provides an opportunity to slow down, spend time outdoors, and strengthen our connection to the land and the natural cycles that sustain us.

For many Métis families, gardening and harvesting have long been ways of connecting with the land, sharing knowledge between generations, and providing for loved ones. Events like this help keep those traditions alive while creating opportunities for citizens to gather, learn, and build community.

Thank you to Melissa W. for organizing and leading the workshop, the TBWMC volunteers, and to all the citizens who joined us. We hope your seeds are growing strong and that your gardens bring you a season of enjoyment, learning, and abundance.

Growing Together: TBWMC Launches Community Garden

Thames Bluewater Métis Council (TBWMC) is excited to announce the launch of a new community garden after securing a garden plot through the City of London. The garden will operate from May through the end of September and will provide citizens with an opportunity to grow food, learn new skills, and connect with one another throughout the growing season.

Community gardens are about much more than growing vegetables. They create spaces where people can share knowledge, build relationships, and support one another while working toward greater food sustainability. For citizens who may not have access to their own garden space, a community garden offers a meaningful way to participate in growing fresh, healthy food and developing a stronger connection to the land.

Volunteers are needed throughout the season to help plant, maintain, harvest, and care for the garden. Whether you are an experienced gardener or just looking to learn, everyone is welcome to get involved.

The success of a community garden comes from the many hands and hearts that contribute to it. Together, we can create a space that provides food, learning opportunities, and a sense of community for citizens of all ages.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more about the garden, please contact TBWMC at TBWMC@metisnation.org.

We look forward to growing together this season!

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

AGA 2026

REGISTER NOW!

Métis Nation
of Ontario 



Your Voice Matters.

JOIN YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL AND HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE.

Click this banner to explore current openings.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

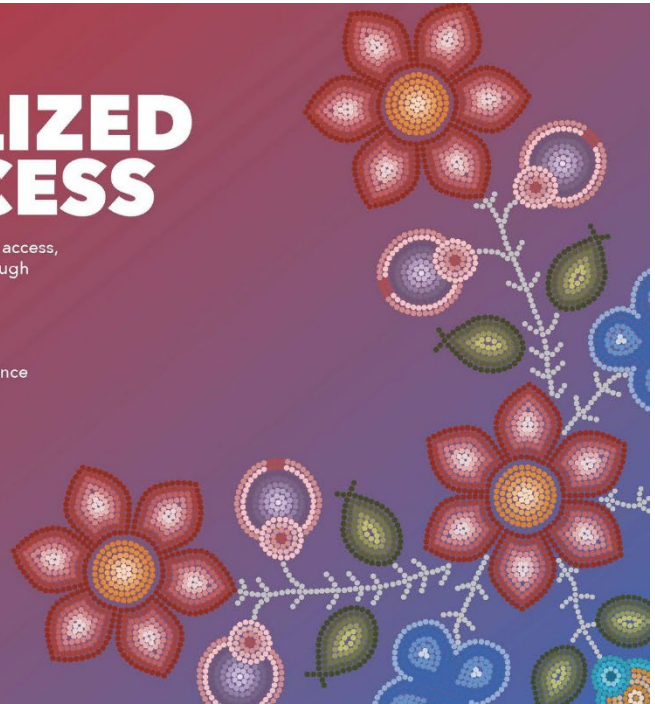
ONE CENTRALIZED POINT OF ACCESS

The Métis Nation of Ontario's ONE MNO team is a centralized point of access, where you can connect with one of our Navigators and be guided through everything MNO has to offer.

- A single point of access
- Enhanced community experience
- Info on **ALL** MNO services and supports available across the province
- Facilitated coordination of supports and service for those in need

p: **1-800-263-4889 x7**
e: **ContactUs@metisnation.org**
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