

February - March 2016



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### Happy First Birthday Caleb



"I was born weighing only 2 lbs. and everyone was amazed how strong I was. The answer is simple, I was blessed to be Metis."

### A Member's Son-In-Law Writes



***"Sometimes you find yourself in the middle of nowhere and sometimes in the middle of nowhere you find yourself."***

**Author: Unknown**



*Photo: Country Roads at Night, Bancroft, ON*

### Millbrook First Nation aims to redevelop Turtle Grove site in Shannon Park

Turtle Grove, sometimes called Turtle Cove, was destroyed by the Halifax explosion in 1917.

A ambitious plans to rebuild a community on the site of a Mi'kmaq village th A Nova Scotia aboriginal band is draftinat was obliterated by the Halifax Explosion nearly a century ago.

Black-and-white photos taken at the turn of the last century show a collection of wigwams close to the shoreline at the narrowest part of Halifax harbour.

The Mi'kmaq called it Turtle Grove. It's sometimes called Turtle Cove.

Some of the descendants of those who lived there, members of the Millbrook

First Nation, want to develop the site to include a mix of residential and commercial properties.





I wanted to say thank you to everyone at the OMFRC for all your assistance in the search for our families' history. I met my mother-in-law some 32 years ago and at every family get together she would tell the same story to all her children and grand-children that she had First Nation's blood in her family line. Getting together at Sunday suppers or Christmas celebrations she would repeat her story at every opportunity. Her family was always the most important part of her life.

[Read More:](#)



This circa 1871 photo shows members of the Mi'kmaq community at Turtle Grove. (Courtesy Nova Scotia Archives)

[Read More:](#)

## Paul Okalik Resigns Over Nunavut Alcohol-Sale Plan

Listen as Paul Okalik speaks eloquently about his principles:

"My heart is with my territory my fellow Inuit and as a alcoholic I understand the challenges they face and I could not in good conscience continue with what will happen. That is my limit".



In an emotional statement, Paul Okalik resigned from cabinet in Iqaluit Thursday. (Elyse Skura/CBC)

[Read More:](#) Audio and video included



Much has been said recently by our judges and politicians about the historical treatment of our Indigenous peoples. In May of 2015, Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, of the Supreme Court of Canada, went so far as to say that Canada attempted to commit "cultural genocide" against Aboriginal peoples. In so doing, from the time of Confederation, successive federal governments employed an Indigenous policy that directed that First Nations peoples were to be separated until they could be assimilated. Under the authority of the Constitution and the Indian Acts, Indians (as they were referred to in the legislation) were separated from the European population through the creation of the reserve system.

~Written by Christine Shoniker and Trevor Shoniker  
Photo Source: Facebook Share

[Read More:](#)

## A Member Writes:

*"This is a very sad story that I think needs to be told. People need to be aware of what is happening in northern communities".*

**Warning:** This article is very sad. Unfortunately it is not an isolated story, too many of our people can tell similar stories about their own experiences.  
**Is Anyone Listening?**



## Researchers Say Unintentional Racism By Health Practitioners Most Dangerous Racism

**Inquest into Brian Sinclair hospital death sparked Dr. Janet Smylie's research into race biases in health care.**

Feb. 3, 2016: A Toronto research scientist is speaking at the University of Winnipeg today about what she says is the deadliest form of racism, which many don't even realize exists - unintentional racism.

"Unintentional racism is a differential action - treating people differently, taking action that preferences one group of people over another based on how we identify them racially," said Dr. Janet Smylie of the Centre for





Man drags oxygen tank on toboggan for 17 days in protest 0:36

## First Nations Man Drags Oxygen Tank 1,000 Kms On A Toboggan In Health Care Protest

When Norman Shewaybick was asked what he learned from his 17 day journey he replied:

"I don't want anyone else to go through what I went through. I went to a lot of places and heard the stories of other people. Those stories are with me today. This has to change somehow, it has to change. I am home and the healing starts for me and my family".

**Read More:** Audio and video included

now you identify them racially," said Dr. Janet Smylie of the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital. She's trying to send the message that unintentional racism from health practitioners is the most dangerous form of racism.



RAW: Dr. Janet Smylie speaks about unintentional racism by health practitioners 2:23

**Read More:** Video included

## The Native Drum with Shawn Littlebear - Season 1

Host Shawn Littlebear introduces viewers to the art of Native American drum making and how to get started.



**Read More:** Includes video(s) 6 episodes

- Episode 1 - Introduction to Drum Making
- Episode 2 - Making a two-sided practice drum
- Episode 3 - 28" Powwow Drum
- Episode 4 - Making a Handle for a Small Drum
- Episode 5 - Drum Stick Making Pt. 1
- Episode 6 - Drum Stick Making Pt. 2

## Rural and Native Heritage Cookbook June, 1940

Rural and Native Heritage Cookbook.  
A cookbook featuring wild game recipes.

Unknown(Author)



## Ottawa To Amend Indian Act, Eliminate 'Discriminatory' Clauses

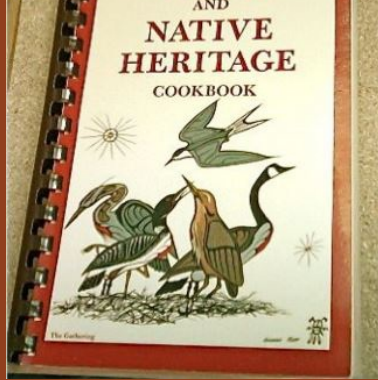
In a move that could affect thousands of aboriginal people across Canada, the federal government announced it will amend sections of the Indian Act that discriminated against the descendants of bi-racial marriages.

News of the amendments comes six months after a Quebec judge ordered the government to revise segments of the law that violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The federal government's lawyers had immediately appealed the Aug. 3 ruling and were set to fight it in court. But Monday they withdrew their appeal and now the Liberal government is set to form a parliamentary committee tasked with re-drafting sections of the Indian Act, according to a government source.

**Read More:**



Stéphane Descheneaux with his three daughters, Marie-Lee, 11, Emmy, 8, middle and right, Audrey-Ann, 13, in front of a teepee outside the Abenakis Museum Odanak Indian reserve near Sorel. MARIE-FRANCE COALLIER / MONTREAL GAZETTE



#### A Members Writes:

Wow, what a great book. I just don't know where to start. Big game, small game, birds, frogs, fish, turtles, squirrels, raccoon, wild plants, etc, etc, etc.

If you're serious about old time, natural cooking, this is the book.

*Available from Amazon*

## Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Mandate Letter

Read the letter that the Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P. Prime Minister of Canada sent to Dr. Bennet, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs in its entirety.



[Read More:](#)

## Is Your Membership Coming Up for Renewal?



*If it is, call 1-613-332-4789 and you can do it right over the phone in just a couple of minutes.*

## Educational Funding



There are many members of the OMFRC community who have been successful in obtaining support through several of the programs in this featured in this attachment. Each organization has its own guidelines for qualification. This list is by no mean all of the Metis Bursaries offered and we will be adding to our list as more links become available to us.

Please Note: It has come to our attention that some students have been told that "they do not qualify for a Metis Bursary". Don't give up, you may just be speaking to the wrong person - give us a call at the OMFRC office and we will do our best to clarify your queries.

[Read More](#)

## New Submissions

Our editors are always looking for original submissions that would be of interest to our community. Do you know of any upcoming events that you would like to share either through the Newsletter or Facebook?

If you have something you would like to add to future issues we would be happy to consider it; please call or email putting Facebook or Newsletter material in the subject line!

omfrcinfo @ gmail.com

613-332 -4789

## Ontario Metis Family Records Center



**We're on the web!  
See us at:**

[www.aboriginalstatus.org](http://www.aboriginalstatus.org)

[www.omfrc.org](http://www.omfrc.org)

*The articles in this Newsletter are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the producers of The Feathers In the Wind*

*Newsletter.*



The OMFRC would like to thank everyone that is standing with us to support the Ontario Metis Family Records Center Community Facebook Page.....your response is nothing short of incredible!

Stay connected and celebrate your heritage! Share that you're a member of the OMFRC Community with your family members on Facebook. It has never been more important to stand up and be counted!

Have you visited our Facebook page? We welcome you to join our OMFRC Community - we want to hear from you.

