

Resolutions of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 26 – 28, 2012, at Comfort Suites and Conference Centre, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

### **Special Business Resolutions**

Special Business Resolutions were not considered by the Assembly because the necessary quorum was not reached.

### **Simple Resolutions**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2012-001</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS TO MNO ELECTORAL CODE</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Cora Bunn</b>
<b>Seconder:</b>	<b>Richard Cuddy</b>

**WHEREAS** a foundational principle of the MNO is to hold fair and democratic elections for the election of the Métis Nation's regional and provincial leadership;

**AND WHEREAS** the MNO has adopted the MNO Electoral Code for the conduct of its elections and held its most recent election in May 2012;

**AND WHEREAS** the MNO's Chief Electoral Officer tabled a 2012 Elections Report with the 2012 MNO AGA making a series of recommendations with respect to the conduct of future MNO elections;

**AND WHEREAS** the MNO wants to provide an opportunity for all MNO citizens to provide their comments and input on the MNO Chief Electoral Officer's Report as well as provide their comments and feedback on the MNO's 2012 Election process generally;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The MNO circulate the MNO Chief Electoral Officer's report throughout the MNO in September 2012 and provide an opportunity for all MNO citizens to provide their feedback on the report as well as provide their input on the MNO's 2012 election process generally until April 30, 2013.
2. All comments received by the MNO prior to April 30, 2013 will be considered by an independent Committee consisting of a representative from the MNO Community Councils, MNOYC and Senators as well as the MNO's legal counsel. The Committee will also be supported by the MNO's administration.
3. The Committee will be tasked with preparing a report based on comments received, along with proposed changes to the MNO Electoral Code. This report and the proposed changes to the MNO Electoral Code will be circulated throughout the MNO. These

---

documents will also be tabled with the 2013 MNO AGA for its consideration and discussion.

4. Based on comments and feedback received from MNO citizens as well as the 2013 MNO AGA, a final redraft of the MNO Electoral Code will be tabled for the consideration and ratification of the 2014 MNO AGA.
5. No amendments will be made to the MNO Electoral Code while these consultations are ongoing or after the 2014 MNO AGA considers and makes changes to the MNO Electoral Code.
6. The appointees to the Committee will be Joanne Young (Hamilton/Wentworth Metis Council), Janine Landry (MNOYC) and Verna Porter (Senator).

**RESOLVED (AGA-RES2012-001)**

In Favour – 126

Opposed – 2

Abstention – 1

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2012-002</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>2013 MNO ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Gary Lipinski</b>
<b>Seconder:</b>	<b>France Picotte</b>

**WHEREAS** 2013 will also mark the 20 year anniversary of the creation of the Métis Nation of Ontario;

**AND WHEREAS** September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 will mark the 10 year anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada's historic decision in the Powley case;

**AND WHEREAS** the MNO wants to celebrate its accomplishments as well as highlight the ongoing advances in Métis rights that have been achieved as a result of the Powley case;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The MNO develop a 2013 anniversary logo marking the MNO's formation and the Powley decision that can be used by the MNO throughout the year on letterhead, promotional materials, etc.
2. The MNO administration be directed to work with governments and other potential partners (i.e., Métis National Council, Chair of Métis Studies, etc.) to attempt to secure funding to hold a symposium on the Powley case in Ontario to coincide with the September 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
3. One of the goals of the symposium will be to commission papers and produce a book of legal and academic articles on the impacts of the Powley case and the advancement of

---

Métis rights. The symposium will also look to include presentations on the impacts of Powley on average Métis citizens and Ontario Métis by telling the story of the creation of the MNO and its struggle to advance the Powley case, the personal stories from Elders and community members about the Powley case, etc.

4. The MNO will also attempt to hold a “Friends of the Métis” gala event, as a part of the symposium and AGA events.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2012-002)**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2012-003</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>MNO HARVESTERS CARDS</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Louise Goulding</b>
<b>Secunder:</b>	<b>Richard Cuddy</b>

**WHEREAS** the advancement of Métis rights and self-government is fundamental to the MNO;

**AND WHEREAS** ensuring that all Métis citizens can continue to practice their constitutionally-protected harvesting rights as a part of their Métis culture is essential;

**AND WHEREAS** in the Powley case the Supreme Court of Canada recognized the Métis as a full fledged rights-bearing people and that historic Métis communities that continue to the modern day possess constitutionally-protected harvesting rights;

**AND WHEREAS** in order to be a Métis rights holder an individual must self-identify as Métis, be ancestrally connected to a historic Métis community and be accepted by the Métis contemporary community which is a continuation of the historic community;

**AND WHEREAS** the Supreme Court of Canada also stated that:

It is important to remember that, no matter how a contemporary community defines membership, only those members with a demonstrable ancestral connection to the historic community can claim a s.35 right. Verifying membership is crucial, since individuals are only entitled to exercise Métis aboriginal rights by virtue of their ancestral connection to and current membership in a Métis community.

**AND WHEREAS** the MNO established the MNO Harvesters Policy and Card system as a way to identify and defend Métis rights-holders who meet the Powley test and who are entitled to exercise Métis harvesting rights in their traditional territories;

**AND WHEREAS** in July 2004 the MNO negotiated an interim Four Point Harvesting Agreement with Ontario which recognized the MNO’s Harvesters Card system as well as the MNO’s identified harvesting territories based on credible Métis rights claims, but the agreement capped the number of Harvesters Cards the MNO could issue at 1250 until an independent review of the MNO Harvester Card system is conducted;

---

**AND WHEREAS** in order to increase that 1250 cap, and, ultimately have the cap completely removed (because there can be no cap on legitimate Métis rights-holders exercising their constitutional rights) the MNO wants to move forward on undertaking an independent assessment of the MNO Harvesters Card system;

**AND WHEREAS** in order to ensure the independent assessment demonstrates the highest percentage of objectively verifiable files possible in order to ultimately remove the cap on Harvesters Cards, the MNO needs to ensure that all Harvesters Card files are complete and show documented proof of a Métis ancestral connection to the historic Métis community, as required by the Powley test.

**AND WHEREAS** there are some MNO Harvester Card files that do not have complete documentation in them and the MNO Registry's ongoing efforts to attempt to get those Harvesters Card holders to complete their files have been unsuccessful since these cards with incomplete files continue to be automatically renewed;

**AND WHEREAS** these incomplete files have the potential to undermine the integrity of the MNO Harvesters Card system in an independent review even though the majority of Harvesters Card files are complete and the ongoing delays in undertaking an independent assessment of the MNO Harvesters Card system is not allowing the MNO to issue Harvesters Card to other MNO citizens who have completed Harvesters Card files due to the 1250 cap;

**AND WHEREAS** it is the goal of the MNO AGA to have the 1250 cap removed as soon as possible in order to allow all legitimate Métis rights-holders to have a MNO Harvesters Card and exercise their Métis harvesting rights;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The MNO Registry be directed to write letters to all MNO Harvesters Card holders with incomplete files requesting that additional documentation be provided in order to complete their files pursuant to the requirements the MNO Harvesters Policy, which is consistent with the Powley test. These letters will be sent out by the end of November 2012. Each letter will state the following:
  - a. it is being sent on the direction from the MNO AGA;
  - b. the MNO Harvester Card holder has until November 30, 2013 (12 months) to ensure that their Harvesters Card file is complete.
  - c. if the Harvester's file is not completed prior to November 30, 2013, the Harvester's Card will be cancelled and provided to the next MNO citizen on the list who has a completed MNO Harvester Card file that has been waiting for one of the MNO's 1250 cards;
  - d. any paid administration fee (\$20/year) for future years will be returned to a Harvester who has their Harvesters Card cancelled by the MNO;

- 
- e. if their Harvesters Card is cancelled on November 30, 2013 they will be able to re-apply for a MNO Harvesters Card in the future once their file is complete and if MNO Harvester Cards are available for issuance;
  - f. the letter in no way affects MNO citizenship and does not question whether an individual is Métis;
  - g. the process is being undertaken in order for the MNO to successfully complete an independent review of the MNO Harvesters Card system which will allow the MNO to comply with the Powley test as set out by the Supreme Court of Canada and remove the negotiated 1250 cap in the future so all MNO citizens who are rights-holders can obtain Harvesters Cards in the future.
2. The MNO administration be directed to attempt to secure funding in order to undertake community workshops to assist MNO Harvester Card holders and others in completing their Harvesters Card and/or citizenship files.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (RES-2012-003)**

Abstention – 1

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2012-004</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Sharon McBride</b>
<b>Seconder:</b>	<b>Pauline Saulnier</b>

**WHEREAS** pursuing economic development is an important part of building strong Métis communities and a strong MNO;

**AND WHEREAS** the MNO AGA wants to ensure that economic development is pursued in a transparent, accountable and business-like manner which does not put the MNO, Community Councils or individual MNO citizens at financial risk;

**AND WHEREAS** the MNO has commissioned work and opinions based on other best practices for aboriginal economic development and the identification of legal issues to protect the MNO, Community Councils and individual MNO citizens when economic development is pursued;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. the MNO AGA direct the PCMNO to continue its work on developing MNO economic development model and to adopt a MNO Economic Development Policy that can be implemented at all levels of the MNO; and,
2. the MNO AGA direct the MNO to pursue economic development opportunities that will assist the MNO in paying off its remaining debt and allow the MNO to increase the amount of discretionary funding that is not tied to program and service delivery.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2012-004)**

---

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2012-005</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>MNOYC POLICY AND PROCEDURES</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Mitchell Case</b>
<b>Seconder:</b>	<b>Janine Landry</b>

**WHEREAS** the MNOYC strives to meet the goals laid out in the Statement of Prime Purpose;

**AND WHEREAS** there are currently no policies and procedures speaking directly to youth governance;

**AND WHEREAS** a strong youth voice is essential for the future of the MNO;

**AND WHEREAS** the MNOYC has taken time to develop a draft policies and procedures manual by creating a Governance Working Group which met multiple times via conference call and finalized the draft Policies and Procedures on February 19, 2012;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The 2012 MNO Annual General Assembly direct the PCMNO, MNO staff and administration to coordinate with the MNOYC in order to review and revise with a view to implementing the draft Polices and Procedures developed by the MNOYC Governance Working Group on February 19, 2012; and,
2. This process be completed by the 2013 Annual Assembly.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2012-005)**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2012-006</b>
----------------------	------------------------

**RESOLUTION NOT CONSIDERED BY ASSEMBLY BECAUSE MOVER WAS NOT PRESENT**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2012-007</b>
----------------------	------------------------

**RESOLUTION WAS WITHDRAWN BY MOVER**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2012-008</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>MNO AGA ENTRY</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Senator Ruth Wagner</b>
<b>Seconder:</b>	<b>Pauline Saulnier</b>

---

**WHEREAS** the dignitaries of the Métis Nation of Ontario, Government and proponents open the AGA in the canoes;

**AND WHEREAS** our MNO President mentioned that we should encourage our youth to be future leaders;

**AND WHEREAS** the MNO has the MNOYC;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. at each future AGA, an additional canoe be added for our youth representatives, subject to funding being secured.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2012-008)**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2012-009</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>CITIZENSHIP INFORMATION TO COMMUNITY COUNCILS</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Cora Bunn</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Marlene Davidson</b>

**WHEREAS** it is important for Community Councils to know who their new citizens are;

**AND WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario has new citizen's contact information on the MNO citizenship application;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. the MNO AGA provide direction to the MNO administration that the MNO Registry provide updated citizenship lists to each MNO Community Council on a bi-annual basis.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2012-009)**

<b>Resolution#:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2012-010</b>
<b>RESOLUTION WAS WITHDRAWN BY MOVER</b>	

<b>Resolution#:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2012-011</b>
<b>RESOLUTION WAS WITHDRAWN BY MOVER</b>	

<b>Resolution#:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2012-012</b>
<b>RESOLUTION WAS WITHDRAWN BY MOVER AND REFERRED TO THE PCMNO</b>	

---

**Resolution#: AGA-RES2012-013**

**RESOLUTION WAS WITHDRAWN BY MOVER**

**Resolution#: AGA-RES2012-014**

**RESOLUTION WAS WITHDRAWN BY MOVER**

**Resolution#: AGA-RES2012-015**

**RESOLUTION REQUIRED A BYLAW AMENDMENT AND WAS NOT PUT TO THE FLOOR  
SINCE IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTION**