



Teme-Augama Anishnabai

NEWS RELEASE

Media Release – Teme-Augama Anishnabai

No Métis Nation of Ontario rights and no “equity ownership” in any projects on our homeland, N’dakimenan

August 24, 2025 – Bear Island, N’dakimenan



Ogimaa (Chief)
Michael Paul

The Teme-Augama Anishnabai leadership must again remind Canada, Ontario and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) that there are no MNO rights on our homeland, N’dakimenan, including the duty to consult. Therefore, there can be no “parity” in any projects now or in the future in their homeland territory.

Following a “Métis Major Projects Summit” in Ottawa, August 7, 2025, Prime Minister Mark Carney announced that “the *Building Canada Act* will enable Canada’s new government to build big things that will connect and transform the national economy – driving greater prosperity for Métis through equity ownership and resource management projects.”



Aanike-Ogimaa
(Second Chief)
Mitiginaabe John Turner

“But not in N’dakimenan” says Aanike-Ogimaa (Second Chief) Maang Doodem (Loon clan) Mitiginaabe John Turner. “Only the Teme-Augama Anishnabai have inherent rights to N’dakimenan because of our, at least, 7,000-year history here. Our identity and spirit are tied to this specific place.” The MNO does not have that connection.

Further, those of our ancestors, whose identities the MNO have stolen and declared to be their “Métis root ancestors” who had raised their families on N’dakimenan, did so as Teme-Augama Anishnabai, within our long-established, self-determined clan/family-based land management system. This system had been strictly adhered to during the period from time immemorial until well after the Confederation of Canada, when the Teme-Augama Anishnabai exercised jurisdiction and effective control of the entirety of our ancestral homeland. **We are the only Indigenous inherent rights-holders in N’dakimenan, rights also established within Canadian Law, as acknowledged and recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada.**

The old term en français, “metis,” has been intentionally muddled in its use by the MNO making this subject appear hopelessly complex and extremely difficult to unpack. Clarification is badly needed here to restore the truth of the matter. We understand the critical difference between the meaning of the historic “Métis” of the Red River, and the colloquial term “metis,” as used, certainly in north-eastern Ontario historically, meaning “mixed race” or “half breed,” both in the spoken and written word. The MNO practice of pointing to the colloquial use of the term in historical records as though it were a consistent and “clear” expression or reference to an individual or group of people that are necessarily affiliated with the historical Métis Nation of the Red River or a distinct self-determining mixed race group, is blatant historical revisionism or more accurately, fiction, an intentional distortion of the truth to manufacture a false narrative and to steal the identity of non-Métis individuals.



The authentic Red River Métis have accused the MNO of identity and cultural theft. **We too, have seen our ancestors' identities stolen by the MNO to "legitimize" their claims within N'dakimenan through these falsehoods.**



Aanike-Ogimaa Mitiginaabe
John Turner holding the Métis Voyageur.



Above: **Stolen Teme-Augama Anishnabai relatives** shown on the cover of the Métis Voyageur.



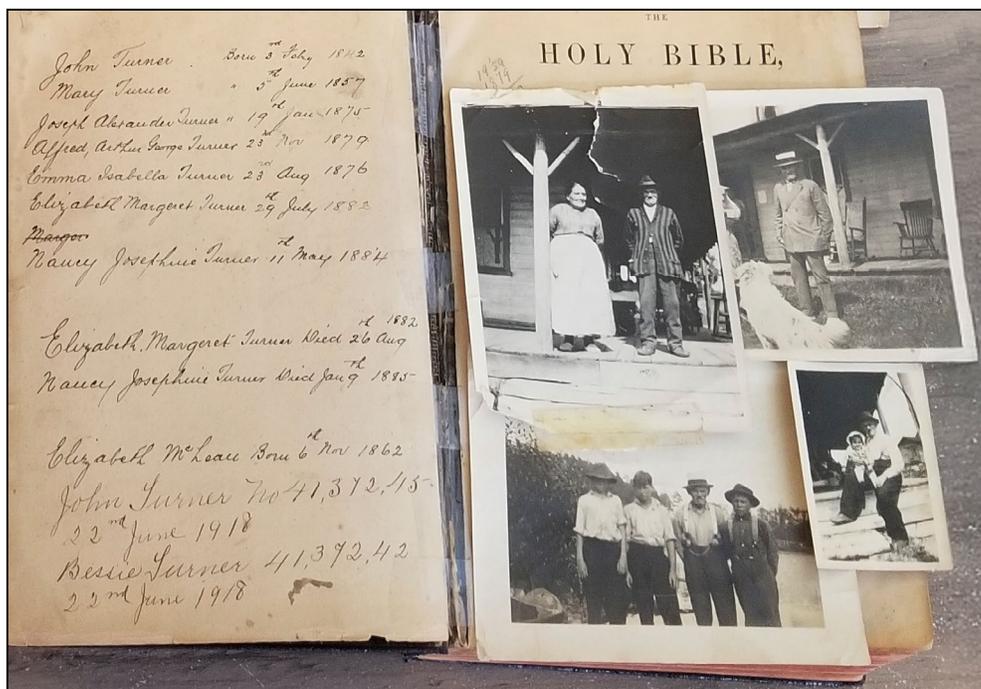
Right: **John Turner Sr.**, Hudson Bay Company Agent, with wife and family, Bear Island

"The MNO uses a photo of our Teme-Augama family on their cover, the clear implication being they are metis. We, the actual descendants of the family, have genuine items like this bible with birth dates of family members, photographs and documents. We have no need to lift such documents from the internet and then claim this is us" - Aanike-Ogimaa Mitiginaabe John Turner



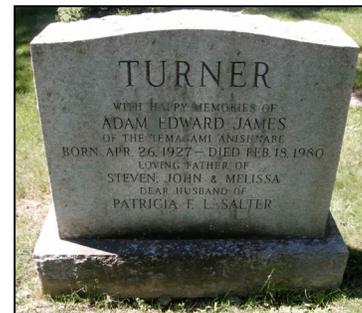
Great Great Grandfather John Turner Sr., (Oochim)
Hudson Bay Company Agent, Bear Island

Right: Aanike-Ogimaa Mitiginaabe John Turner's family bible and photographs, passed down by his **Great Great Grandfather John Turner Sr.**, whose family photo was stolen to appear on the cover of the Métis Voyageur.





Teme-Augama Anishnabai Turner Family, winter on Wabacou land, N'dakimenan 1928 • In the cradleboard, is **James Turner**, father of **Anike-Ogimaa Mitiginaabe John Turner**.

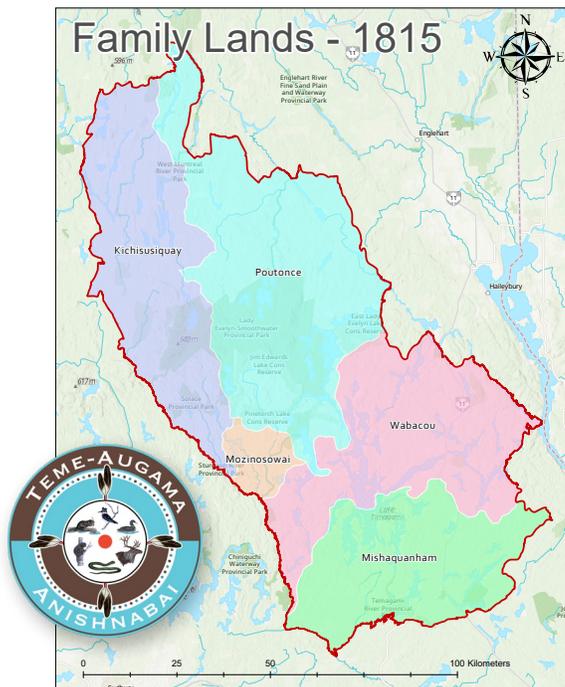


**ADAM EDWARD JAMES
OF THE TEMAGAMI ANISHNABE**

My father, **James Turner**, who was never a status Indian throughout his lifetime, who passed almost 50 years ago, proudly had his indigenous identity "**Temagami Anishnabe**" engraved on his tombstone... he was the first of now a great number of Teme-Augama Anishinaabeg to earn a university degree. - **Anike-Ogimaa Mitiginaabe John Turner**

There have recently been several academic reports conducted by our Anishinaabeg neighbours that show there were no distinct "Metis" communities within their traditional territories. Here, in our unique case, rather, we express our story as transmitted to us today through time, from those clan families tied to the lands going back over 200 years.

From 1815 and before, we know the individual ancestral Naagaaniisag (Heads of clan/families) who were the stewards of the various Anokii-waakiig (hunting grounds) within N'dakimenan. We know who subsequently inherited these grounds through time until the Province of Ontario permanently interfered with our original authority over these grounds through imposing the registration of traplines in the 1930s. Of course, in constructing their false narrative, which they call "research", the MNO **never contacted us** about the history of our homelands, certainly because they knew that we would make it clear that the dozens of our ancestors, whom they now claim as "verified metis", were **NOT** metis at all!



Critically, our unique history has unfolded rather unconventionally due to the Crown's interference and negligence, which the MNO has capitalized on.

Colonial power tried to divide our original indigenous identity as Teme-Augama Anishinaabeg, through the whim of an Indian Agent in 1907, who unilaterally determined, through blatant gender



discrimination, that 1/3 of our nation's citizens did not belong because a male ancestor had origins from beyond our territory. Our people remained divided in our relations with the Crown for over 60 years.

By the 1970s, Our people were either members of the **Federal Timagami Indian Band**, or the **Temagami Metis and Non-Status Indian Association**. These two groups decided to rekindle the **Teme-Augama Anishnabai Council Fire**, the true identity of our entire Tribe, consisting of our full lineage, and pursue our land defence in Canada's courts together, as one.

Eventually, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed that any valid aboriginal claims belonged to the Teme-Augama Anishnabai (sic).

Accordingly, any declaration from the court would be in favour of
"all...members of the Teme-Augama Anishnabai"

It needs to be noted, we have many Citizens with a male ancestor that resulted in many of us today having surnames such as Turner, McKenzie, Petrant, Moore etc, all Teme-Augama families. Many of these Citizens were non-status, but were adhered to the Robinson-Huron Treaty by the Supreme Court of Canada regardless. Many of these individuals had previously been members of the **Temagami Metis and Non-Status Indian Association**. Significantly, this was one of the original chapters of Metis and Non-Status Indian Associations in the province. The other chapters would go on in time to form the MNO.

The Temagami Chapter, crucially, decided to close. **ALL** of its members were a part of the rekindled unified **Council Fire of the Teme-Augama Anishnabai**.

This is why, in our case, it is clear, that when the MNO claims today that they have inherent rights as Indigenous peoples of **our** homeland due to their being descendants of Indigenous peoples that lived and hunted within N'dakimenan – **this is just another false claim**.

In 1975, the Teme-Augama Anishnabai had renewed its exercise of its inherent right to determine its own Citizens. All known descendants of the Teme-Augama Anishnabai, all those Indigenous people who had lived within our homeland, are recognized and confirmed as Citizens within Teme-Augama Anishnabai law and governance; critically, this includes non-status individuals who were previously referred to in the colonial record as unregistered Indians, metis, or half-breeds.

Further, there can be no issue of overlapping boundaries. "The boundaries of N'dakimenan are not disputed by our authentic Indigenous neighbours. In *Bear Island [1991]* the Supreme Court of Canada recognized the boundary of N'dakimenan when the court unilaterally adhered the Teme-Augama Anishnabai to the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850."

The leadership of the Teme-Augama Anishnabai maintains that the **seven "historic Metis communities" expert panel report** is unreliable and manufactured.

According to Metis lawyer and author, Jean Teillet, a great-grandniece of Louis Riel, the report is deeply flawed. "The Metis Nation of Ontario was feeding the expert panel its own material."



Ms. Teillet is quoted from an APTN InFocus interview <https://youtu.be/jqy3LE26jok?si=6SDqB2KS63NH7dU9> wherein she says, **“Everything about the report is deeply flawed,” including the question and the sources.**

Teillet said secondary sources were used in the report, often, the references cited did not support the evidence, and there were too many mistakes. She noted that there was reliance on evidence that supports the claim while ignoring evidence that does not.

“The whole Metis Nation of Ontario organization is questionable. We have newly created “historic Metis communities” and a whole new category of people basing their Metis identity on a distant non-status Indian ancestor. If Canada, Ontario, and the MNO have their way, the MNO could have rights that are stronger than ours, and in our own land. I see this as a government-sponsored infringement of our established Aboriginal and Treaty rights that the Crown has the duty to protect and uphold,” said Ogimaa (Chief) Ogiishkimanisii doodem (Kingfisher clan) Michael Paul.

While Canada, Ontario, and the Metis Nation of Ontario perpetuate frauds and abuses against the First Peoples, Indigenous nations that have been in their homelands for millennia, MNO President Margaret Froh calls it ‘lateral violence’ if we speak out to protect our established inherent, Aboriginal, and Treaty rights that flow from our homeland.

We use historical facts and a Supreme Court of Canada ruling that acknowledges our indigeneity, the boundaries of N’dakimenan, and our existing inherent right to determine our own Citizens when we declare with great certainty that there are no Metis rights in N’dakimenan and no prospect for “equity partnerships” here.”

- Aanike-Ogimaa Mitiginaabe John Turner.

We are insulted and dismayed in knowing how hard the Crown had fought us in the courts, trying to prove we were not who we said we were, that we were not from or belonged to our homelands, and then to witness today, Canada and Ontario, essentially rolling out the red carpet for these unscrutinized and false MNO assertions.

Despite, not only asserting but also **having established Aboriginal Rights**, within our territory, half of our people, who the Crown has refused to acknowledge as legitimate members of the Indigenous people of N’dakimenan, (often referred to as “non-status” Teme-Augama Anishinaabeg) have historically suffered significant harm as a result. The Supreme Court of Canada claimed that our aboriginal title to our homeland had been extinguished, and we were adhered to the Robinson -Huron Treaty because some of our people had accepted annuities for a period, and had intended to accept a Reserve. Despite our non-status family members never receiving an annuity or the protection of a Reserve, they too were adhered to this treaty, which, from their historical perspective, robbed them of their lands and rights, while offering them no benefits in return. These families too lost their hunting grounds, their homes flooded out or burned down by the government, and to this day, were never afforded any compensation for this injustice, or recognition of their Indigenous rights.



And to rub salt in these wounds, now both Canada and Ontario, provide funding for services to MNO “communities”, to a significant degree due to their false claims to essentially be the unacknowledged Indigenous people of N’dakimenan, in other words, non-status Teme-Augama Anishinaabeg.

So once more, those of us who are unacknowledged by the Crown, must witness in real time, the latest injustice inflicted upon them, to see another portion of the never yet received “benefits” of having established Indigenous rights and being (unilaterally and without expressed consent) adhered to a treaty, flow from the Crown to people who falsely claim to be them.

It is long overdue, that we **demand** the Crown, both Canada and Ontario, stop this mockery of our non-status family members! That they immediately return to them what is rightly theirs, in terms of funding intended for the legitimate non-status Indigenous peoples of N’dakimenan.

A third of a century ago, your highest court, saw that we were the Indigenous people of our territory, had established aboriginal rights and adhered us to a treaty. Our homeland is 10,000 square kilometers in area, a significant portion of the “traditional territories” falsely claimed by the MNO that they have aboriginal rights to.

It is not just cultural theft and identity theft we are speaking of here, but essentially, the actual theft of services funding by impostors claiming to be people they are not, while continuing to neglect the actual peoples the MNO in their own records, claim they are descendants from... our ancestors.

We will continue our century-and-a-half struggle for justice for our lands and our people. We know the colonial playbook all too well. Its aims have always been clear: to diminish and divide our people, to silence our voices, and to deny us a fair say in the future of our own lands. The Teme-Augama Anishnabai Ogimaa ashij Odaakeshkaaganag (Chiefs and Council) affirm to Canada, Ontario and the Metis Nation of Ontario. This ongoing “19th-century” style injustice must end now!

Letters from the Teme-Augama Anishnabai are going to the Crown to demand that we meet to remedy this ongoing and intolerable injustice immediately.

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