

Senator Alis Kennedy, CD, OMC, Ph.D.

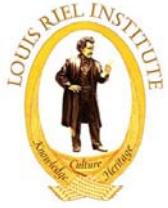
Alis Kennedy is a multilingual woman born in Montréal. Alis is a volunteer Senator with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); she is an advisor, consultant, educator, facilitator, presenter, veteran (CD) and an active member of the Aboriginal Veteran Aughtones and the Royal Canadian Legion. She is a founding member of the Aboriginal Students Advisory Council at a Toronto community college and is a member of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Council at a Toronto university. She is the recipient of the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship for her outstanding contributions to her community and to the province. Alis Kennedy has volunteered for over 35 years in three continents. She retired from the Ontario Public Service on January 31, 2013 and will continue to volunteer.

On Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at the Ontario Legislature, MNO Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy was presented with the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship (OMC) from Lieutenant Governor David Onley. The OMC recognizes people who have made exceptional long-term contributions to the quality of life in Ontario.

One of Senator Kennedy's many achievements was her participation, as a commercially licensed pilot, in a video entitled "Women in Science" produced by York University. The video encouraged young women to pursue careers in science and was viewed by all Ontario high school students in the mid 1980s.

Senator Kennedy was recognized for over 35 years of volunteering in three continents and in four countries. Her contributions to the MNO and others organizations were also highlighted. Her time as volunteer included months working on some projects on a full-time basis, as was the case when she was in Peru and South Africa. One of the projects where she volunteered on a full-time basis was with an organization in Africa that educated South Africans and tourists about the plight of cheetahs. This project also involved working with the endangered big cats.

Senator Kennedy was selected to represent all the OMC recipients in a response to the OMC Chair's toast. Prior to this, she was one of the two recipients interviewed by CityTV. Throughout these ceremonies and events, she made everyone aware of her Métis identity. "I proudly wore my Métis flag/sash, which I beaded myself" said Senator Kennedy. She indicated she wore this item to honour a past OMC recipient the late MNO Senator Helen Bradley, "I adapted the sash design from a pattern created by Senator Bradley," explained Senator Kennedy, "Dr. Olive Dickason, who served on the first Board the MNO Cultural Commission was also a past OMC recipient."



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute