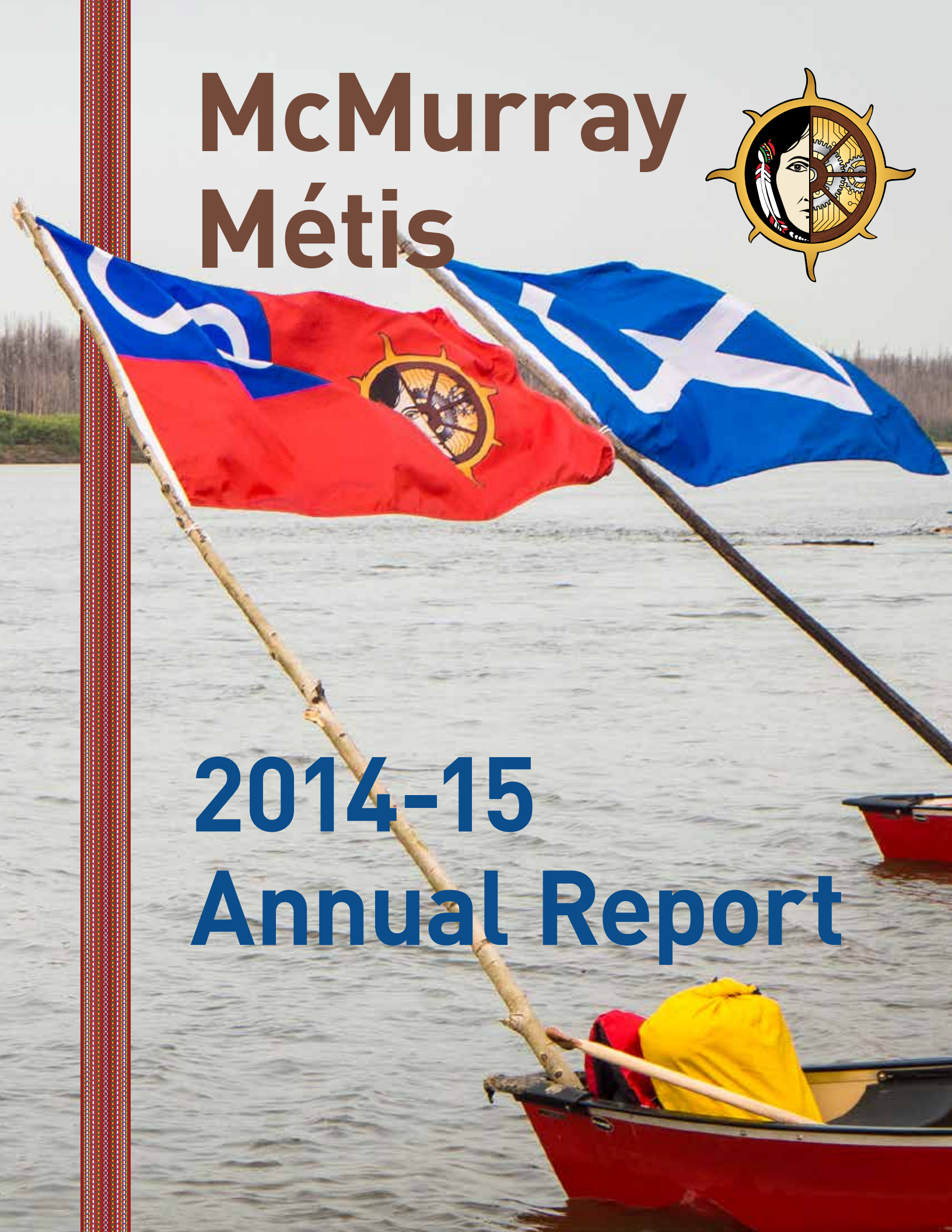


# McMurray Métis



2014-15  
Annual Report







# MCMURRAY MÉTIS

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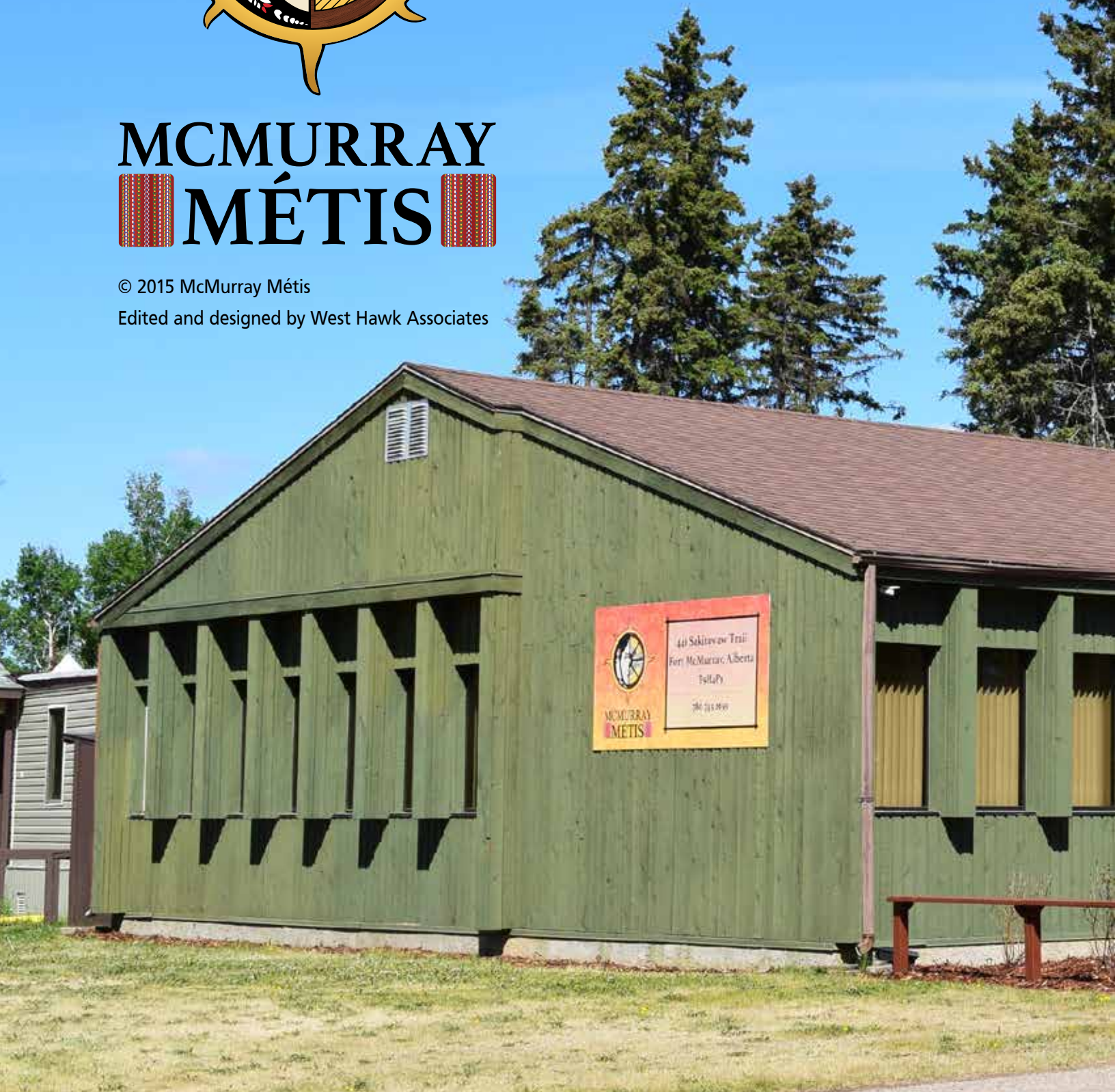
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# President's Report



This past year has been challenging and interesting as I settled into the role of McMurray Métis President. Thank you for allowing me to represent you in this important elected office. Thank you to Local Council members for their valuable input and leadership. My thanks as well to our hard-working staff. Without their loyalty and dedication it would be difficult to perform the duties my position involves.

Through our Infinity Fund we're beginning to make the financial progress required to reach our goal of developing a Community Cultural Centre. This will be a priority as we move forward.

Over the past year we held our 5th Annual Métis Festival, which drew over 1,500 children, Elders, and other residents, making it Fort McMurray's largest annual Aboriginal event. We held our 14th Annual Infinity Métis Golf Tournament, raising over \$116,000 for our Métis Bursary Program. Education is the foundation for success of the Métis Nation and in 2014-15 we disbursed almost \$120,000. More than 400 Elders took part in our 11th Annual Elders' Christmas Celebration. We're also happy to welcome Métis Elders to our office each month for a get-together and luncheon.

An ongoing goal of McMurray Métis is to ensure all those eligible become members. We made great progress with help from the Métis Nation of Alberta, increasing our roll to over 300 members. Monthly membership meetings at the Nistawoyou Friendship Centre are still followed by a luncheon and a licensed bingo, which is open to the entire community.

In March, in partnership with our regional Métis neighbours, we hosted the successful Wood Buffalo Métis Rights and Economic Development Symposium in Fort McMurray. Métis from Ontario to British Columbia and industry and government representatives attended. We continue to work collaboratively to assert and defend Métis rights and promote economic opportunities.

McMurray Métis continues to pursue business opportunities through the Infinity Métis Corporation (IMC) and the Wood Buffalo Métis Corporation (WBMC), which is jointly owned by IMC, McKay Métis Group, Conklin Métis Local 193, and Fort Chipewyan Métis Local 125. I'm pleased with the progress we have made through our partnerships with North Country Catering, Forthryte Industrial Services, GEO Worldwide, and Aqua Industrial, and our progress with WBMC in partnership with Athabasca Minerals. Thanks are due to our industry partners and all those who respect Métis rights by consulting with and making investments in our community. We will continue to strive for the betterment of our community and I look forward to working with Métis members to advance our rights and protect our Métis identity.

Respectfully,

Gail B. Gallupe, President



# General Manager's Report



McMurray Métis' second *Annual Report* details a busy year as we continued to pursue the advancement of the Métis people of Fort McMurray and northeastern Alberta. This report contains updates on our activities throughout the previous fiscal year (April 1, 2014, through March 31, 2015) as well as audited financial statements. Our annual audit is a statement of our commitment to accountability and transparency to members, industry partners, and stakeholders.

I am pleased to report our auditor has once again found McMurray Métis finances to be well managed. Revenue has remained stable and our net assets have increased by 17% this year. Given the sound financial position of McMurray Métis, we're continuing to make ongoing investments in our Infinity Fund to save what is required to achieve our long-term goal of building a Métis Community Cultural Centre.

This past year we hosted a successful Métis Rights and Economic Development Symposium in partnership with Conklin Métis Local 193, Fort Chipewyan Métis Local 125, and The McKay Métis Community, with over 200 in attendance from across Canada, including Métis political leaders, industry, government, and local Métis members. This brought a great deal of needed attention to the important issues of Métis rights and economic development. We also ensured the McMurray Métis were well represented at provincial and national gatherings as we sent delegations to Back to Batoche Days in Saskatchewan, the MNA's 86th Annual General Assembly in Stettler, the swearing in of the new MNA Provincial Council in Edmonton, and many other gatherings.



*From left to right: Johnny Fraser, Kyle Harrietha, Melissa Blake, Mike Allen, Jane Stroud, Dickie Dragon, Audrey Poitras, Willie Landstrom, Don Scott, Almer Waniandy, RCMP Const. Andrew Brock.*



Advancing Métis rights is one of our primary tasks and we continue to work with Alberta to have Fort McMurray recognized as a historic and contemporary Métis community and for a Métis Consultation Policy. Given the glacial pace of change, we also proceeded with litigation and commissioned a 600-page report, *Fort McMurray: Historic and Contemporary Rights-Bearing Métis Community*, to support our case. Its archival information, primary oral history interviews, secondary historical scholarship, and government sources demonstrate that Fort McMurray is a historic and contemporary rights-bearing Métis community as defined by *R. v. Powley*. We also filed for a judicial review of Alberta's decision not to require Métis consultation for a number of oil sands project applications, and we'll be filing another on Alberta's rejection of Métis Harvesting applications for the Métis of Fort McMurray.

McMurray Métis members can be assured that this organization will continue to aggressively assert and defend Métis rights in Fort McMurray and northeastern Alberta. Our relationship with those companies who respect Métis rights and the duty to consult is strong and productive and we have continued to strengthen our agreements with respect to consultation, cooperation, and community investment. The Local Council has approved long-term agreements with Shell Canada and Athabasca Oil Sands and administration is engaged in discussions with a number of other companies.

To ensure Métis are consulted and their constitutional rights are respected, we consistently intervene in the regulatory process on project applications through the Alberta Energy Regulator, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, and the National Energy Board. We also work to improve government policy and environmental monitoring through our participation on regional multi-stakeholder groups, including the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association and the Cumulative Environmental Management Association. We have continued to express our concerns on the lack of meaningful Aboriginal involvement in the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan and the Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Agency.

The importance of Métis heritage and traditional knowledge cannot be overstated. Our implementation of the Community Knowledge Keeper system has improved our ability to engage with industry and government. We continue to conduct traditional land use studies, cultural impact assessments, and historical research while encouraging contemporary traditional land use to ensure we have the evidence required for consultation with industry and for litigation when Métis rights are neither respected nor recognized. The participation of Métis members in this process is essential.

My thanks to the McMurray Métis Local Council for its confidence and commitment, to our amazing staff for their hard work and dedication, to the McMurray Métis members (whose participation is critical to our success), and to our incredible volunteers.

Sincerely,

Kyle Harrietha, General Manager





# Community Relations

## MÉTIS FESTIVAL

McMurray Métis hosted its 5th Annual Métis Festival on Friday, May 23, 2014, attracting over 1,500 students, Elders, Members, and local residents. The opening ceremony with local and provincial dignitaries was followed by crafts, jigging, fiddling, singing, games, and servings of stew, fried fish, and bannock. The event featured award-winning Métis artists Inez Jasper, Sagkeeng's Finest, Beverly Lambert, Asham Stompers, Michael Audette and Lindsay Bart, and comedian Ryan McMahan. The day was filled with Métis cultural entertainment, games, arts, and crafts. We also had a Métis culture and history tent, educational and membership information, and vendors selling art and crafts.



*Clockwise from top left: Featured performer Inez Jasper; Sagkeeng's Finest; blowing bubbles; Wood Buffalo Mayor Melissa Blake and Elder Almer Waniandy; traditional fish fry; Etchiboy sashes.*



## INFINITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

More than 110 golfers turned out for the 14th Annual Infinity Golf Tournament on Wednesday, September 3, at the Miskanaw Golf Course on MacDonald Island.

The event raised more than \$116,000 in support of the McMurray Métis Bursary Program. We have seen many lives changed for the better due to the tremendous support we have received through this tournament. In 2014-15 McMurray Métis disbursed almost \$120,000 for the educational needs of Members.



*Golf tournament participants.*





## ELDERS CHRISTMAS BANQUET

On Wednesday, December 3, McMurray Métis hosted its 11th annual Elders' Christmas Celebration at the Sawridge Inn in Fort McMurray. This gathering is held to honour our Elders, lift their spirits, and give them a chance to socialize with friends and family. The gathering, which is free and open to all Elders in Wood Buffalo, saw over 400 attendees enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, a performance by the Métis Fiddler Quartet, door prizes, a visit from Santa, and a Christmas gift. Elsie Cardinal and Richard Golosky were named Elders of the Year.



*Elders of the Year for 2014 are Elsie Cardinal (left) and Richard Golosky (seated, above).*

## FESTIVAL OF TREES

McMurray Métis once again participated in the Northern Lights Health Foundation's Festival of Trees November 14 through 16. With the support of Total E&P Canada, we decorated a Métis-themed tree for auction, raising \$4,000 for this important local charity.

## MULTICULTURAL DAY EXPO

Hosted by the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo, McMurray Métis staff and volunteers participated in the Annual Multicultural Expo on February 15, 2015, at MacDonald Island. We had a table with information on Métis culture and heritage including *Mark of the Métis* books, Métis sashes, toques, and scarves.





## WOOD BUFFALO MÉTIS SYMPOSIUM

On March 10 and 11, 2014, Conklin Métis Local 193, Fort Chipewyan Métis Local 125, The McKay Métis Community, and McMurray Métis jointly held the Wood Buffalo Métis Rights and Economic Development Symposium at the Sawridge Inn in Fort McMurray.

With over 200 in attendance, the sold-out event included members of the Métis community, industry, business, government, and political officials, with attendees from across the Métis Nation from Ontario to British Columbia. Keynote addresses were given by Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand and Stephanie Sterling, Shell's General Manager of Venture Support. It was a unique opportunity to learn about the Métis Nation, Métis people, and the challenges and opportunities that need to be addressed.

Participants discussed Métis history, business success stories, our relationship with industry and government, tools for pursuing Métis rights, and economic development. McMurray Métis panelists included President Gail Gallupe on leadership, Director Doug Golosky on business successes and entrepreneurs, General Manager Kyle Harrietha on industry and government relations, and Regulatory Affairs Advisor Peter Fortna on traditional knowledge, land use, and occupancy mapping.

This event was a tremendous success and everyone who attended came away with a greater appreciation of the depth and breadth of the historic and contemporary Métis Nation. Moving forward, McMurray Métis will continue to collaborate with the Métis communities of Wood Buffalo on Métis rights and economic development issues.



*Symposium participants, from left: Dwayne Roth, Symposium Co-Chair; President Gail Gallupe, McMurray Métis; President Jumbo Fraser, Fort Chipewyan Métis Local 125; President Shirley Tremblay, Conklin Métis Local 193; President Ron Quintal, The McKay Métis Community; and Will Goodon, Symposium Co-Chair.*





# Member Services

## BINGO

On the first Saturday of every month following our monthly membership meeting we host an AGLC-licensed Bingo at the Nistawoyou Friendship Centre. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. and bingo starts at 2 p.m. This event is open to the public.



*Bingo in full swing during an Elders' Tea.*

## BURSARY PROGRAM

Bursary awards are intended to help recipients pay for tuition, fees, and books. The bursary program provides funding so Métis students enrolled in a full-time university, college, or training programs, and demonstrating financial need, commitment, and a desire to be gainfully employed, can realize self-sufficiency through the advancement of their education and skills development. Application forms are available at the McMurray Métis office.

## ELDERS' TEA

On the second Thursday of every month we host an Elders' Tea at the McMurray Métis office. Elders enjoy a catered lunch, including dessert, tea and coffee, while enjoying conversation in the company of friends and familiar faces. During most of the teas we provide an activity for the elders to participate in, such as a craft or music centered on Métis culture. Each event also features a door-prize drawing.

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

McMurray Métis hosted several membership drives over the past year in partnership with the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Registry and a genealogist who assists with family trees. MNA and McMurray Métis application forms are available at the office. We urge all those eligible to sign up.

## WOOD PROGRAM

Synchrude Canada delivered a donation of logs to McMurray Métis this past year. The wood, which we cut and stored in our lay-down yard, is available, free of charge, to McMurray Métis members and their immediate families.







# Government Relations and Regulatory Affairs

The Métis are a recognized Aboriginal people of Canada under Section 35(2) of the Constitution Act, 1982. The mission of McMurray Métis is to pursue the advancement of the Métis people of Fort McMurray and northeastern Alberta. Achieving this requires the ongoing promotion, pursuit, and defence of the Aboriginal constitutional and other rights. This occurs through engagement with governments, regulatory agencies, stakeholder organizations, and the courts when necessary.

## GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Our primary interface with the Government of Canada is through the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) and the National Energy Board (NEB). We are currently engaged with CEAA and Teck Resources on the Frontier Oil Sands Mine application and we'll be engaging with the NEB on the NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. NGTL System Expansion application. There are also ongoing developments on the constitutional front with respect to the anticipated Supreme Court decision on *Daniels v Canada*. Previous decisions have reinforced the longstanding position of the Métis Nation that the federal government has constitutional responsibility to deal with the Métis under Section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867. McMurray Métis will continue to advocate for a national inquiry into murdered and missing Aboriginal women and will call for action on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada report on Residential Schools.



## ALBERTA GOVERNMENT

We continue to be involved in the development of the Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Agency (AEMERA). There has been a great deal of frustration with the lack of meaningful engagement with Aboriginal groups in its development as well as the inadequate funding which is impeding the development of monitoring programs for all aspects of oil sands development. We continue to call on Alberta to develop a Métis Consultation Policy and to recognize Fort McMurray as a historic and contemporary Métis community under Alberta's Métis Harvesting policy. We have initiated litigation through judicial reviews of Alberta's decisions on consultation and harvesting rights.



## ALBERTA ENERGY REGULATOR (AER)

The AER is responsible for regulating upstream oil, gas, oil sands, and coal project developments from initial application to reclamation. In all cases where consultation has not occurred, McMurray Métis file a Statement of Concern (SOC) to assert and protect Métis rights. We have filed dozens of SOC's with the AER and it's our primary method of







regulatory engagement. Sadly, the process administered by the AER appears designed to facilitate quick project approvals rather than the careful review and oversight of project applications. The process also limits Aboriginal input as much as possible. The AER requires serious reform in terms of how it operates moving forward.

## REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO (RMWB)

McMurray Métis has a positive relationship with the RMWB and participates in consultations on municipal planning and development and ensures Métis representation on municipal committees and corporations. We coordinate with our Métis neighbours in Conklin, Fort Chipewyan, and Fort McKay on municipal issues and we joined them in strongly advocating for the development of a municipal multiplex in the underserved Métis community of Conklin. We also participate in the RMWB Regional Aboriginal Community Evolution initiative, a pilot project to encourage gathering and dialogue amongst the Aboriginal community and service providers in the RMWB.



## CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (CEMA)

McMurray Métis actively participates in CEMA's many working groups, sub-groups, and task groups. Our Vice-President sits on the 16-member Board of CEMA as a representative for the Aboriginal caucus. As an independent agency with a sector-balanced governance structure CEMA has been instrumental in allowing directly and adversely affected stakeholders, specifically Métis and First Nations, to have meaningful input into regional environmental and socio-economic issues and participate in identifying solutions to manage the cumulative effects of industrial development in the region. CEMA requires secure, stable, long-term funding delivered by the Alberta Government and paid for by oil sands developers so that its important policy development work can move forward without interruption.



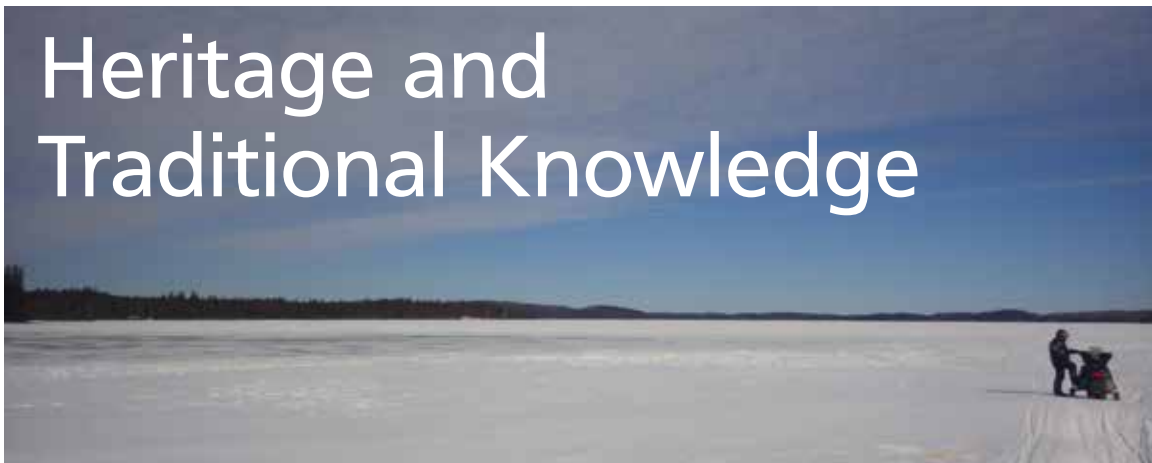
## WOOD BUFFALO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION (WBEA)

WBEA monitors air quality in the RMWB and is an integral component of regulatory compliance for member companies. It operates an extensive ambient air network, with 15 monitoring stations and 20 passive monitoring stations to date. It reports continuous ambient air quality data, in real time, to its website and operates programs that include air, land and human exposure monitoring. McMurray Métis became a member of WBEA in 2013 and we have worked hard to ensure its comprehensive work is maintained and stakeholder engagement is continued as it is integrated into AEMERA.





# Heritage and Traditional Knowledge



## MARK OF THE MÉTIS

As part of our ongoing *Mark of the Métis* historical research, and after almost two years of research into public records, Willow Springs completed the report *Fort McMurray: Historic and Contemporary Rights-Bearing Métis Community* in February 2014. The report presents archival information, primary oral history interviews, secondary historical scholarship, and primary government sources that demonstrate Fort McMurray is a historic and contemporary rights-bearing Métis. This report will serve as the foundation for our advocacy with government, industry, and through the courts on Métis rights and consultation issues moving forward.

## TRADITIONAL LAND USE STUDIES

McMurray Métis conducts Traditional Land Use (TLU) studies as part of its consultation with companies making a project application. This work includes interviewing community members on their relationship with the land in proposed project areas and how those projects could affect them. This year we also put more of a focus on a process known as ground truthing. Our team visited the traplines of members and documented land use with the use of a GoPro Camera, a GPS camera, and audio-recording equipment. The results were then entered into our Community Knowledge Keeper (CKK) database. This evolution in our research has created new opportunities for mitigation and a more refined way to help with community issues. Our goal is to ground truth all member traplines and other important cultural and harvesting areas as another means of protecting contemporary traditional land use.

## TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

McMurray Métis is also engaging with CEMA's Traditional Knowledge Working Group on the development of a Traditional Knowledge Framework that will outline agreed-upon principles for the inclusion of traditional knowledge in environmental decision-making. Once completed and approved by CEMA's Board of Directors, recommendations will be sent to the Alberta Government.





## HERITAGE

The history of the McMurray Métis is rooted in the waterways of northeastern Alberta. Last year, McMurray Métis member Sara Loutitt and visiting researcher Tara Joly came up with the idea of an annual heritage canoe trip to facilitate contemporary traditional land use and create a Métis version of a culture camp. Métis members embarked on a five-day canoe trip from Fort McKay to Fort Chipewyan down the Athabasca River. Along the way, culturally significant stops were made including Embarras Portage and Bitumount. The group reviewed excerpts from the *Mark of the Métis* at each stop to learn more about our heritage and traditional knowledge. A video was produced about this trip and it will now be an annual event. McMurray Métis has purchased six canoes to use for this annual event and other traditional land use excursions on the Métis waterways of our region.



Above: Canoe participants on the river and harvesting plants. Below right: Ron Campbell and Jessica Weber. Below: Tara Joly and Sara Loutitt review the workbook.





# Trappers and Métis Harvesting

McMurray Métis' strong emphasis on protecting the rights of Métis trappers and harvesters led to the hiring of a Traditional Lands Specialist and Trapper Liaison who has met numerous Métis trappers in the region to discuss their issues regarding government, industry, and the infringement of their Aboriginal and commercial rights on their traplines. We continue to work to mitigate the impacts of industrial development as much as possible, record land use information, find solutions to the issue of access management, and ensure fair treatment by company landmen.



McMurray Métis has contacted companies whose operations have been questioned and we have had some success in addressing identified issues. Métis Aboriginal rights are collectively held by the McMurray Métis and administration is always willing to assist Métis trappers and harvesters where those rights are being infringed and there is a need to assert and protect them.

McMurray Métis is actively helping members practice their constitutionally protected harvesting rights. This includes helping harvesters apply for a Métis harvesting card, documenting both current and historical harvesting practices, and working with government and industry to ensure future generations can continue to harvest as their forebears did. At present the Government of Alberta does not recognize Fort McMurray as a Métis community holding harvesting rights, though McMurray Métis is working diligently to change that position through a judicial review of a decision to deny a member and trapper his rights.

In addition, McMurray Métis is documenting members' current harvesting practices as part of the ongoing *Mark of the Métis* research project. This involves training hunters, trappers, and plant gatherers to document their activities so that their rights can be asserted and protected. Finally, by developing proactive and productive relationships with industrial developers, McMurray Métis is hoping to establish protected areas where harvesting can continue into the future.





# Industry Relations

It's crystal clear in law that there is a duty to consult and accommodate Métis communities. It's also clear that the McMurray Métis are a rights-bearing Aboriginal community that meets all the criteria set by the Supreme Court of Canada in *R. v. Powley* and that it is a part of a rights-bearing regional community; the test for which was outlined in *R. v. Laviolette*.

Those companies that refuse to acknowledge and honour those facts will always have a difficult relationship with McMurray Métis. Progressive companies that address the implications of those facts and work with McMurray Métis on consultation, community sustainability, and economic development will avoid the unnecessary aggravation and cost of eventual litigation grounded in firmly established jurisprudence and history. Fortunately, the large majority of companies that make applications focus on the opportunity of developing a positive and productive relationship grounded in mutual trust and respect.

In 2014-15 McMurray Métis had 33 active agreements with oil sands, aggregate, and pipeline companies and there were several productive developments in the relationships with our industry neighbours. There has been a significant increase in the level of consultation and overall funding through our Good Neighbour and Impact Benefit Agreements. This has led to a year-over-year industry funding increase of 55% and a 227% increase since 2012-13. Two trends are responsible for these significant increases. First, a number of companies have committed to more in-depth consultations on traditional land use studies, cultural impact assessments, and technical reviews; an acknowledgement of the credibly asserted Aboriginal rights of the McMurray Métis. Second, the unapologetic and consistent assertion and defence of Métis rights in bilateral meetings, regulatory processes, and in public forums has led to more consistent and in-depth engagement with both industry and government.



*A tour of Suncor's operations by helicopter in October.*



# Business Development

Infinity Métis Corporation (IMC) is beginning to take off. We have an exciting year ahead of us with a new president, Bryan Fayant, at the helm. Bryan is a dedicated long-time member of McMurray Métis and a former General Manager. There was sad news in February 2014 as Past President Ed Fontaine passed away after a lengthy illness. Ed deserves our heartfelt thanks for helping us start IMC. Without his hard work and commitment IMC would not exist today. He will be dearly missed.

We were proud to announce a new joint venture in 2014 with GEO Worldwide (GEO), a tribal asset management company that owns Aqua Industrial and many other companies. GEO has been providing work to many other Aboriginally owned businesses. What makes this joint venture unique and powerful is that two Aboriginally owned companies have joined forces to not only create employment opportunities for Métis, but also an opportunity for Aboriginal businesses to work under our banner. All compensation given to IMC will go directly to McMurray Métis. It's a partnership intended to promote Aboriginal commerce and help support the Métis people. We urge all Métis-owned businesses to work with GEO worldwide to promote Aboriginal commerce.



One of the major arms of GEO is Aqua Industrial. Having been in the Oil and Gas industry for nearly 20 years, Aqua Industrial is a well-established member of the business community known for its ironwork, construction, and steel erection. It is also involved in non-destructive testing and engineering. Aqua plans to provide turnkey construction and maintenance projects to many Oil and Gas companies.



Our established companies, Forthryte Industrial Services and North Country Catering, are also prospering and winning contracts due to the hard work of the IMC board with the assistance of McMurray Métis.







# GOVERNANCE

Governed under the bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta by an elected Local Council, McMurray Métis is accountable to the membership and its mandate is to pursue the advancement of the Métis people of Fort McMurray and northeastern Alberta.

## LOCAL COUNCIL



### **Gail Gallupe, President**

Gail Gallupe is serving her first term as President. Born in Calgary and raised in the Peace River district on her family's homestead, Gail is an accomplished secretary and has worked as an educational assistant for 14 years. She became involved with the Métis Nation of Alberta in the 1990s and previously served as a McMurray Métis Director. She has two daughters, four grandchildren, and is a proud great-grandmother. Gail's Métis heritage dates back to the 1700s on her mother's side. Gail's mother, Bertha Clark-Jones, was a tremendous mentor. She was a distinguished Métis leader and Second World War Royal Canadian Air Force veteran who founded the Voice of Alberta's Native Women Association and later the Native Women's Association of Canada. She was a strong advocate on behalf of Aboriginal veterans and Aboriginal education and Gail continues her legacy today.



### **Bill Loutitt, Vice-President**

Born in Uranium City, Sask., Bill Loutitt is a long-time leader in the McMurray Métis community. He previously served as McMurray Métis President and is a Past President of Region 1 of the Métis Nation of Alberta. Bill is a strong advocate for Métis rights and the Métis Consultation Policy. He has served as a Director with the Cumulative Environmental Management Association since 2009 and is President of the Nistawoyou Association Friendship Centre. Bill traces his roots to Poplar Point and Embarras Portage. The Loutitt name appears in the Fort McMurray region census as far back as 1881. Peter Loutitt, great-grandfather to Bill, worked with the Hudson Bay Expedition in the 1860s. His grandfather, Billy Loutit, a Métis Hudson's Bay Employee, ran 100 miles from Athabasca to Edmonton in 1904 to warn of an impending flood. Loutit Lake and the Billy Loutit Winter and Summer Dispatches in Athabasca also draw on his family's legacy.



### **Cindy (Bourque) Punko, Treasurer**

Cindy Punko is a member of a family that has lived in the region for generations, and she's been a McMurray Métis member for 20 years. Her family made its living in the fur trade until the industry died. She (and her 10 siblings) lived at Embarras Portage while their dad worked with Swanson's Lumber, and she has canoed from Fort McMurray to Fort Chipewyan with her children to retrace the path of her ancestors. Her family still fishes, hunts, and traps today.



### **Trudie-Ann Plamondon, Secretary**

Trudie-Ann Plamondon was born in Fort McMurray and raised in Fort Chipewyan. She has become a passionate advocate of educational programs for Métis youth, supporting Métis Elders, and the environment. She has worked as the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Aboriginal Liaison at Father Mercredi High School in Fort McMurray for the past 10 years, a time that has seen a dramatic rise in Aboriginal graduation rates in the region. She is the mother of five children and has four grandchildren.



### **Harvey Sykes, Director**

Born in Fort McMurray, and raised in Waterways, Harvey Sykes is a proud member of the McMurray Métis. He worked for over 20 years barging freight from Waterways to the Beaufort Sea and Western Arctic. Harvey's connection to the land goes back to his father's trapline at Cheecham, a long-forgotten Métis community where several of his family were born and raised. Now semi-retired, Harvey is involved with local groups on environmental issues, which are his utmost concern.



### **Doug Golosky, Director**

Doug Golosky is a Métis entrepreneur who was born and raised in Fort McMurray and built successful businesses in the Fort McMurray region, Lloydminster, Edmonton, and Howick, Que. He began his career as a welder, earning his certification at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. He founded his first company, Clearwater Welding and Fabricating Ltd., in 1984 with his wife, Carol. They eventually employed more than 1,000 tradespeople in eight companies and became one of the largest contractors in the region. Doug was pivotal to the development of the Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association in 1993 and sat on the board of Alberta Chamber of Resources' steering committee for Aboriginal Programs in the Resources Industries initiative. Doug has received many accolades and awards for his career achievements and advocacy for Aboriginal business.



### **Renie Lavallee, Director**

Renie Lavallee was born and raised in Fort McMurray. Her father, Raymond Lavallee, was born and raised in Waterways, as were most of his siblings. Renie's Mushoom and Kokum were George Lavallee and Cecilia Quintal, who had a registered trap line called Salt Creek on Highway 63. As a child she listened to Cree and Mitchif stories and was taught to scrape and tan moose hides, make moccasins and mukluks, and cook bannock and muskeg tea over the fire.





## ADMINISTRATION



### **Kyle Harrietha, General Manager**

Born in Ajax, Ont., and raised in nearby Oshawa and Scarborough, Kyle Harrietha holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia and a Certificate in project management from Keyano College. His experience includes working on Parliament Hill as a Legislative and Executive Assistant for several Members of Parliament and as a Program Administrator in Fort McMurray for the Cumulative Environmental Management Association.



### **Laura Waniandy, Office Manager**

A Métis Nation member from Bonnyville, Alta., and raised in Edmonton and Fort McMurray, Laura Waniandy comes from a family of five sisters and four brothers and has two children and five grandchildren. She returned to school as an adult to complete her high school diploma and a business management program at Keyano College. She started working in human resources for the Métis Nation of Alberta in the spring of 2000 and as a counsellor for the Rupertsland Institute.



### **Jane Stroud, Financial Administrator**

Born and raised in the Fort McMurray area and living in Anzac, Jane Stroud holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Athabasca University and a Management Certificate in Payroll from the University of Waterloo. Jane is an avid golfer who enjoys spending time with her two children and three grandchildren, while also serving a second term as a Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Councillor.



### **René Stanley, Executive Administrator and Event Coordinator**

Born and raised in Gander, Newfoundland, René Stanley lived in Vancouver for several years before moving to Fort McMurray in 1997. She holds certificates in computerized accounting, hospitality and tourism, office administration, and receptionist typist. She worked at Wilson Industries for seven years and her experience includes office management, accounting, and reception.



### **Maureen Hasinoff, Community Relations and Member Services Administrator**

Born and raised in Edmonton, Maureen Hasinoff holds a bilingual Bachelor of Social Sciences degree from the University of Ottawa. She has an extensive background in event coordination and logistics. She has worked as a political fieldworker, intern to the Commissioner of the Canadian Football League, philanthropic and events coordinator with the University of Ottawa student federation, and as a Parliamentary Page with the Senate of Canada.



**Jay Telegdi, Government Relations and Regulatory Affairs Administrator**

Born in Detmold, West Germany, and raised in West Gwillimbury, Ont., Jay Telegdi holds a bilingual Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and Economics from Glendon College at York University and a Diploma of Marketing Management from Seneca College in Ontario. Jay has spent his entire career in politics and has worked across Canada, the United States, and Europe.



**Carmen Wells, Heritage and Traditional Knowledge Administrator**

A Métis Nation member born and raised in Vernon, B.C., Carmen Wells holds a diploma in graphic design and web development from the University of the Fraser Valley in B.C. She's currently completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree through MacEwan University and Keyano College. Her experience includes administration in a software company, accounting clerk, and running her own business. An avid artist and dedicated volunteer, she sits as a member on Arts Council Wood Buffalo and the Wood Buffalo Artists Forum.



**Salem Al-Ahmad, Industry Relations & Business Development Administrator**

Born and raised in Fort McMurray, Salem Al-Ahmad holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from MacEwan University in Alberta. His experience includes work in accounting, human resources, and the retail banking industry. He's a dedicated volunteer and is a member of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Community Identification Committee and President of the Fort McMurray Boys and Girls Club.



**David Waniandy, Traditional Lands Specialist and Trapper Liaison**

A Métis Nation member born and raised in Fort McMurray, David Waniandy started working in the oil sands at the age of 17 as a labourer with the Construction and General Workers' Union Local 92. During his career he has worked as a Labour Foreman and as a General Foreman. David grew up hunting and fishing along the Athabasca River and is very knowledgeable about Métis traditional land use in the region.



**Mandy Wills, Administrative Assistant (Summer Internship)**

A Métis Nation member born and raised in Fort McMurray, Mandy Wills is currently pursuing a Diploma of Concept Art at Max the Mutt School of Animation in Ontario. Mandy is an avid artist and was previously part of the Wood Buffalo Artists in Residency Program. She is actively involved in the art community and is working with McMurray Métis on culture and history projects.





**Dr. Gillian Donald, Environment and Land Advisor**

Dr. Gillian Donald is the owner of Donald Functional & Applied Ecology Inc. She holds a doctorate in plant ecophysiology and a Bachelor of Science in botany from the University of Calgary, as well as a Bachelor of Science in biology from McGill University in Quebec. She's a member of the Alberta Society for Professional Biologists and College of Applied Biology in B.C. She has over 12 years of experience working in the oil sands, both in the field and in policy development.



**Peter Fortna, Regulatory Affairs Advisor**

The co-owner of Willow Springs Strategic Solutions, Peter Fortna holds a Bachelor of Arts in history with a minor in museum and heritage studies from the University of Calgary in Alberta and a Master of Arts in history from Memorial University in Newfoundland. Peter has helped a number of Aboriginal organizations develop direction in the fields of strategic planning, regulatory engagement, communications, and heritage resource management.



**Dermot O'Connor, Traditional Land Use Advisor**

The co-owner of Willow Springs Strategic Solutions, Dermot O'Connor holds a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from the University of Calgary in Alberta, a Master of Arts in political science from Laval University in Quebec, and is currently writing a dissertation for a Ph.D. in political science from York University in Toronto. He lives in Cochrane, Alberta, where he researches and writes about Métis history and land use, as well as Latin American economic development.



*A member and staff visit to the Suncor oil sands operation.*



# Finances

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

**To the Members of Métis Nation of Alberta Association Fort McMurray Local Council 1935,**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Métis Nation of Alberta Association Fort McMurray Local Council 1935, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2015, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### OPINION

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Métis Nation of Alberta Association Fort McMurray Local Council 1935 as at March 31, 2015, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

### OTHER MATTER

The financial statements for the prior year were audited by another firm of chartered accountants who expressed a modified opinion dated June 10, 2014, which was modified for the completeness of revenue from fundraising and donations.

The financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013, were compiled on a Notice to Reader basis by another firm of chartered accountants and were unaudited.

Collins Barrow, Chartered Accountants  
June 24, 2015




**Métis Nation of Alberta Association Fort McMurray Local Council 1935**
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**
**MARCH 31, 2015**

	2015	2014	2013 (unaudited)
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT			
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 1,614,792	\$ 1,637,967	\$ 673,875
Accounts receivable	438,250	257,580	6,513
Prepaid expenses	1,000	1,000	1,000
Advance to related party	29,812	—	—
	<b>2,083,854</b>	<b>1,896,547</b>	<b>681,388</b>
RESTRICTED CASH	156,374	125,277	91,580
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	182,881	45,300	45,470
LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS	3,450	3,450	3,450
	<b>\$ 2,426,559</b>	<b>\$ 2,070,574</b>	<b>\$ 821,888</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 131,445	\$ 51,161	\$ 24,015
Deferred contributions	156,374	125,277	91,580
	<b>287,819</b>	<b>176,438</b>	<b>115,595</b>
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted	1,955,859	1,848,836	660,823
Invested in property and equipment	182,881	45,300	45,470
	<b>2,138,740</b>	<b>1,894,136</b>	<b>706,293</b>
	<b>\$ 2,426,559</b>	<b>\$ 2,070,574</b>	<b>\$ 821,888</b>



# STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015

	2015	2014	2013 (unaudited)
<b>REVENUES</b>			
General operations	\$ 2,918,638	\$ 2,909,325	\$ 1,636,978
Casino	25,684	29,374	–
In-kind donation	15,000	–	–
Interest	5,586	4,588	4,388
	<b>2,964,908</b>	<b>2,943,287</b>	<b>1,641,366</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Cultural projects and events	\$ 1,560,378	\$ 990,129	\$ 351,826
Salaries and benefits	724,921	466,685	494,010
Bursaries	119,953	146,371	106,097
Goods and services tax	112,450	–	–
Professional fees	90,222	40,729	63,671
Honorarium	47,672	27,032	42,700
Building and occupancy costs	23,643	26,345	80,402
Amortization	22,367	12,952	8,935
Vehicle	6,588	17,665	15,095
Advertising and promotion	6,189	8,098	15,783
Conferences and meetings	5,190	5,825	2,695
Travel	534	5,849	2,664
Interest	197	1,534	1,115
Office	–	2,644	13,085
Bad debts	–	1,725	–
Equipment rental	–	1,861	5,129
Consulting and casual labour	–	–	700
	<b>2,720,304</b>	<b>1,755,444</b>	<b>1,203,907</b>
<b>REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 244,604</b>	<b>\$ 1,187,843</b>	<b>\$ 437,459</b>





## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

YEAR ENDED  
MARCH 31, 2015

	Unrestricted	Invested in Property and Equipment	2015	2014	2013 (unaudited)
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 1,848,836	\$ 45,300	<b>\$ 1,894,136</b>	\$ 706,293	\$ 268,834
Revenues over (under) expenses	266,971	(22,367)	<b>244,604</b>	1,187,843	437,459
Invested in property and equipment	(159,948)	159,948	-	-	-
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 1,955,859	\$ 182,881	<b>\$2,138,740</b>	\$1,894,136	\$ 706,293

Approved by the McMurray Métis Local Council on June 24, 2015

  
Gail Gallupe, President

  
Bill Loutitt, Vice-President

## DISCLAIMER

This audit was presented at the McMurray Métis Annual General Meeting on June 6, 2015, by a representative of Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants and was approved by McMurray Métis Local Council on June 24, 2015.

The audit presented in this Annual Report is abridged due to space limitations. In addition to what is presented in this Annual Report, the complete audit report includes a "Statement of Cash Flows" and the full "Notes to Financial Statements." The full audit is available online at [mcmurraymetis.org](http://mcmurraymetis.org), via email upon request at [metis1935@fortmcmurraymetis.org](mailto:metis1935@fortmcmurraymetis.org), or at the McMurray Métis office.

## **McMURRAY MÉTIS VISION**

***A strong Métis Nation embracing Métis rights.***

## **MISSION**

***To pursue the advancement of the Métis people of Fort McMurray and northeastern Alberta.***

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

***We believe in the National definition of Métis.***

***We believe in continuing to build our foundation for future generations.***

***We believe in fairness and respect for all people.***

***We believe in the need to work in unity and harmony.***

***We believe in Métis participation in building our Nation.***

***We believe in encouraging and assisting Métis people to achieve their goals.***

***We believe in honesty, integrity and professionalism.***

***We believe we will achieve self-government; and***

***We believe in our Métis rights as recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution.***