



The Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council¹ Terms of Reference

1. Our Statement of Purpose

The Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council (MNOWC) has an inclusive understanding of womanhood. Women experience their lives differently based on their culture, home life, region, age, gender/gender identity, sexual identity, religion, education, and many other factors. The MNOWC values each woman's experience and seeks to create a respectful space that includes Two-Spirited, Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, and Inter-Sex (2SLGBTWQ) women.²

- 1.1. Advance a democratic, mandated and self-sufficient MNOWC to promote the interests and aspirations of all women citizens of the MNO.
- 1.2. Encourage the full participation of all Métis women.
- 1.3. Advocate for Métis women, insight, and participation to ensure successful women's programming across the province.
- 1.4. Promote the history, values, culture, languages and traditions of the Métis Nation.
- 1.5. Promote spiritual, cultural, mental and physical wellness of Métis women.
- 1.6. Ensure Métis women maintain their role in the continuation of our strong Métis Nation.
- 1.7. The MNOWC will promote and advocate for
 - Métis women's rights;
 - Métis women's agendas;
 - Métis women's health;
 - Métis women's leadership;
 - Métis women's education;
 - Métis culture and heritage; and

¹ Name amended August 17, 2017 by MNOWC at AGA in Kenora. Previously read WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO. All notes in this Terms of Reference have been updated to reflect the name change.

² Added August 15, 2018 Peterborough AGM

- Children/family/communities.

2. Structure of the MNOWC and Number of Representatives

- 2.1. The MNOWC will consist of 1 (one) Elected President and nine (9) Elected Regional Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council Representatives, and one appointed elder.^{3,4,5}
- 2.2. If seeking to be a Candidate for Regional Women's Representative is Ordinarily Resident in the Region for which he or she seeks to be nominated.⁶
- 2.3. If seeking to be a Candidate for President is Ordinarily Resident in Ontario for the term of office.⁷
- 2.4. Only MNO Women's citizens can stand for office in the MNOWC.
- 2.5. The Council of 10 MNOWC will consist of 1 President and 9 Council members will be elected by Women Citizens of the MNO for a term of 4 years.
- 2.6. These elections will be held at the MNO Annual General Assembly following the PCMNO election either by mail-in or electronic voting, whichever is most cost effective.⁸
- 2.7. The Council will also consist of an appointed elder. The Elder will be chosen by the elected MNOWC following the election.⁹

3. Vacancy of Committee Positions

As per MNO By-Law 10.¹⁰

³ Added August 22, 2019

⁴ Amended August 17, 2017 removed MNO Provincial Secretary for Métis Women, and Elected 4 Committee Members.

⁵ Amended August 22, 2019 replace Spokesperson to President

⁶ Amended August 17, 2017 removed The MNO Provincial Secretary for Métis Women will be a Métis Women appointed as per MNO By-Laws. (By-Law 7.1) The committee of 4 women representatives will be elected by the women citizens of the MNO for a term of 4 years. These ballot box elections will be held at the MNO Annual General Assembly, following the PCMNO elections. The women will strive to have representation from across the Province.

⁷ Amended August 22, 2019 replace Spokesperson to President

⁸ Amended August 22, 2019 replace Spokesperson to President

⁹ Added August 22, 2019

¹⁰ Amended August 22, 2014 at the WSMNO AGA in Thunder Bay deleted A Committee position will be considered vacated:

- a) if a committee member has resigned the position by delivering a written resignation to the committee;
- b) if she is found by a court to be of unsound mind;
- c) if at a meeting of the annual general assembly, a resolution is passed by a majority of the citizens present at the meeting that she be removed from office;
- d) on death;
- e) on missing three (3) consecutive committee meetings without good reason;
- f) where the PCMNO determines that the committee member holds or takes a position on the another committee and where by reason of holding the two positions the committee member may be placed in a conflict of interest;
- g) where the PCMNO determines that a committee member is not entitled to be registered as a citizen of MNO pursuant to MNO By-Law 2.3;
- h) is convicted of an indictable offence; or
- i) has been found guilty, in connection with an election, of corrupt practice, accepting a bribe, dishonesty or malfeasance.

4. Meetings of the MNOWC

- 4.1. The committee members of the MNOWC will meet not less than once per quarter plus one Annual General Meeting, to be held at the same time and place as the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly.
- 4.2. The meeting of the MNOWC will be chaired by the MNOWC President.^{11,12}
- 4.3. All meetings of the MNOWC shall be held in the most financially responsible manner possible. This may be through conference call, internet conferencing or face-to-face.
- 4.4. At every Annual General Meeting, in addition to any other business that may be transacted, the report of the council members, a financial statement shall be presented. The members may consider and transact any business at any meeting of the members.¹³

5. Voting

- 5.1. All decisions will strive to be reached by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, the decision will go to a vote, simple majority rules.
- 5.2. Each committee member will have one vote.

6. MNOWC Signatories

- 6.1. Contracts, documents or any instrument in writing requiring the signature of the MNOWC shall be signed by the MNOWC President and one other signing officer of the MNO.^{14,15}
- 6.2. All contracts and documents and instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon the MNOWC without any further authorization of formality.

7. Roles and Responsibilities of Committee Members

- 7.1. The representatives of the MNOWC will work towards the vision, mandate, purpose and objectives of the MNOWC as determined in these Terms of Reference.
- 7.2. The committee members of the MNOWC will work on issues that affect the provincial perspective of women citizens of the MNO.
- 7.3. The MNOWC President for Métis Women, working in conjunction with the MNOWC Regional Representatives and Community Council Women's Representatives will work with

¹¹ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary for Métis Women.

¹² Amended August 22, 2019 replaced Spokesperson with President

¹³ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted secretariat

¹⁴ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary for Métis Women

¹⁵ Amended August 22, 2019 replaced Spokesperson with President

and support the women citizens of the MNO in the Province to carry their voice at all MNOWC Meetings and General Assemblies.^{16,17}

7.4. The role of the MNOWC President for Métis Women, will be to oversee and guide the MNOWC towards accomplishing their mandate. It will also be the responsibility of the MNOWC President to report to the PCMNO when requested.^{18,19, 20, 21}

7.5. The MNOWC President for Métis Women shall be the spokeswomen for the MNOWC and shall represent the MNOWC on the Board of Governors of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak.^{22, 23, 24, 25, 26}

8. Reimbursement of Expenditures

As per MNO Policies.

9. Changes, Additions or Deletions to the Terms of Reference of the MNOWC

All changes to this document titled Terms of Reference of the MNOWC must be approved at a MNOWC Annual General Meeting by a majority.

10. Role of the PCMNO within the MNOWC

The MNOWC President for Métis Women, will report the progress of the MNOWC to the PCMNO as requested.^{27, 28, 29}

11. Adoption of Terms of Reference

This document was created by a committee appointed at the MNO 12th Annual General Assembly by resolution number AGA05-13 to restructure the WMNO. Further this document was approved and ratified at the Women's Meeting at the MNO 13th Annual General Assembly in 2006.

¹⁶ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary

¹⁷ Amended August 22, 2019 replaced Spokesperson with President

¹⁸ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary

¹⁹ Amended August 22, 2019 replaced Spokesperson with President

²⁰ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary for Métis Women, to represent the WSMNO on the PCMNO and to report to the PCMNO the goings on of the WSMNO

²¹ Amended August 22, 2019 replace Spokesperson to President

²² Amended August 22, 2014 added The MNOWC Spokesperson for Métis Women shall be the chief spokesperson for the MNOWC and shall represent the MNOWC on the Board of Governors of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak.

²³ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary

²⁴ Amended August 22, 2019 replaced Spokesperson with President

²⁵ Amended August 22, 2019 removed chief

²⁶ Amended August 22, 2019 replaced Spokesperson with Spokeswomen

²⁷ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary

²⁸ Amended August 22, 2019 replaced Spokesperson with President

²⁹ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted "at each of their meetings" and added "as requested"