

Minutes of the 17th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 21-23, 2010 at the Fort William Historical Park, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Day 1 – SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2010

PREPARATION OF MINUTES: Carolyn Hunter, Hunter-Courchene Consulting Group

OPENING CEREMONIES – August 21, 2010

PROCESSION AND FLAG RAISING

The flags of Métis Nation Hunting Colours, Province of Ontario were marched into the assembly and posted. Fiddler Roger Geroux accompanied by Aline Geroux on guitar led the Grand Entry of dignitaries.

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

Chair France Picotte called the 17th Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to order at 8:46 a.m. She mentioned that importance of this meeting during this Year of the Métis. Senator Bob McKay, Thunder Bay Métis Council, offered an opening prayer.

OPENING REMARKS BY CHAIR

MNO Chair Picotte welcomed all the participants to the MNO AGA and continued on to introductions.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

MNO Chair Picotte introduced the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario to the Assembly.

WELCOME FROM DIGNITARIES

Greetings from President Wendy Landry, Thunder Bay Métis Council

President Landry welcomed everyone to Thunder Bay and stated that the venue was an appropriate place to hold this event as they could meet as their ancestors had in this location. She welcomed all visitors and also the Métis Nation family from all over Ontario and beyond. She asked that they remembered those people that could not be at the AGA because they have passed on. She also welcomed the Ministers and also their own Métis leadership such as the PCMNO. Councilor JoAnne Wass, Regional Council #6, presented the President Landry with crystallized moose carving on behalf of the MNO.

Greetings from Neebing Ward Councilor Linda Rydholm, Representative of the Mayor of Thunder Bay

Councilor Rydholm thanked MNO Chair Picotte for her introduction and stated that she brought greetings on behalf of Mayor Peterson and her colleagues on Thunder Bay City Council. She welcomed everyone to their community and mentioned that it was wonderful to see the Métis here, particularly as this was her ward. She acknowledged the Métis dignitaries and other dignitaries in attendance. She stated that Thunder Bay had a historic Métis community and the city was proud of their relationship with the Métis people. She stated that the city had a number of partnerships with the Métis people on a number projects and recognized the valuable contribution that the Métis have made and still made today to the community. She recognized the appropriateness of the location, Fort William Historical Park, as a historical meeting place of the Métis ancestors of the people here today. She extended her best wishes on behalf of the city to the MNO and their deliberations during this year's AGA. Councilor Marcel Lafrance, Region #3, presented the Ms. Ridholm with crystallized moose carving on behalf of the MNO.

Greetings from Sergio Buonocore, Fort William Historical Park

Mr. Buonocore welcomed all participants in the MNO AGA to the Fort William Historical Park on behalf of all the staff and the management. He stated that they were honoured to host this event and they were very proud of the facility. He spoke about the appropriateness of the venue and mentioned the ongoing collaborative relationship between the MNO and Fort William. He wished the delegates the best wishes for the deliberations and the activities that would take place. Councilor Art Bennet, Region #4, presented Mr. Buonocore with a commemorative pen and Métis flag on behalf of the MNO.

The Honourable Christopher Bentley, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Province of Ontario

Minister Bentley thanked the MNO and the delegates for inviting him to participate in the opening activities this morning and he acknowledged President Lipinski, President Clément Chartier and also former President Tony Belcourt. He mentioned that he had been pleased to work with MNO President Lipinski and others in the organization. He stated that they had accomplished a lot together in his new portfolio but also long before that. Before the protocol agreement, they had also established the Chair of Métis Studies at the University of Ottawa and this was an important signal that the Métis were viewed as a significant part of Ontario.

He mentioned the NRF funding and other funding initiatives that have supported the work of the Métis in Ontario. He also acknowledged that this was the Year of the Métis and acknowledged through official proclamation by the provincial government earlier this year. He thanked them again and wished them a great AGA. A plaque recognizing the Year of the Métis was presented to President Lipinski and the MNO on behalf of the Premier. Councilor Peter Rivers, Region #9, presented Minister Bentley with a ceremonial walking stick on behalf of the MNO.

The Honourable Michael Gravelle, Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry, Province of Ontario

Minister Gravelle thanked the delegates and said that he was honoured to be here at Fort William Historical Park to participate in this event. He acknowledged the Métis leadership in the room from the national, provincial and regional levels, present and past, and his colleagues in legislature. He also recognized local politicians and mentioned that he was privileged to speak here in his own riding. He said he loved it here because it was his hometown but it also held great significance for the delegates. He stated that this city area was a major centre of commerce historically and the special skills of the Métis and others in the fur trade allowed them

all to benefit. In the present day, he stated that his ministry has been trying to establish a strong and meaningful relationship with the Métis and mentioned a renewing of a two-year agreement to continue work with the MNO on mining issues. He said that they wanted to continue to build that relationship by combining their respective knowledge. He thanked them for the invitation to speak and wished them a productive Assembly. Councilor Cam Burgess, Region #2, presented Minister Gravelle with a ceremonial walking stick on behalf of the MNO for the work that he had done over the years.

Mr. Bill Mauro, Liberal Member of Provincial Parliament, Thunder Bay-Atikokan

Mr. Mauro wished everyone a good morning and mentioned that he was thrilled to be invited to speak. He stated that his colleagues had provided an overview of a number of ways that the province and the MNO were working together and made particular mention of the protocol agreement that had been signed. He presented a scroll to President Lipinski on behalf of Minister Madeleine Meilleur, Ministry of Community and Social Services, who had sent her regrets. The scroll was read aloud to the participants. Councilor Theresa Stenlund, Region #1, presented the Mr. Mauro with commemorative pen on behalf of the MNO.

Mr. Bruce Stanton, Conservative Member of Parliament, Simcoe North

Mr. Stanton recognized all the dignitaries in attendance including President Lipinski, MNC President Chartier, Ministers, Elders and Senators and other distinguished guests. He also acknowledged the Georgian Bay Métis Council and Councilor Saulnier from his riding. He stated that it was an honour to be here in this place with all the delegates. He also recognized Mr. Hyer who sat across from in the House of Commons but who he considered a colleague. Fort William, he stated, was a perfect setting for this meeting and commended Ontario for their continued investment in this historical facility. He said that he was pleased to bring greetings from Minister Duncan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians) and recognized a growing appreciation of the contribution of the Métis to Canadian society. He acknowledged that this was the Year of the Métis and he mentioned that it was great that the government of Ontario made that proclamation. He spoke about the economic development opportunities that were coming in Ontario and mentioned that this was critical to the Métis, as their youth was the fastest growing segment of the Canadian population. He also mentioned the importance of the contribution of Métis veterans and their families and recognized that former Minister Strahl and MNC President Chartier had recognized this in the Métis protocol. He thanked them for this opportunity to speak and wished them a great meeting. Councilor Pauline Saulnier, Region #7, presented the Mr. Stanton with commemorative pen on behalf of the MNO.

Mr. Bruce Hyer, NDP Member of Parliament, Superior North

Mr. Hyer stated that he felt that any morning that started with a canoe ride was a good one. He thanked them for the invitation to speak and recognized many colleagues that he had worked with among the participants. He said that he was NDP but he was impressed to see members of different parties working together. He stated that he could not bring a cheque but he could support the Métis by pressuring those with the money. He said that he was envious of those who could call themselves Métis and recognized their ability to blend different cultures and it produced a unique dynamic. It was a pleasure to join them here and he acknowledged the MNO's ability to deliver effective programs and services and he thanked them for doing that. MNO Youth Representative Nicholas Callahan presented the Mr. Hyer with commemorative pen on behalf of the MNO.

President Clément Chartier, Métis National Council

President Chartier brought greetings from the Métis National Council and acknowledged senators, elders, veterans, fellow leaders, Métis citizens and friends of the Métis. He also recognized past President Belcourt and the contribution that he had made. He said that he had seen tremendous growth in the MNO and this was because of their leadership, both past and present, and the willingness of provincial politicians to work with the Métis. He wanted to acknowledge the leadership on both sides.

He stated that it was a good gesture on the provincial government's part to recognize the Year of the Métis and he stated that their government, at the Métis National Council, had declared this the Year of the Métis Nation, as well. He added that the Métis leadership needed to bring this to the forefront and he provided an overview of the key points of Métis history. He stated that many had sacrificed in the past to ensure the future of the Métis Nation. He explained that they had marked this year with a number of activities all across the Homeland and holding this event at Fort William Historical Park was a great idea. He stated that their Nation was distinct people with their own language and a homeland, which included Ontario. He said that the Supreme Court had not given them anything through the Powley decision but rather had affirmed the rights that they already knew they had. He said that the MNO's fight for the rights identified through Powley was a great contribution to the Métis Nation and one that the rest of the Métis people would not forget.

He stated that the Métis involvement, particularly their youth, at this year's Olympics in Vancouver was a proud moment. He also mentioned that they had received some funding during the Para-Olympic Games to support the work of the MNC Committee on Disabilities. The government to government relationship that they had developed with the federal government had led to a protocol signed between the MNC and former Minister of Indian Affairs, Chuck Strahl. He also mentioned that they were working with the Council of the Federation and Premier McGuinty has been supportive in moving forward with a distinct-based approach and part of that process was the establishment of an Aboriginal Affairs Working Group.

President Chartier mentioned that the issues of their veterans were a priority and the process to address these issues had to move faster. He mentioned that Minister Strahl had accompanied a delegation to Juno Beach to establish a Métis presence as a memorial there. He explained that this was accomplished due to the protocol they had signed. Another issue that they were working on under the auspices of the protocol was residential schools. He noted that they were still deciding how to proceed, as they did not feel that anyone had apologized to the Métis survivors. He stated that someone had to take responsibility for that.

He mentioned that the MNC would be hosting three upcoming events – the Métis Nation Economic Development Forum II, the Métis Forum on Disabilities and the Métis Child and Wellness Forum. He also mentioned that they were moving forward on the issues of Métis Women. He thanked them for the opportunity to address the Assembly. Councilor Maurice Sarrazin, Region #5, presented the President Chartier with ceremonial walking stick on behalf of the MNO.

President Audrey Poitras, Métis Nation of Alberta

President Poitras acknowledged senators, veterans, elders, presidents, President Lipinski and the PCMNO members, past President Belcourt, President Chartier, honoured guests and Métis citizens. She thanked them for the invitation to participate in their AGA and she brought

greetings on behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta. This location with its' long history was a wonderful venue for this meeting and President Poitras congratulated President Wendy Landry, Thunder Bay Métis Council, for hosting such an event. She said that events such as these were important because they were able to connect with each other and build on the strong foundation set by their ancestors and past leaders.

She thanked the MNO for the great work they did for the Métis people in this province and this country. She said that she was envious of the relationship they had with their provincial government, as they used to have a good relationship with their province but were forced to defend their rights in court. She stated that this was a wonderful time and place to be celebrating the year of the Métis. MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride presented the President Poitras with a walking stick on behalf of the MNO.

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS - MNO President Gary Lipinski

President Lipinski stated that it was an honour to be here with all of the delegates and he thanked the Creator for the good weather for their opening activities that had taken place that morning. He said that there was a resurgence of Métis culture and the pride that had always been there. He acknowledged the Métis leadership that was present at the Assembly and also dignitaries from the local, provincial and federal governments. He stated that their participation and the relationships that had been built meant a lot to the MNO and the Métis people of Ontario. He stated that they had common issues and aspirations – they all wanted to make a living to provide for their families and give their children a chance for a better life. With regards to their relationship with the government of Ontario, he felt that they had moved into a new era with the new framework and beginning the journey to reconciliation.

He mentioned that the Fort William Historical Park was a remarkable venue and it really touched on who they were as Métis people and incorporated that living knowledge from the past. He explained that they might not live in Forts anymore but many Métis people still lived that traditional lifestyle. They had a rich and proud history contributing to the building this country. Some of the battles and other events were well known while others needed to be shared more widely in order to show how the Métis people have impacted the growth of Canadian society and established themselves as rights bearing people. He provided an overview of the historical significance of Fort William and other sites of importance to the Métis in Ontario.

The MNO, he explained, had a long history of political struggle to draw from including the Métis involvement in the War of 1812 and the resulting recognition of First Nations rights at Drummond Island, where the rights of the Métis were not acknowledged. There were many examples of the injustices of the past and these needed to be dealt with through true and meaningful negotiations with both levels of government. There were many examples throughout their history where governments dealt with the Métis people as a distinct people and where they have occupied the land on an ongoing basis since before Canada became Canada. He stated that they did not want to take anything away from the First Nations and they wished them success on their endeavours. He said that there did not need to be winners and losers in this process; they could all be dealt with fairly and everyone would win.

President Lipinski stated that the relationships that they have developed with government and proponents would help the Métis move forward on a number of fronts. Through the duty to consult requirements, they would see an increase in jobs and contracts for Métis individuals and businesses leading to wealth generation for their community and organizations. He mentioned

the establishment of the Chair of Métis Studies and this spoke to the recognition of their importance in Canadian society. They have been able to move forward for increase educational opportunities for their students through partnerships with educational institutions. He spoke about the importance of preparing their people to fill jobs that will be opening up because of increased development in Ontario, particularly in the mining sector. They were also moving ahead in raising the profile of the Métis in Ontario and beyond through involvement at the Olympics and Year of the Métis Nation activities.

He stated that they were also moving forward on their rights agenda and he said that they did not want to go back to that adversarial relationship. There was common ground when they considered what they all wanted for their families, communities and their province – they wanted an improved quality of life for their families, particularly their children.

He said that he wanted to thank them for coming and hoped that they would have a wonderful time at this event. He mentioned that there were a number of youth and he said that some of them here had participated in a canoe trip from here to Batoche earlier this year. He added that this was one of the largest delegations of youth for their AGA. He thanked President Landry for hosting this event and for all the hard work that had gone into it.

RECOGNITION OF THE CANOE EXPEDITION PARTICIPANTS

MNO Chair Picotte asked that the youth participants of the canoe expedition from Fort William to Batoche rise to be recognized by the Assembly.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNING Métis Nation of Ontario/ Métis Nation of Alberta

Chair Picotte mentioned that there were be a signing of a memorandum of understanding between the MNA and the MNO. This was a historic moment because it was the first between two Métis governments.

She mentioned that the Presidents would be sharing a few words before the signing. President Poitras stated that she was honoured to be here to sign this MOU. She said that she and President Lipinski had talked a great deal about how they could move forward together. She added that she was excited to be here to sign this MOU. President Lipinski mentioned that he saw the theme of the AGA as one of partnership and relationships. He stated that he had seen the many accomplishments that the MNA had been able to achieve and President Poitras was recognized a great and respected leader in the Métis Homeland. He mentioned that the MNA was a leader in economic development and registry process and the MNO was seen as a leader in Métis health and their work in Lands, Resources and Consultation so it was a good match. He said that they wanted to work collaboratively and share best practices in those areas and others.

The MNO AGA delegates witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the MNO and the MNA by MNO President Lipinski and MNA President Audrey Poitras. President Poitras presented a gift to President Lipinski to commemorate the moment.

PRESENTATION FROM UNION GAS TO MNO YOUTH

Chair Picotte introduced Mr. John Bonin from Union Gas who would be making a brief presentation. Mr. Bonin thanked the MNO for giving him some time on the agenda. He

mentioned that years ago past president Tony Belcourt initiated a relationship between the MNO and Union Gas and they had an agreement outlining how they would move forward in a respectful and meaningful way. He made a presentation of a cheque for \$10K for the youth and cultural program at the MNO on behalf of Union Gas.

President Lipinski thanked him for the gift and mentioned that Union Gas has taken a leadership role in advancing with relationship with MNO. He also provided some background information on Union Gas and the impact this company had all over Ontario. The agreement that Mr. Bonin had mentioned had concrete outcomes and he gave the example of when Union Gas had to replace a number of gas lines in a community and they made every attempt to provide a number of opportunities for Métis individuals and businesses. He then presented Mr. Bonin with a commemorative pen as a small token of the appreciation of the MNO.

Recess - The meeting recessed for break at 11:17 a.m. and resumed at 11:56 a.m.

The Honourable Michael Chan, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Province of Ontario

Minister Chan thanked the Chair for her introduction and for the honour of being able to participate in the Assembly. It was fitting that they were meeting in Fort William, he said, and mentioned the importance of the Métis and fur trade in Canada's development. He spoke about making sure the history of the Métis was recorded and how the rest of the province and Canada needed to be made aware of it. He mentioned that in his position, he traveled a lot throughout the province and it was a beautiful land with many cultures. He stated that their government was working to make sure that the Métis of Ontario were included in the story of the province. He mentioned that the provincial government had proclaimed 2010 the Year of the Métis and they wanted to move forward making sure that all Ontarians played a role in their shared future. He talked about the economic development opportunities in northern development that Minister Bentley mentioned but added that they was also a \$40M investment of funds to support tourism in northern Ontario since 2003. He also mentioned that they were in the process of finalizing provincial standards and guidelines used by archeologists in Ontario outlining how they would have to consult with Aboriginal communities to ensure the protection of their heritage. He thanked the delegates and wished them a productive AGA. President Lipinski then presented Minister Chan with a gift of a crystallized moose carving in appreciation of his participation in the AGA.

Recess - The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:09 p.m. and resumed at 12:45p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Chair Picotte asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the AGA and provided a brief overview of the process for motions.

It was MOVED (Senator Schofield) and SECONDED (Senator Gravelle)

That the Agenda for the 17th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario meeting scheduled August 21-23, 2010 be approved as amended.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA10-01)

ESTABLISHMENT OF ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUORUM

Vice Chair Sharon McBride reported that there were 170 registered delegates in attendance at the 17th MNO AGA and advised that 86 of the registered delegates were required to be present

to form a quorum. Motions to amend the bylaws or which affected citizen's rights required 2/3, or 115, of the registered delegates to vote in favour in order to be approved.

OVERVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS PROCESS

Chair Picotte provided an overview of the resolutions process and suggested that they should establish a Resolutions Committee made up of members of the Community Consultation Branch, as the communities were used to working with these individuals. She was noted that these individuals were Hank Rowlinson, Glen Lipinski and Glen Lefebvre and asked for discussion or a motion to proceed.

It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Rick Paquette)

That the Resolutions Committee be comprised of Hank Rowlinson, Glen Lipinski and Andre Lefebvre.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA10-02)

Chair Picotte requested that the Resolutions Committee set the deadline for receiving resolutions for review and presentation on Monday, August 24, 2010. Mr. Rowlinson said the Resolutions Committee would advise the delegates of the deadline and the location for submission.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Chair Picotte asked Tim Pile, MNO Secretary-Treasurer, PCMNO, to provide an overview of the minutes from the 2009 AGA. After review, it was noted that Steve Callaghan's name should be added as the seconder for Resolution AGA-RES09-12.

It was MOVED (Senator Poitras) and SECONDED (Senator Larue)

That the Minutes of the 16th MNO AGA be accepted as amended as follows:

- Adding Steve Callahan's last name as mover to Resolution AGA-RES09-12

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA10-03)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Chair Picotte opened the microphones to delegates for comment and business arising from the MNO 16th Annual AGA. Secretary-Treasurer Pile noted that there was action-items document in the meeting kit for the information of the delegates.

There was a question raised around funding to bring more youth to the AGA, as per the resolution 09-09. Chair Picotte asked Chief Operating Officer Wilson to provide a response and he stated that Ontario Power Authority, who funded the youth last year, gave less funding than last year and they tried to bring more youth in by involving the MNO summer students in the AGA this year. It was noted by the delegate that some of their youth representatives worked hard at the local level and it would be beneficial if they could be funded to participate in the AGA.

Housekeeping

Chair Picotte asked the Resolutions Committee to provide an update to the delegates on the process for resolutions. Mr. Rowlinson informed the delegates that all resolutions must be submitted in writing by 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 23, 2010 to the LRC Booth in Building 29.

He stated that each resolution submitted must include the name of a mover and seconder to the resolution and they should also include a way to contact them for clarification if necessary.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Ms. Picotte introduced Secretary-Treasurer Pile to give his update and she also introduced Ms. Judie McKenney, MNO Director of Finance and Mr. Randy Tivy, Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants, MNO Auditors.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Secretary-Treasurer Pile provided some background information on the financial situation of the MNO outlining their previous relationship with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) as their third party monitor. He explained that this put a huge burden of work on the MNO Finance Department as each expenditure had to be reviewed which was a lot of pressure in addition to their regular duties. He commended COO Wilson and the Finance Department for their hard work. He stated that the current financial statement reflected a very positive picture and they had worked hard to get things back on track. There were a number of changes recommended by the PWC such as new processes and a new software system.

2009/2010 Audited Financial Statements

Mr. Randy Tivy, Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants, provided an overview of the MNO audit statement for 2009/2010 for the delegates.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- A delegate asked about reports that had to be supplied from the Community Councils that did not seem to be reflected in this audit. Secretary-Treasurer Pile noted that they needed to see the report to see if they were material to the audit because they had to see how the funding flowed from MNO to the Councils.
- It was noted that there were some issues with the names of the Community Councils listed in the Audit. It was suggested that this was the list of Community Councils at the time of this audit.
- There was a question around liabilities on page 2 and what was represented by the grants and contributions payable. Mr. Tivy noted that these were monies received but the work could not be done so the funds had to be returned. He believed that the funds were received too late in the fiscal year to be expended in time. It was noted by a delegate that this was responsible financial management as the MNO did not spend the funds before they were received yet were forced to deal with delays in funding from government.
- A delegate asked how they could repay their debt if there government funding was tied to specific programs and deliverables. Ms. McKenney noted that they had a few revenue generating streams such as housing and various rentals and they had worked out a lengthy repayment plan with government based on these revenues.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Judie McKenney, MNO Director of Finance, provided a power point entitled "*MNO – Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2010*" to the delegates.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- A delegate asked about the grants and contribution payments and Ms. McKenney mentioned that this was funding owed back to the funders because they were unable to spend the entire amount, as it was received too late in the year. When asked for

clarification on what programs this was from, Mr. Tivy noted that it was probably from more than a dozen program to an amount of approximately \$500K. He noted that this was lapsed during the time when PWC was monitoring the MNO expenditures so the funds were not dispersed by PWC.

- A delegate asked when the debt was incurred and the responses that the CRA debt was incurred between 1999-2005 and the EHT debt was incurred between 2000 and early 2008. Ms. McKenney explained that deduction at source debt grows quickly. There was some concern that this debt was a legacy being left to the youth but Chair Picotte agreed but she mentioned that they had also left them good things such as Powley. Secretary-Treasurer Pile noted that they had paid another \$200K of this debt in this fiscal year and they were looking at economic development opportunities that would help pay this off quicker.

APPROVAL OF THE 2009/10 AUDIT

It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Verna Porter)

That the 17th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario approve the Audited Financial Statements dated March 31, 2010.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA10-04)

APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR

It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Wayne Trudeau)

That the 17th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario appoint the accounting firm of Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants as the MNO Auditors for the fiscal year 2010-2011.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA10-05)

Secretary-Treasurer Pile thanked all the Community Council for the submission of their documents in a timely manner.

Recess - The meeting recessed for break at 2:30 p.m. and resumed at 2:45 p.m.

MÉTIS HARVESTING AND RIGHTS UPDATE

– Métis Harvesting Rights Legal Update

Ms. Jean Teillet, MNO Legal Counsel, acknowledged the Métis leadership in the room, other dignitaries and also all the delegates to the AGA. She said that when she was deciding what she would speak on this morning, she did not want to take it for granted that they were all aware of the history of the MNO. She stated that they were sitting here today because of the extraordinary work of many people across the Métis Nation. She provided a background on how the MNO was established and how, for many years, the Métis were not seen as distinct within the mechanisms that were established for Aboriginal people. In 1995, the MNO statement of prime purpose was created and a key part of that was the registry. She said in that same year, she had met Steve Powley and he had retained her as his lawyer but they did not get to trial until 1998. Most everyone knew the history of Powley from that point but there were still battles to be engaged in and, when the MNR would not honour the Powley decision, they had to go to court again. She explained that they argued this case in the court of appeal in January 2001 and they had heard in February about the decision.

She explained that, prior to coming before the court of appeal, they had been having discussions at the MNC and they did not want the court to define who the Métis were so there were a number of consultation meetings to discuss the definition. As a result of those discussions, the MNC stood up in front of the Supreme Court of Canada and told them that they had the right to define who they were. It was decided that they would suspend judgment for one year in order to allow time for the MNR and the Métis to come to a protocol agreement. MNR stated that they would not bring charges against the Métis but they did not feel that this had to part of the protocol. However, they ended up charging the Métis and then they said that they could because it was not part of the agreement.

She explained that the July 7 agreement only came about because they got the politicians involved and that four-point agreement split the province in half. Following this, the MNR dropped the charges but then charged people again. They took the MNR to court again and the court reprimanded them. She said that they had come a long way but their vision for the future was that all of them could harvest food without being impeded.

Ms. Teillet mentioned that they were arguing a case in Alberta now that focused on the mobility of harvesting rights and these involved an individual who had moved into a community and attempted to exercise the right to harvest and an individual who harvested in a different part of the province. She said it was important to share the financial burden with in the Métis Nation for taking on different parts of this battle. She also provided an overview of the Cunningham case involving the settlements in Alberta. This would have an impact on the registry, as individuals could not sign up under the Indian Act and the Métis registries.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- It was noted by a delegate that their traditional territories were a lot broader than what was currently accepted by the government's view and Ms. Teillet agreed stating that they were aware of this fact. She added that they have started those discussion now but need to access additional funding to conduct further research to support their claims.
- There was a concern raised about the ongoing issue of the 1250 maximum for harvester cards, as many citizens were waiting to receive their cards. Ms. Teillet stated that the maximum was set in an agreement that was supposed to be for one year and no one thought that they would still be living with that limit today. They needed to get the research done to support their claim for more harvester cards. She also added that, no matter the actions of others, the MNO was going to act honourably in compliance with the original agreement until another agreement was put into place but they understood the frustration of those in the community wanting to exercise their harvesting rights.
- A question was raised on if the harvester card could be transferred to another person if the harvester was sick. Ms. Teillet noted that, according to the MNO harvesting policy, the card was not transferable.
- One of the delegates noted that he had been involved in the negotiation in 2004 and there were groups in Ontario, such as the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), who were advising the Minister of Natural Resources that the Métis were going to have a damaging effect on the moose population if this agreement was signed. He noted that this had made the politicians at Queen's park nervous but the fact was that the Métis harvesting would not have a large effect on the moose population. The Métis were asked to abide by the 1250 cap for the year because of political optics and originally the Métis negotiators had said no because the cards were only a way to make it easier to identify those who met the burden of Powley out on the land. Finally they had agreed to the cap for a year in order that

the harvesters could begin to exercise their rights, but now this has been the situation for several years and MNR seemed unwilling to revisit the situation. He said that they would have to exert political pressure, particularly because there was an upcoming election, and the MNR needed to be taken to task about not fulfilling their commitments. What they needed to do, he advised, was identify how many more harvester cards they needed and maybe they could even go to OFAH for their support for a certain number of cards.

- There was a question raised on harvester cards that had expired and if these individuals could be the first addressed when the maximum of 1250 was changed. It was noted that according to the process, there was a list of those waiting who had applied earlier and the list would be followed according to those who qualified.
- There was an issue raised about Métis citizens that had moved from other provinces and there was a question around eligibility for a harvester card. Ms. Teillet noted that this was an issue and they were working on the mobility of their rights through other cases in the Homeland.
- There was a question raised on if there was a limit on citizenship cards and it was also noted that many people had paid their fees for the application. Ms. Teillet stated that there was no limit on the number of citizenship cards. Chair Picotte also responded that the application fee was a non-refundable payment and it was also noted that the fee itself did not even cover the costs related to providing the registry service.

President Lipinski noted that, since 2004, the issue of the 1250 maximum had been a priority for the MNO and, from their perspective, there should be no cap and that was what they wanted to accomplish on this file. He stated that they were advancing on a number of fronts to achieve this including conducting additional research to support the need for more harvester cards and strengthening their position by ensuring that their files were up to date and complete. He added that he had also met with the Minister of Natural Resources to discuss the issue and she had instructed her staff to address this but there were a number of frustrations around this process. With regards to expired cards, President Lipinski noted that people were given every opportunity to renew them and there was a process of correspondence and also a grace period to address the renewals. He reiterated that they felt that there should be no cap on harvesting cards and they would have to consider all options to address this situation.

MÉTIS CONSULTATION AND ACCOMMODATION

– Developments on Duty to Consult and Accommodation

Jason Madden, MNO Legal Counsel, provided an update on the Duty to Consult and Accommodation and how this related to their right to harvest. He stated that they wanted to make sure that they were able to back up their position with strong evidence. He mentioned that their position was that their communities were not dots on a map and they could not lose their right because they were mobile. He stated that their nomadic lifestyle was a defining characteristic of who they were as Métis people and that could not be used against them.

One of the issues that they had to continually address was the fact that they were not seen as having a long history in this province despite the amount of research they have undertaken and the documentation that existed in this province. He stated that they needed to educate themselves on their own history and share the information that the citizens had to make that a full a picture as possible. He stated that he and Ms. Teillet depended on this information

regarding their ancestor's activities and how this is ongoing to this day to prove that they had always existed here in the area when they met with proponents.

He stated that he foresaw that they would still have some battles on this front and this was one of the reasons that they would be undertaking the consultation process in this way. He said that it was important that they did not define in a narrow way that did not take into consideration all the aspects of both their traditional lifestyle and the unique aspects of their lives as Métis people today. He explained that it seemed like government and proponents had difficulties identifying people who were not on-reserve.

He said that this need for information to support their position was the reason that the MNO was putting forth a resolution to continue to access NRF funding. This resolution was presented to the delegates for review and support.

Chair Picotte stated that they would deal with the resolution presented the following morning so all delegates would have a chance to read it.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The 17th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 21-23, 2010 adjourned on Day 1 – August 21, 2010 at 4:34 p.m. and agreed to reconvene on Day 2 – August 22, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

DAY 2 - SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2010

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

Chair Picotte reconvened the 17th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario at 9:05 a.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Chair Picotte welcomed the delegates back to the meeting. She provided an overview of what had happened the previous day. She also provided an overview of the agenda for the day and mentioned that they were going to be doing the full presentation before going back to the tabled motion. It was suggested that they asked all government and industry officials to leave the room while they have this discussion and Chair Picotte asked that they do, thanking them for their understanding.

MÉTIS CONSULTATION AND ACCOMMODATION

Melanie Paradis, MNO Director of Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch, presented the power point entitled "*LRC Branch Update*" to the delegates.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- Mr. Madden commented that it was very important that the citizens were seen as a collective because the government would rather deal with them as individuals. He stated that it was important that all their harvester files were complete so they would be prepared if litigation proved to be necessary.
- A delegate mentioned that they wanted to thank those who worked in the LRC branch because the communities were able to learn a lot from them. It was noted that the MNO regions and local communities do a lot of work negotiating with proponents but many different groups benefit from that. Mr. Madden commented that the unique aspect of the

MNO's approach was the registry, which gave credibility to all the work that they undertook. The fact was that the proponents could not just consult with any group or corporation, they had to consult with the rights holders in the region and the MNO would take them to task on that. He added that they were focused on their own plans rather than on what others were doing.

- President Lipinski stated that the MNO's ability to undertake this work through the LRC was the envy of others in the homeland and the MNO knew that there would be more challenges coming out of the process that has been set up. He stated that they would be strategically prepared to meet those challenges. They have already seen proponent and government ministries try to circumvent this process and the MNO was addressing those situations. He informed delegates that he would be meeting with Ministers Bentley, Gravelle and Jeffrey to address some of the MNO concerns.
- Some delegates felt that they needed to take a more negotiated and less aggressive approach to addressing these issues. Chair Picotte noted that they were first pursuing a negotiated and communicative approach to their issues. It was stated by delegates that the LRC branch was taking a more rational approach and they were able to work with the regions and communities in maintaining this approach through frustrating and, at times, disrespectful discussions with government officials and proponents. It was suggested by taking a positive, results oriented approach; they could change people's opinions.

NEW RELATIONSHIP FUND RESOLUTION

As a follow up to the previous day's discussion on the NRF resolution/motion, Chair Picotte read it in its' entirety to the delegates.

It was MOVED (Pauline Saulnier) and SECONDED (Larry Duvall)

WHEREAS, as a part of its response to the Ipperwash Inquiry Report, the Ontario Government committed to the establishment of a New Relationship Fund to support First Nations and Métis in building core consultation capacity;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Métis, through the MNO's governance structures at the local, regional and provincial levels, including, the PCMNO, Women's Council, Veteran's Council, MNOYC, Senators, Captains of the Hunt, Regional Consultation Protocols, Chartered Community Councils [hereinafter referred to as the "MNO Governance Structures"], have developed an inclusive, transparent and predictable consultation framework based on extensive consultations in order to ensure all Métis citizens and communities have the opportunity to be engaged and consulted on policies, projects and developments that have the potential to affect Métis rights, interests and way of life;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario applied to the New Relationship Fund in 2009-10, on behalf of the MNO Governance Structures, and was successful in securing funding in order to support the MNO's consultation framework and to develop a multi-year workplan for building core consultation capacity with the input of the MNO Governance Structures;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario has built a successful Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch to assist the MNO Governance Structures with respect to consultation and accommodation processes and has provided capacity support and training for the MNO Governance Structures on consultation and accommodation issues;

AND WHEREAS based on the direction of previous MNO Annual General Assemblies and the direction provided by the MNO Governance Structures, the MNO reapplied to the New Relationship Fund for multi-year core consultation capacity funding in order to continue to support its consultation framework and the MNO's multi-year workplan to build core consultation capacity throughout the MNO Governance Structures;

AND WHEREAS the MNO was successful in its application, on behalf of the MNO Governance Structures, and the New Relationship Fund has committed multi-year funding for the 2010/11 to 2013/14 fiscal years for the implementation of the MNO consultation framework and multi-year workplan for building core consultation capacity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO Annual General Assembly re-affirms its support to the MNO's consultation framework, the multi-year workplan and the MNO's multi-year New Relationship Fund funding agreement, on behalf of the MNO Governance Structures in order to build consultation and accommodation capacity;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED the MNO Annual General Assembly directs the MNO to attempt to secure additional New Relationship Fund resources in order to address the unique capacity and consultation needs of Métis communities in Ontario;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED the MNO Annual General Assembly directs the MNO to ensure a MNO Chartered Community Council must be in good standing and provide the required financial reporting to the MNO in order to access community capacity support funding under the MNO's New Relationship Fund contribution agreement;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED the MNO Annual General Assembly directs the MNO that MNO Chartered Community Councils created in the future should be eligible to access funding under the MNO's New Relationship Fund contribution agreement.

Listing of the MNO's 31 Chartered Community Councils at the time of this resolution:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Northwest Métis Nation of Ontario Council | 15. Sudbury Métis Council |
| 2. Kenora Métis Community Council | 16. North Bay Métis Council |
| 3. Sunset Métis Council | 17. Mattawa Métis Council |
| 4. Aitkokan Métis Council | 18. Ottawa Regional Métis Council |
| 5. Geraldton & Area Council | 19. Seven Rivers Métis Council |
| 6. Superior North Shore Métis Council | 20. Georgian Bay Métis Council |
| 7. Thunder Bay Métis Council | 21. Grey Owen Sound Métis Council |
| 8. Chapleau Métis Council | 22. Northumberland Métis Council |
| 9. Northern Lights Métis Council | 23. Moon River Métis Council |
| 10. Temiskaming Métis Council | 24. Peterborough Métis Council |
| 11. Métis Nation of Ontario Timmins | 25. Credit River Métis Council |
| 12. Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council | 26. Oshawa Durham Métis Council |
| 13. North Channel Métis Council | 27. Toronto & York Region Métis Council |
| 14. Elliot Lake Métis Council | 28. Niagara Region Métis Council |
| | 29. Windsor/Essex |
| | 30. Hamilton Wentworth Métis Council |
| | 31. Grand River Métis Council |

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA10-06)

Related Questions and Discussion

- There was a question on what “good standing” meant and what impact would this have on all Councils’ funding. Mr. Madden noted that, as of this time, all Community Councils on this list were in good standing, as it was defined by the Charter.
- There was some concern around the timing of this proposed resolution; the funding was urgently needed but there should have been more time to review the resolution prior to it being presented and voted on.
- There was some concern raised around what impact it would have if the protocol agreements were not signed yet and what impact this might have on finalizing funding agreements. Also there was a question around the “required financial reporting” and if this referred to the year-end reporting or a separate report. Mr. Madden stated that this referred to NRF reporting at year-end.
- It was noted that, in the listing of the MNO leadership structures, the Women’s Council was left out and should be added in. In addition, it was noted that the Veteran’s Council should be added as well.
- There was some discussion on the definition of Métis in the first paragraph and it was stated that this was referencing the Government of Ontario program. There was some concerns around dealing with this resolution prior to having a discussion on the registry.
- There was some questions around the final wording of the Council names and it was noted that these would all be changed and updated as to reflect the current situation.
- A delegate asked if they would be able to see a budget for the resolution and the response was that they would and the Council Presidents were informed of the dollar amounts that would be available and they would be talking more about it. Ms. Joanne Meyer stated that the budget had been submitted based on information provided by the feedback from the Community Councils. She added that they had not considered a funding allocation process and would work with the community councils on coming to those decisions.
- Mover and Secunder had agreed to all friendly amendments, as outlined above.

Recess - The meeting recessed for break at 10:40 a.m. and resumed at 10:45 a.m.

PRESENTATION BY HYDRO ONE

Hydro One representatives provided the MNO President with a cheque in support of MNO’s post secondary bursary program. President Lipinski thanked Hydro One stating the importance of education to their Nation, particularly their youth. He also expressed his appreciation for the positive relationship that has been built between the MNO and Hydro One.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

Chair Picotte proposed that the agenda be revised to continued first with the Registry Update followed by the Historic Sites discussion and then the administrative updates. She asked that what they could not finish this day would be moved to the following day. There were no objections to proceeding in this way.

REGISTRY UPDATE

Chair Picotte turned the meeting over to Jason Madden, MNO Legal Council. Mr. Madden provided an overview of the documents regarding the MNO Registry Issues found in tab 7 of the AGA meeting kit. He said that, in particular, he would be provided an overview of the document entitled “Métis Identification and Registry Consultation Process”. He stated that they needed a broad based consultation process on this issue and they needed to approach it like they did the

duty to consult. In terms of developing the registry, they needed to be able to respond to those, like government, that wanted to know who they were. Their registry was unique; it was controlled by the Métis and it tracked any information that they might need in the future. He stressed that it was important to maintain this registry in order to give them credibility in terms of citizenship. They were supporting their claim that they were Métis citizens with rights in this province and this country. This made the MNO different than organizations in the past.

He stated that he recognized that, in the past, they did not have to provide genealogies but now they were in a situation where these files were not complete. He stated that their registry system had to be rigorous because of the Powley decision. Previously, their rights were defined as Aboriginal rights but now they were distinct from First Nations and the Inuit. He said that their rights as Métis people were not derived from the rights of First Nations. He said that in terms of what had been decided in the past with regards to citizenship, there were international precedents for “grandfathering” people in the system. This meant that they needed to decide if those who were already in the registry prior would maintain their same status but any new applicants would follow the current requirements. The concern here would be that some people would have to meet the current stringent requirements but others would not have had to. He explained that these were the types of issues that they would need to discuss.

Mr. Madden stated that this had developed into some frustrating situations for people and they needed a strong policy in place that they could all agree on and defend. He said that they wanted people to understand the issue and discuss options. Following that process, the MNO would develop a “what we heard” document and, based on that, they would put together some recommendations for people to look at. It was obvious that people wanted to talk about the registry policy and it was important that the decision makers had this policy in order to guide them on this issue.

He stated that, in terms of this consultation process, the citizens could talk about any issue that they wanted to. They have never held such a broad based consultation and this process was what was outlined in the document. He said that they were looking at reporting back on what they had heard at the next AGA and then they could talk about options and come to a decision.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- It was suggested that they might want to have President Lipinski prepare a information piece for the next Voyageur to provide more information to the citizens on the consultation process and its’ rationale.
- A delegate noted that after scanning the document, it did not seem to address issues of adoption. It was stated that many were adopted in non-Métis families while others had adopted non-Métis children so they had to figure out how these people would be included.
- There was concern around the reference to homeland as outlined on page 7 of the process document and Mr. Madden noted that this was taken from the MNO’s statement of prime purpose. He added that they were looking at how far their homeland extended in Quebec as the current border was artificial.
- One of the delegates raised the issue of those missing some of their documentation and, because of this, they were unable to sit on Councils. The question was if there were anything that could be done to deal with this. President Lipinski noted that they needed to talk about this in more detail during the consultation and also explained the limitations of the Registry Unit due to a lack of staff and funding.

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- Another delegate noted that within her own family, some members have their citizenship while others do not because of different birthplaces. Mr. Madden stated that all Métis children have historic ancestry and it did not matter where they were born.
 - It was suggested that they might want to contact those Métis people in Quebec and establish a stronger relationship in order to answer questions or provide other assistance.
 - Another issue that was brought forward was the fact that when students moved away to go to university in other provinces, they lost their card. The question was if the day was coming when they would have a national card recognizing their citizenship. Mr. Madden stated that this was one of their goals and this was one of the reasons behind the MNO's MOU with Alberta.
 - In terms of grandfathering, it was noted that this would be a good idea as many records for older people have been destroyed or lost.
 - A question was raised on when they would be going to the communities to begin this process so that they could let them know. Mr. Madden stated that the first round would be to talk about the issues and develop a document based on what was discussed. He said that this would take place throughout the year leading up to the AGA where options would be presented based on what they heard from the citizens.
 - There was some comment in preparation for the consultation on why the government told them they had to be First Nation or Métis. Mr. Madden noted that the Indian Act was a flawed document and it was based on the goal of assimilation. He asked how they would be able to pursue a Métis-specific agenda while falling under the purview of the Indian Act. He said that people needed to make informed and personal choices about this.
 - There were issues raised around the short form census and the fact that this would result in having even less documentation and it was suggested that the MNO needed to follow up with Statistics Canada on that situation.
 - Chair Picotte asked that the mover and seconder of the consultation process resolution sit down with the Resolutions committee and Mr. Madden to finalize the wording prior to the resolutions process to take place on the final day of the AGA. The mover and seconder agreed that they would do this.

PROMOTING MÉTIS HISTORY AND CULTURE IN ONTARIO

- Update on Identifying Métis Historic Sites

President Lipinski stated that there was a document entitled "Scan of Research Literature for the Identification of Possible Métis Memorial Sites in Ontario" under tab 9 in the AGA meeting kits. By way of an update, he stated that the province had provided a small amount of funding to discuss historical significant places and the Cultural Commission had been asked to take on the work. A contractor was engaged to undertake a scan of possible sites and this report was provided to the Cultural Commission. President Lipinski stated that this was not an exhaustive or complete list, as they knew there would be other sites.

He noted that they were also working with the Ontario government to establish a proper monument at Queen's Park in Toronto. He stated that they should also have plaques set up across Ontario that tell the rich history of the Métis in this province.

It was noted that the previous year's work was phase I of the project and they were working with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism to establish plaques at a number of

sites. The cultural commission will have a number of tasks around this process including looking at each site and reviewing the documentation.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- A question was raised on why there was no mention of the French River area in this document. President Lipinski responded that they had not completed an exhaustive review of existing literature yet and this document was not meant to be definitive or complete. It was suggested that incomplete information might not be helpful and it was might be necessary to supplement this document with additional information.
- It was also noted that there was additional information to be added from northwestern Ontario and this delegate noted that she did not realize that this process was undertaken otherwise she would have provided this information. The response was that this was on ongoing process and further information could be fed into this process.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The 17th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 21-23, 2010 adjourned on Day 2 – August 22, 2010 at 12:15 p.m. and agreed to reconvene on Day 3 – August 23, 2010 at 8:00 a.m.

DAY 3 - MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2010

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

Chair Picotte reconvened the 17th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario at 8:06 a.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Chair Picotte welcomed that participants back to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda for the day.

UPDATES

Chair Picotte mentioned that the Senators and the Veteran's Council would not be providing updates. The Women's Council would provide an update followed by the Youth Council.

- Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO)

Sharon McBride, spokesperson of the WSMNO, informed the delegates that the WSMNO had met briefly the previous week and she thanked the staff for helping with that. She stated that since the last AGA, they had been trying to secure core funding but had not been successful. They had met with the provincial Minister responsible for Women's Issues to raise awareness of the issues of Métis women and their Council. She said that they would be reviewing their mandate and mission statement with the purpose of developing of strategic plan. One of their priority areas would be to strengthen relationships with government and other organizations. They would also be undertaking a literature review of existing information identifying the needs of Métis women and working with the local councils to identify the priorities for Métis women. She mentioned that they were looking for funding sources and they had to be creative because they did not have funding right now.

With regards to the meeting with Minister Broten of the Ontario Women's Directorate, it was noted that this was the first time that she had met with Métis women but she was familiar with

ONWA and the OFIFC. The minister had committed to meeting with them again and they had made some progress in developing that relationship this year.

- **Youth Council**

Nicholas Callaghan, MNO Youth Representative, acknowledge the work of the Thunder Bay Métis Council in putting on this AGA. He provided an overview of his power point presentation outlining the Youth Council's vision to: reaffirm Statement of Prime Purpose of the MNO; establish an interim council; and, develop by-laws for Youth council functions. He stated that the youth council priorities focused on: traditional and cultural knowledge and expressing their values as Métis; improving communications amongst all Métis; and, working with Senators and Métis councils. He said that their long-term vision was a viable and effective youth council and their short-term goals included maintaining regular contact, filling any gaps on the Council and identifying resources/support.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- Mr. Callaghan was commended for the work he was doing as it was difficult to handle the extra pressure of this work along with school and other priorities. It was noted that not all Councils had youth representatives and, while MNO was there as a resource, there was no specific person to support Mr. Callaghan and the council and this made communications difficult. It was suggested that the youth's affinity with technology would help them in maintaining communications throughout the year.
- One of the youth delegates mentioned that without a funding base for their activities, it was difficult to maintain the momentum established during the AGA. It was noted that they needed funding to bring community youth representatives together for the AGA and it was believed that the councils could help with that. It was stated that they could not get the youth council going if they only met once a year with very few youth in attendance.
- It was noted that this was similar to the challenges faced by the Veteran's Council but the youth were encouraged to keep trying to get the work done. It was also suggested that it was very positive to have the youth and the veterans working together at the previous AGA.
- There was a question raised around if the MNO had a toolkit or other resources to assist them in establishing their Council.

Following the council updates, Chair Picotte stated that they would continue on with some administrative updates.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- **Workplace and Harassment Legislation Update**

Ms. Beverley Newton, MNO Human Resources, provided an overview of Bill 168, which was provided in the meeting kits under tab 10. She also presented a motion in support of the MNO activities around compliance with Bill 168, which was discussed by the delegates.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- A delegate noted that the legislation just impacted employees but she suggested that it should impact all volunteers and contractors as well. It was noted that this was being suggested as a change over the year and she was not requesting a change to the motion on the floor.

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- From a MNO Housing Department perspective, it was noted that they hired many contractors and to put them through this review process would be time consuming and expensive. It was noted that they may want to consider the contractors that would be working with a vulnerable sector of their citizens, such as children or elders.
 - A delegate from the PCMNO noted that they had to consider that all volunteers would fall under this legislation and this would include the PCMNO. It was noted by some community councils that they did have their Councilors undergo the police check already.
 - It was noted by COO Wilson that these actions around compliance with Bill 168 were already taking place but they wanted to draw attention to the fact that the legislation not only referred to employees but also elected officials and volunteers. He also mentioned that they were researching possible funding sources to ensure that the necessary checks were completed to address any liability issues.
 - A delegate mentioned that they were concerned about the costs related to this, as for many community events they had a large number of volunteers, It was noted that the legislation was in place already and they needed to identify funding sources to comply with it.
 - Clarification was provided stating that there was no cost to completing the checks for volunteers.
 - It was noted that a friendly amendment was made to the motion to include the word "contractors" to the last whereas and this was agreeable to mover and seconder.

It was MOVED (Pauline Saulnier) and SECONDED (JoAnne Wass)

Whereas the government of Ontario has passed Bill 168 regarding the prevention of Workplace Harassment and Workplace Violence, effective June 15, 2010;

And whereas the MNO has been working on instituting work place policies to be compliant with the Bill 168 and was informing all Community Councils of the fact that all their organizations had to be compliant with Bill 168 as it relates to staff and volunteers;

Therefore, the MNO will investigate the implications, such as costs and structural changes required, of ensuring that volunteers and contractors, in addition to staff as outlined, are included in the stipulations for the legislation which would include criminal record checks and other necessary checks.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA10-07)

- Chronic Disease Surveillance Presentation

Donna Lyons, Director, MNO Health and Wellness Department, provided the powerpoint presentation entitled "MNO's Chronic Disease Surveillance: A Pathway to Métis-specific Health Information". She also provided documents entitled "Diabetes in Registered Citizens in of the Métis Nation of Ontario", "Cardiovascular Disease in Registered Citizens in of the Métis Nation of Ontario" and "Cancer in Registered Citizens in of the Métis Nation of Ontario".

RESOLUTIONS

Chair France Picotte stated that the Resolutions Committee would lead the resolutions process and turned the meeting over to Hank Rowlinson.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-01
Title:	MÉTIS IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRY CONSULTATION PROCESS
Mover:	Joanne Young
Seconded:	Allan Vallee

WHEREAS in 1993, the MNO was founded on the collective will of Ontario Métis wanting to: (1) support Métis culturally, socially and economically, (2) ensure the aboriginal and treaty rights of Ontario Métis were recognized and respected in the province, and, (3) advance Métis self-determination and self-government in Ontario.

AND WHEREAS the MNO's rights-based aspirations and goals are reflected in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose which includes establishing a credible system for the identification of Métis citizens in Ontario through a centralized registry:

AND WHEREAS the MNO Registry is key to the MNO being a Métis government – not just a pan-aboriginal, membership-based association.

AND WHEREAS the MNO Registry has been fundamental to the MNO's credibility and rights-based victories over the last 17 years;

AND WHEREAS in *R. v. Powley*, the Supreme Court of Canada recognized that objectively verifiable Métis identification systems are essential to future Métis rights assertions and claims;

AND WHEREAS over the last 17 years within the MNO, there have been many changes that have affected the MNO Registry (i.e., directions from MNO Annual General Assemblies, changes in MNO membership requirements, legal developments, etc.);

AND WHEREAS there are many current and upcoming issues with respect to Métis identification and registration that need to be discussed within the MNO, including: the MNO definition of Métis; the MNO Interim Registry Policy, the potential impacts of the Mclvor Case/Bill C-3 on the MNO Registry; dealing with incomplete registry files; etc.

AND WHEREAS over the years, the MNO has never had the funding or opportunity to thoroughly engage and consult Métis citizens and communities on these Métis identification and registration issues, as they arose and this lack of consultation has sometimes caused confusion or misunderstandings with respect to the MNO Registry.

AND WHEREAS the MNO's current leadership, including, the PCMNO and MNO Chartered Community Councils as well as this Annual General Assembly have identified a province-wide, multi-phased consultation process on Métis identification and registration issues as a priority;

AND WHEREAS through these consultations, MNO citizens will be able to be informed and discuss how the MNO Registry has evolved over the last 17 years and they will also allow MNO citizens to discuss current and emerging issues that may have impacts on the MNO Registry in the future;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO initiate a province-wide, multi-phased consultation process on Métis identification and registration issues (as generally outlined on the attached chart) in order to develop consensus-based solutions to move the MNO forward based

on its *Statement of Prime Purpose* and ultimate goals of advancing Métis rights and self-government in Ontario;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that based on the initial consultations to be conducted in the Fall/Winter of 2010/2011 a 'What We Heard' report will be tabled with the 2011 MNO Annual General Assembly for its consideration and review.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this Annual General Assembly affirms that no existing MNO citizen will be removed from the MNO Registry other than for the removal provisions that are set out in the MNO bylaws (i.e., on another Aboriginal registry, etc.);

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that while these consultations are ongoing the longstanding MNO Registry verification processes for existing MNO citizens to run and hold office will be maintained.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-01)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-02
Title:	PROCESS FOR THE BYLAWS
Mover:	Wendy Landry
Seconded:	Joanne Young

WHEREAS the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) is the avenue to give direction to the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the presentations of resolutions at the AGA is an integral part of this decision making process;

AND WHEREAS the ability to review, discuss and investigate resolutions prior to the AGA will aid in the understanding of resolutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO bylaws be amended to create a process, that will be set out in the MNO bylaws, whereby all future changes to the MNO bylaws or significant changes to the MNO's governance structures that are going to be proposed at an Annual General Assembly be provided to MNO citizens 30 days in advance;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that any future changes to the MNO policies and procedures that are being proposed by the MNO's Administration that require the approval of a MNO Annual General Assembly be provided to MNO citizens within 30 days;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this MNO Annual General Assembly re-affirms its commitment to allowing all MNO citizens to have their voices heard at MNO Annual General Assemblies by being able to bring forward resolutions that provide policy and political direction to their elected leadership and the MNO.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-02)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-03
Title:	MÉTIS ACT
Mover:	Jean McIsaac-Wiitala

Seconded:	Louise Goulding
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WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario is the representative body of the Métis people of Ontario and;

WHEREAS the Métis people are one of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada whose treaty & Aboriginal Rights are recognized by the Constitution Act of 1982 and;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario declared through its Statement of Prime Purpose that: "We the Métis Nation, have the inherent right of self-determination and self-government;" and;

WHEREAS that one of the aims and objectives declared by the Statement of Prime Purpose is "to establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government;" and;

WHEREAS consistent with a mutual desire to enter into a new relationship, the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Government of Ontario have entered into an MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement Process and;

WHEREAS the Legislature of Ontario has proclaimed the year 2010, "The Year of the Métis" and;

WHEREAS at the MNO AGA 2009 consistent with the goal to implement the Métis right of self-government the MNO passed a Resolution #AGA-RES 09-05 as follows:
"That the MNO pursue discussions with the Ontario Government for the development and passing of legislation which recognizes the MNO's unique governance structure at the local, regional and provincial levels in the province,"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO pursue a strategy that an appropriate Métis Act be tabled in the Legislature of Ontario in its fall session in 2010 either by the Government of Ontario or through a Private Member's Bill.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-03)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-04
Title:	REINSTATEMENT OF THE STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS LONG FORM
Mover:	Ralph Brown
Seconded:	Marlene Davidson

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2010 MNO Annual General Assembly direct the PCMNO and Community Councils to raise opposition to the changes in the Long Form Census documents pending in the fall of 2010, and lobby the Federal Government to reinstate mandatory compliance with the Long Form Census document.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-04)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-05
Title:	SENATOR REPLACEMENT
Mover:	Senator Rob McKay

Seconder:	Senator Ruth Wagner
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WHEREAS the community council Senators from time to time are unable to attend a function where and when invited and;

BE IT RESOLVED the community council draft and approve a list of potential Senator alternates comprised of past MNO Senators and Elders who are MNO citizens within the community council geographic boundaries based on the MNO governance structure,

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a Métis Elder in the community may be chosen by the current elected Senator if able, otherwise by the community council from the approved council list to replace him or her at any function that the Senator may not be able to attend based on available funding.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-05)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-06
Title:	ABOLISHMENT OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO (MNO) INTERIM REGISTRY POLICY
Mover:	Robert Pilon
Seconder:	Andre Bosse

WHEREAS in May 2009 the PCMNO adopted the Interim Registry Policy currently being used in the processing and verification of MNO citizenship applications.

AND WHEREAS based on the Supreme Court decision on Powley the Métis Nation of Ontario is empowered to define who is a Métis citizen.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the existing MNO Interim Registry Policy be abolished.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new Registry Policy be drafted by the MNO with input from Métis Community Council Presidents (MCCP), and that MCCP be involved in the drafting of said policy prior to the next AGA.

DEFEATED (AGA-RES10-06)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-07
Title:	MNO Election Verification
Mover:	Senator Cecil Wagar
Seconder:	Senator Alis Kennedy

WHEREAS: an MNO citizen's ancestry has been verified prior to receiving his/her citizenship card and.

WHEREAS: verification at Community Council elections creates/adds to the backlog at the MNO registry office, and,

WHEREAS: the uncertainty of the Registry and the Métis definition will dissuade individuals from running for a position on a Community Council,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that once a MNO citizen has already been verified, he/she no longer need to be verified when running for an elected position on the Community Council and be re-verified at subsequent elections.

WITHDRAWN (AGA-RES10-07)

Chair Picotte noted that the resolutions process would continue following a presentation by Mr. Bob Rae, Liberal Member of Parliament for Toronto-Centre.

PRESENTATION – Bob Rae, Liberal Member of Parliament, Toronto-Centre

Mr. Rae stated that he was privileged to have the opportunity to speak at this Assembly and he recognized the importance of the venue and its' connection to Métis history. He spoke about the efforts to build the relationship between the provincial government and Aboriginal people while he was Premier. He stated that he had continued to support the recognition of the existence of a Métis Nation in Ontario based on the constitutional recognitions afforded Métis people through the Charlottetown discussions. He also discussed the importance of recognizing the Métis experience with regards to Residential Schools and how important it was to ensure that they not only apologize but actually treat people following that. He mentioned that before they could find reconciliation, they had to acknowledge the truth.

He said that they all wanted to be known and recognized for who they were and it was the right of every child to be able claim their own identity and be respected. He stated that he has talked to Michael Ignatieff and his federal colleagues about the issues faced by the Métis. The discussions that they were having at this Assembly were about identity and he stated that he had many concerns with the loss of the long form census. He said that Prime Minister Harper was not concerns with the census but he knew that it was important to know what the social and economic issues were and learning the truth about who they were and how they were doing. He said that the Liberal Party would restore the long form census.

He mentioned that, as Premier, he had had the opportunity to get to know more about the diversity of the province. He said that he was proud of the progress they had made on improving the lives of Aboriginal people but they still had work to do. They needed to look at improving the education outcomes, increasing employment participation rates, addressing housing issues and taking advantage of economic development opportunities. He said that they needed to look the future as well as the past because they were doing this work to improve the quality of life for the next generation. Mr. Rae thanked the delegates again for the opportunity to speak and welcoming response to his participation.

President Lipinski thanked Mr. Rae for attending their AGA and mentioned that importance of their allies in their fight for recognition as Métis Nation. He mentioned that along with Mr. Rae, former Prime Minister Paul Martin was a friend of the Métis and acknowledged his support during the meetings on the Kelowna Accord. He mentioned that it was a travesty that this Accord was not abided by as it would have meant in roads in a number of areas for the Métis. President Lipinski thanked Mr. Rae again for his support and commitment and provided him with a Métis sash and a commemorative pen.

Chair Picotte turned the meeting over to the Resolutions Committee and they continued on with the resolutions process.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-08
Title:	NEXT GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA
Mover:	Senator Earl Schofield
Seconder:	Wilford Rochon

WHEREAS; James Bartleman was the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and a friend to the Métis Nation of Ontario,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO 2010 Annual General Assembly direct the MNO leadership to lobby the Federal Government to appoint the Honorable James Bartleman as the next Governor General of Canada

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-08)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-09
Title:	HARVEST CARD CRITERIA
Mover:	Richard Meilleur
Seconder:	Bucky Gravelle

WHEREAS the Supreme Court has recognized that Métis have the constitutional rights to harvest that is based on their special relationship to the land;

WHEREAS the MNO entered in a Four Point Harvesting Agreement with the MNR that recognizes the MNO Harvesting Policy and its Harvesters Card system, which facilitates the Métis harvest in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the MNO-MNR agreement included a 1250 cap for MNO Harvesters Card for the first year of the agreement only;

AND WHEREAS it is imperative that Métis be able to practice their right to harvest and share their customs, practices and traditions with Métis youth and the next generation;

AND WHEREAS no agreement can limit Métis constitutional rights;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO Annual General Assembly direct the MNO's leadership to continue to push forward on ensuring the MNR respects the Métis right to harvest in Ontario;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO be directed to put in place an action plan to ensure the Métis right to harvest in Ontario is recognized, if a political solution with the MNR and the Ontario Government cannot be reached

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-09)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-10
Title:	MNO PRESIDENT'S MEETING
Mover:	Barbara Rusk
Seconder:	Rob Pilon

BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO secure a meeting room for the MNO Council Presidents or their designates that are in attendance at every MNO Annual General Assembly as part of the MNO's overall Annual General Assembly schedule.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-10)

Chair Picotte stated that that concluded the resolutions process and she thanked the delegates for their participation and the Resolutions Committee for their hard work. She closed the meeting reminding participants that, following the close of the MNO AGA, the MNOCC and MNODC AGAs would be taking place.

Closing Comments – MNO President Gary Lipinski

Following the MNOCC and MNODC, President Lipinski provided closing comments. He expressed his appreciation to Chair Picotte and Vice Chair McBride for there hard work during the AGA stating that this was a difficult job to keep everything on track yet respect the need to provide everyone a chance to be heard. He thanked the MNO staff for their work in organizing all the details that needed to be done to get the AGA done. He gave special thanks to President Landry, the Thunder Bay Métis Council and all their volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure that all the delegates were able to participate and have a good time.

He mentioned that from his perspective this was a very successful AGA and they have come together to deal with some challenging and difficult issues. He noted that they needed broad based input from the communities to proceed on these issues and they could not decide on their own as leaders. He said that the MNO was just a teenager, from an organizational perspective and they were learning and adjusting as they went along. He said that he was proud of what they were able to accomplish this year starting with a positive audit, ASETs agreement signing, accomplishments in housing and the hard work that has been taking place in the Registry Unit under difficult circumstances. He thanked COO Wilson for his hard work realizing the pressures he was under to keep the organization financially stable yet operational.

Finally he expressed his appreciation for all the delegates for the work that they did at this AGA and the work that they do all year in their own communities.

ADJOURNMENT

The 17th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 21-23, 2010 concluded on Day 3 – August 23, 2010 at 12:13 p.m. Steve Callahan was asked to close the AGA with a prayer.

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the 17th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 21-23, 2010 and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption.



Tim Pile, Secretary/Treasurer



France Picotte, Chair