

Minutes of the 18th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 20-22, 2011 at the Bobby Orr Community Centre, Parry Sound, Ontario.

Day 1 – SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2011

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

OPENING CEREMONIES – August 20, 2011

PROCESSION AND FLAG RAISING

The flags of Métis Nation Hunting Colours, Province of Ontario were marched into the assembly and posted. Senator Ruth Wagner and Senator Verna Porter led the Grand Entry of dignitaries with music.

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

Chair France Picotte called the 18th Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to order at 8:46 a.m. Senator Verna Porter, Moon River Métis Council, offered an opening prayer.

OPENING REMARKS BY CHAIR

MNO Chair Picotte welcomed all the participants to the MNO AGA and expressed her appreciation for their participation.

OPENING REMARKS BY VICE-CHAIR

MNO Vice-Chair McBride mentioned that her family used to live in this area but they had left the area a long time ago. She expressed that it must have been hard for her father to leave here. She mentioned that she felt that this was her home too.

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.

WELCOMING REMARKS FROM DIGNITARIES

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

Minister Bentley greeted all the Métis citizens, Métis leadership and his colleagues from the legislature and stated that he was delighted to be attending the 18th MNO AGA and mentioned he particularly enjoyed being part of the canoe procession with President Lipinski this morning.

He stated that Premier McGuinty was unable to make this meeting so he had provided a video greeting. This video was played the AGA participants. Premier McGuinty spoke about a new relationship between Ontario and the Métis people in the province recognizing the third anniversary of the framework agreement. He spoke about the importance of the Métis Voyager Fund and the valuable impact of Métis people in the economy of the province.

Minister Bentley stated that the Métis were one of the founding peoples of this country and telling the Métis story in terms of the history of Ontario and Canada was important. The establishment of the Chair of Métis Studies was a critical step in educating Ontarians about the contributions of Métis people in the province. He also mentioned the New Relationship Fund stated that they were providing \$2M a year to build core capacity in order to ensure meaningful consultation and equality within the processes. The Minister mentioned that the Premier had talked about the Framework Agreement and this agreement gave them the ability to work together on issues. He also mentioned that they glad to be able to recognize the tradition of entrepreneurship in Métis communities with the establishment of the Métis Voyageur Fund. This fund represents a 10 year \$30M commitment.

Minister Bentley presented a framed copy of the Métis Voyageur Fund agreement to President Lipinski, which was signed a few months ago. President Lipinski spoke about Minister Bentley commitment to Métis people and stated that it was important that, as Métis people, they had good relationship with everyone – those in government, those in opposition and others. This way they could move their agenda forward. He presented Minister Bentley with a gift of a print of a voyageur canoe.

Greetings from President Larry Duvall, Moon River Métis Council

President Duvall welcomed all delegates to the AGA and stated that it was an honour for Moon River Métis Council to host the annual meeting this year. He mentioned that this was the first time that the AGA had been held in this area. He introduced the Moon River Métis Council Executive members and Senator Porter. He said that the AGA was a time to gather and conduct business, guide their leadership and celebrate their culture. It was also an opportunity to share their culture and knowledge with the larger community. He spoke about the victory or Mr. Lepage and mentioned that he would be participating in some activities during the AGA. He thanked their MNO leadership for their hard work along with the staff and all the volunteers across the province. MNO Chair Picotte presented President Duvall with a crystallized moose as a gift.

Mr. Keith Saulnier, Town of Parry Sound

Mr. Saulnier welcomed all the MNO AGA delegates to the Town of Parry Sound and stated that all of them from the town were all very appreciative that this meeting was taking place here. He said that they wanted to celebrate the differences of all their citizens- their food, their cultures and their traditions. He said they wanted to recognize and appreciate those differences. He thanked them all for coming. Regional Councilor Burgess presented Mr. Saulnier with a gift of a crystallized moose.

Ms. Carolyn Bennett, Liberal Member of Parliament, St. Paul's

Ms. Bennett welcomed the participants to the Georgian Bay area and mentioned that this area brought back many memories for her, as this area was significant for her family. She stated that, in Ottawa, many Ambassadors from around the world spoke of the attachment that Canadians have to the land and this was based in the beliefs of the First Nations, Métis and

Inuit people. She thanked them for including her in this meeting. She spoke about the connection between people's sense of culture and their health. When she was asked to be the Liberal critic on Aboriginal affairs she stated that she wanted to continue her work on social determinants of health but she also wanted to learn more. She said that she hoped that she could be helpful to Métis people in her role in the House of Commons. She hoped that this would be the beginning of their relationship. She also brought greetings from Bob Rae and mentioned that he felt strongly about the issues of Métis people and she was honoured to be able to bring greetings on his behalf. Regional Councilor Rivers presented Ms. Bennett with a crystallized moose as a gift.

Mr. Norm Miller, Member of Provincial Parliament, Parry Sound- Muskoka

Mr. Miller thanked that Métis Nation of Ontario for the invitation to participate in this AGA. He thanked them for choosing this area for their meeting and he encouraged them to take advantage of all they had to offer in the area. He spoke about going to the Moon River Métis Council's AGA and mentioned that their fish fry was always enjoyable. He said that he looked forward to continuing their working relationship and wished them a successful meeting. Regional Councilor Saulnier presented Mr. Miller with a gift.

Ms. France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt

Ms. Gélinas welcomed them to northern Ontario and stated that she was honoured to be able to participate in their meeting. The Métis Nation had a rich culture and history and she welcomed the opportunity to work together in the future. She spoke about the importance of meaningful discussions that have to take place with the Métis on issues that affect them in the true spirit of partnership. She also mentioned that the work that the MNO has done since 1993 showed their capabilities as a nation and creating an effective governance structure continued their strong tradition of self-sufficiency. A lot had been accomplished but they had to continue on. She mentioned some of the successes of the Métis over the years including the Powley decision and the signing of the framework agreement. These were great first steps and the government needed to continue to build those bridges. She said that the Métis must be consulted with and MOUs must be put into place with more ministries. She stated that the hard work of the Métis was recognized and the government of Ontario looked forward to working with the MNO in the future. Regional Councilor Sarrazin presented her with a gift.

Video Address – The Honourable Tony Clement, Federal Member of Parliament, Parry Sound-Muskoka

He sent his regrets that he could not be present at the meeting but thanked them for the opportunity to speak to the delegates by video. He sent his best wishes on behalf of the residents of the Parry Sound-Muskoka area. He stated that the warm hospitality of the area would welcome them and hopefully make their time there rewarding. Working with the all the partners involved, the government has been making important progress in the past few years and he looked forward to working with the Métis to continue this work. The goal of all was to improve the quality of life for Métis people and the future was bright because of the collaborative work that has been undertaken by Métis leadership. On behalf of the Government of Canada, he wished the delegates a successful meeting in Parry Sound.

President Clément Chartier, Métis National Council

President Chartier greeted all delegates at the meeting and recognized the positive words that they had heard already. There was evidence that the MNO leadership had been working very hard since they had all met last year. He stated that they were Nation with a proud history and

they fought for their ideals. Their perseverance was paying off with the Powley decision setting the benchmark. The highest court in the land had reaffirmed what the Métis had always said that they were a distinct people, full-fledged rights bearing people. This had set the stage for rapid movement forward. He provided an overview of the Cunningham and MMF cases. In particular, the MMF case, which will be heard on December 13 this year, was going to be a landmark decision for them and they were going forward on the basis that they would be successful. He stated that when the Supreme Court of Canada sees how the Métis were treated, the judges will agree with the Métis case.

He spoke about how they needed to have relationships with government and mentioned that a protocol had been signed with former Minister Strahl. He added that the reality was that they had to work with whatever government was elected and he felt that they did that. He mentioned some key achievements such as the framework agreement and the permanent exhibit at Juno Beach. He also mentioned the Métis Economic Development Symposium process and the government of Ontario has been leading that process at the Ministers level and the officials level and they would work over the next several years to come up with a Métis economic development strategy.

The MNC was also looking at developing a Métis Nation constitution and, once that was achieved, they will be seeking a new relationship with Canada. He added that the Ontario government played a large role in the Council of Federation, where Minister Bentley was the Chair. In this venue, the key issues that they were dealing with included economic development, education and training and violence against women.

He provided an update on the Women of the Métis Nation mentioning that they had a successful meeting in Saskatoon last year and they were looking at setting up a structure for how they would operate. There were a number of issues that they wanted to deal with. In terms of youth, he stated that their funding was cut about four years ago but there have been a number of projects such as youth projects at Batoche on residential schools. He added that they were looking at setting up ongoing communications using social media.

President Chartier mentioned that their theme of the year was honouring Métis veterans and this was based on a resolution at their last AGA. There was also a declaration that 2011-2020 would be the decade of the Métis Nation. At Batoche, this past summer, they had several WWII Métis Veterans in attendance and they had a special honouring ceremony where the Order of the Métis Nation was bestowed on all of them collectively. He also mentioned that, at Batoche, a permanent monument would be established to honour all Métis veterans and he encouraged the delegates to send in names.

He congratulated the leadership of President Lipinski, the PCMNO and the President of the community councils on their progress this year. PCMNO Youth Representative, Nicholas Callaghan, presented President Chartier with a gift of a print.

President David Chartrand, Manitoba Métis Federation

President Chartrand thanked the Senator for her prayer that morning and also recognized the Veterans that were present. He stated that it was important to send a strong message to the youth that they needed to continue to acknowledge their Veterans and Elders. He brought greetings from Manitoba and stated that they had watched the progress that has been achieved in Ontario. Louis Riel had stated that, in 100 years, their people would rise and now they were.

They were the largest Indigenous group in Canada and they needed to get this message out there.

He mentioned that the issues of Veterans were very important and he talked about the struggles and sacrifices that they had made to fight for Canada. They left the country with a promise that when they returned they would be treated with respect and benefits would be provided to them. While in Europe, they were treated like brothers and sisters but when they returned to Canada, they could not line up with Canadian or First Nation veterans. Canada had settled with everyone who they had wronged over the years and now only the Métis Veterans remained. He explained how proud their Veterans were when they went to Juno Beach and how before they worked on the issue, there was no recognition there of the Métis-specific achievements or Métis cultural references in the exhibit.

President Chartrand stated that President Lipinski was a great leader and he enjoyed working with him. It was important that, as Métis leaders and citizens, they presented a united front. He went on to commend the Government of Ontario and the Opposition and added that they needed partners from all parties. He thanked them for inviting him to their meeting and wished them a good meeting. Regional Councilor Wass presented President Chartrand with a gift.

Mr. Rick Birmingham, Vice President, Union Gas

Mr. Birmingham thanked the MNO for the invitation to speak and stated that he was here representing the families of Union Gas. His own family was from this part of Ontario. He stated that Union Gas was pleased to be repeat sponsor of the MNO AGA. The Senator had spoke about sharing stories and that was what they wanted to base their partnership on with MNO: learning about each other and sharing values. He stated that their values were not just words, they were long held beliefs, beliefs held for the last 100 years. He mentioned that a number of special events were being planned in different communities for their centennial.

He mentioned that October would represent their one-year relationship with MNO. Their relationship focused on job creation to support a higher quality of life for all community members. He described some the projects that they were able to work on together and he thanked MNO for this partnership. He wished them the best for their AGA this year. Regional Councilor Stenlund presented Mr. Birmingham with a gift.

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS – MNO President Gary Lipinski

President Lipinski welcomed everyone to the 18th AGA and recognized the dignitaries in the room. He mentioned that he wanted to recognize the dedication and hard work of President Chartier and President Chartrand on behalf of Métis Veterans particularly. He recognized the Veterans at the meeting and stated that they all owed the Veterans a debt of gratitude for what they had sacrificed. He also recognized those Veterans that had passed on. There was a large youth contingent and he said that this was wonderful to see and it was important that their young people were here to listen to discussion on the issues and learn from stories of the past. By participating now, they will be ready to accept the torch when it is passed. He believed that the Métis Nation had a bright future. He recognized the work of the MNO Senators and stated that their strength and dedication was much appreciated. He also acknowledged the citizens and friends saying that it was time for them to come together again and meet as friends, old and new, celebrate their culture and conduct their business.

He commented on the words of President Chartrand agreeing that they needed to come together to work as one of the distinct peoples and it was up to them to educate the general public. Their stories have not come forward enough and it was their responsibility to ensure that all Ontarians and Canadian know about the contribution that the Métis have made in this country.

He spoke about how this community and this area had a proud rich history and talked about their ancestors traveling the Métis highways. The Métis have been instrumental in developing the fur trade and had established their communities along the routes. The Métis were also an important force in the defense of Canada in the War of 1812, the 200th anniversary of which would be coming up next year. Next year, the MNO AGA would be held in Sault Ste Marie and they wanted to ensure that they get their stories around the War of 1812 out in the public during commemoration activities and events. He encouraged them to share their stories and support the research activities that were taking place.

In terms of the MNO, they have had many successes he said and this would not be possible without a team effort and he recognized the hard work of the PCMNO members. He said that they were focused on the prime purpose of the MNO, which was their foundation. When they did not know where to go, they looked to the prime purpose. In one of his first addresses in 2008, he recognized that they had serious challenges and those first couple of years were very difficult. They had to work hard and make some hard decisions to get the organization back on track financially. Last year they were able to report improvements and this year they will report significant progress once again. This year, they were able to take \$1M off their debt and this would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of leadership and staff. He recognized Chief Operating Officer Wilson and the finance staff for a very good financial presentation and the organizational was on the right track.

As the organization has grown, one the challenges had been to get the information out and while at this AGA, the delegates would hear about the program successes that have taken place. He explained that it was so gratifying to hear from citizens about how they have been helped by the programs and services offered by the MNO in the communities.

President Lipinski stated that they were continuing on with the mandate they received from the Assembly last year around issues with the registry. There was a resolution for a two-year consultation process and the MNO has undertaken this work. There will be a presentation on this process and an overview of the different ways the MNO was already addressing the issues raised.

Education and Training was an important part of the prime purpose and MNOET was the first organization this year to have an agreement in place under the newly named ASETS. He explained how MNO funding that had been lost under AHRDA has finally been replaced and they signed a \$30.5M, 4-5 year agreement under ASETS. There were economic issues all over the world and they were seeing more of a need for employment and training services and it was hard to keep up with the need at current funding levels.

The health of Métis people was also part of their prime purpose. He mentioned that they had strong health programs and services through the region and this has been noticed by the other Métis Governments. Each part of the Métis Nation has something to contribute and share with

others and he gave the example of how advanced the MMF in the area of economic development and they were always willing to share with other Métis governments.

Minister Bentley had mentioned that work of the Land, Resources and Consultation Branch and President Lipinski mentioned that there was a huge amount of work going on there. The MNO was given direction to undertake consultations and they were being consulted because they had rights. The work that took place in the LRC was a step forward on Métis rights. He provided some examples of different companies that they were working with.

In terms of economic development, he stated that this was particularly important to the MNO as they needed their own sources of revenue. It was critical that they stopped being dependent on government funding and economic development was one way to do this. One of the challenges had always been equity and they have watched how capital corporations have worked well out west. Now they were able to say that they would have their own Métis capital corporation in Ontario. This \$30M fund, \$3M over ten years, would be an amazing tool for them. It was in the development year now and they were setting up a Board of Directors. They were also working at getting the federal government to contribute to this Métis Voyageur Development Fund.

President Lipinski stated that they would always work towards the full recognition of Métis rights and, while they also had to work on social issues, the rights were their fundamental to their identity. There was a lot of work in front of them on these issues but he was glad for the ruling regarding Lepage. This case was based on an incidental catch. He spoke about the frustration of Métis commercial fishers in dealing with the Ministry of Natural Resources. He said the situation was similar for trapping with the trapping policy issue. The Métis people were being systemically pulled away from the land.

He stated that there were a number of people in government and in opposition who were understanding of Métis issues. He was looking forward to developing stronger relationships to address their concerns and push their agenda forward. He said that they would always keep the door open to negotiations but governments needed to consult with the Métis in meaningful way. Their issues have to be addressed and resolved and he hoped that whoever formed the new government would continue to build those relationships and keep moving forward on the issues. He stated that they could litigate and they were getting good at it but it was time consuming and expensive. He explained that they always needed to support their cases with research and this also required funding. With their rights come responsibilities and they needed to establish their own laws and policies moving forward.

In conclusion he stated that they had a lot of work to do at this meeting but they could also have fun. He stated that they had to work together to all move forward. He thanked them all for all that they did.

MICHIF PRESENTATION

Chair Plcotte stated that two communities – Kenora and Timmins - had received funding for Michif language projects last year. She said that they were trying to highlight one each day of the AGA . The Timmins project had developed a DVD that would be shared with the delegates today. Kenora would be making a presentation the following day. She mentioned that they had a Michif committee provincially and volunteers were staff and citizens who wanted to support this work. She stated that they had some challenges included lost dialects because they could not speak their language at schools and also they needed funding to assist with spelling of the

language. She provided a book that was used a resource and mentioned in the future they hoped to have the MNO logo on it. She asked delegates to email Michif words to add to the book.

Recess - The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:35 p.m. and resumed at 1:00 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUORUM

Chair Picotte reported that there were 220 registered delegates in attendance at the 18th MNO AGA and advised that 111 of the registered delegates were required to be present to form a quorum. Motions to amend the bylaws or motions which affected citizen's rights required 2/3, or 147, of the registered delegates to vote in favour in order to be approved.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Chair Picotte asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the AGA under tab 2 in the meeting kit. Vice-Chair McBride read the agenda to the delegates.

It was MOVED (Art Bennett) and SECONDED (Garry Lafromboise)

That the Agenda for the 18th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario meeting scheduled August 20-22, 2011 be approved as read by the vice char.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA11-01)

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Chair Picotte asked Tim Pile, MNO Secretary-Treasurer, PCMNO, to read the motions and resolutions and mover/seconded from the 2010 AGA.

It was MOVED (Steve Callaghan) and SECONDED (Thomas Thompson)

That the Minutes of the 17th MNO AGA be accepted as amended as follows:

- Since this was a historical document, it was stated that all full names (reference to Senators in the motions) should be noted in the minutes.
- On page 7, it was noted that "Scofield" did not have an "h".
- On page 8, it was noted "Larue" should be "Leroux".
- In terms of the correction noted on page 8, it should read as seconded "Steve Quesnel".
- On page 14, it was noted that there should only be on "L" in Duval.
- It was noted that the Council names in the document should be reviewed for accuracy including:
 - Grey Owen Sound Métis Council should be Great Lake Métis Council;
 - Grand River Community Métis Council is the correct name;
 - Toronto and York Region Métis Council is the proper name;
 - Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council is the correct name; and,
 - Sunset Country Métis Council is the proper name.
- The mover of AGA-Res10-07 should be "Cecile" not "Cecil".
- The seconded of AGA-Res10-09 should read "Kempton Gravelle" not "Bucky Gravelle"
On page 28, it should read "Steve Callaghan" not "Steve Callahan"

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA11-02)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Chair Picotte opened the microphones to delegates for comment and business arising from the MNO 17th Annual AGA. The first item for discussion was in regards to AGA-RES10-02. Chair Picotte stated that Jason Madden, MNO Legal Counsel, had a presentation on this topic.

Mr. Madden stated that he wanted to provide some information on business arising from AGA-RES10-02. He read the resolution to the delegates and provided some rationale behind the process. He stated that MNO was based on a number of fundamental decisions that had been made in the past and it was felt that if these decisions were going to be discussed and/or changed, there needed to be awareness of the issues prior to any given AGA. Advanced notice of resolutions designed to change bylaws was not a new idea and this stipulation had been in place in Manitoba and Alberta for years. As MNO gets older, they needed to address some of these issues. Under tab #4 in the meeting binder, the changes that have been approved by the PCMNO were listed. On page 12 of this document, the changes were underlined. He explained that general resolutions could still be brought to the floor during the AGA, but if they wanted to change the bylaws, the harvesting policy or the prime statement, advance notice was required.

He read the proposed changes to the Assembly. He also explained that page 14 outlined the criteria for changes. They followed this process for the special resolutions this year. He also provided examples of a special business resolution and a non-special business resolution. This gives effect to last year's resolution so that was why they were dealing with this under the agenda item *Business Arising from the Minutes*.

In response to the presentation, the following comments were provided:

- There was some concern raised around the timing of the special business resolutions and when these would be circulated to the Community Councils. It was suggested that more time be taken to look at the issues raised around special business resolutions so all citizens would have time to view them.
- There was an issue raised around the requirement for the mover and seconder to be present. It was suggested that there could be valid reasons why one of these individuals would not be present. Mr. Madden suggested that these individuals needed to be present and it was recognized that it would be very difficult to develop a process for substituting someone.
- An issue was raised around using the website as the way to inform people of upcoming special business resolutions as only 40% of their citizens can be contacted this way. Mr. Madden stated that the information would also be circulated through the PCMNO and the Community Councils.
- With regards to the timing, it was suggested that this was a minimum as the point of the resolution was to move business forward and allow citizens to see the resolution ahead of time.
- It was suggested that since many citizens do not use computers, extra timing should be allowed (60 days) for printing in the Voyageur or community meetings. Mr. Madden suggested that the policy could be adopted for this and the timing could be changed to 60 days at next year's AGA.
- In response to a question about what would happen if the mover/seconder of a special business resolution were not present, Mr. Madden stated that the resolution could be tabled until the next AGA.
- It was noted that before the text of the resolution could be amended, it had to be dealt with first.

Chair Picotte explained that Wendy Landry and Joanne Young had moved this last year. Now she explained that they needed a mover and seconder to go forward with it. She also explained that if someone wanted to modify it, they would have to pass it first.

It was MOVED (Louise Goulding) and SECONDED (Art Bennett)

That the MNO Policy #2011-002 *Process for Conducting Special Business at a General Assembly* with wording outlined in the document in Tab 4 of the 18th Annual General Assembly meeting kit be approved.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA11-03)

Chair Picotte asked if there was any other business arising from the minutes and hearing none, she moved on to the next agenda item.

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 Senator Ray Bergie, Regional Councilor Pauline Saulnier and PCMNO Youth Representative Nicholas Callaghan.

It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Brenda Lauren)

That the Resolutions Committee be comprised of Senator Ray Bergie, Pauline Saulnier and Nicholas Callaghan.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA11-04)

Chair Picotte requested that the Resolutions Committee set the deadline for receiving resolutions for review and presentation. The Resolutions Committee would advise the delegates of the deadline and the location for submission.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Chair 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 thanked the PCMNO, the administration, COO Wilson and Ms. McKenney and her staff for all their hard work. He said that the MNO was a complex organization and the finalization of their yearly financial reports was a time consuming process. He thanked the MNO Finance Committee for their work also. All financial reports were distributed to the delegates.

2010/11 Audited Financial Statements

Mr. Randy Tivy, Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants, provided an overview of the MNO audit statement for 2010/2011 for the delegates.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- A question was asked about the reference to \$1 on page 12 under #2. Mr. Tivy responded that when they reviewed the value of those investment corporations, it was overstated and it

was written down to a \$1. This was an accountant practice to reference that they acknowledge that this was there but this was the value to MNO.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Judie McKenney provided the finance report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011. Chair Picotte explained that Ms. McKenney would provide the financial report in layman's terms.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- Congratulations were offered to everyone involved in addressing the financial situation and lowering the MNO debt.

APPROVAL OF THE 2010/11 AUDIT

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

That the 18th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario approve the Audited Financial Statements dated March 31, 2011.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA11-05)

APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR

It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Pauline Saulnier)

That the 18th 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 2011-2012.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA11-06)

Recess - The meeting recessed for break at 3:00 p.m. and resumed at 3:18 p.m.

HELPING OUR PEOPLE, OUR FAMILIES, OUR COMMUNITIES

Chair Picotte introduced COO Wilson. COO Wilson mentioned that in place of individual program reports, the MNO had developed a DVD, which gave a snapshot of the work that staff were doing. He thanked the communications team and other for putting this together. He also added that the communication team was also instrumental in updating the MNO website.

The DVD was presented to the delegates. Afterwards there was a question on if this DVD could be made available to Community Council. COO Wilson stated that it was available on the website and could be sent out electronically as well.

It was MOVED (Senator Sue Hagar) and SECONDED (Tim Pile)

That the MNO Branch reports provided to the AGA delegates in the form of a DVD be accepted as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA11-07)

MÉTIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COO Wilson provided a presentation entitled " " to the AGA delegates.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- A question was raised around what community councils and citizens could do to push the federal government to match the funds. COO Wilson suggested that they should contact

their local Members of Parliament and the MNO and MNC have been working together to encourage Minister Duncan to add federal dollars to the Métis Voyageur Development Fund.

- There was a question on what the status of the business directory project was and COO Wilson stated that they were not able to post this directory as they needed more business to be part of it.

It was MOVED (Roger Giroux) and SECONDED (Thomas Thompson)

That the MNO Economic Development report be accepted as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA11-08)

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The 18th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 20-22, 2011 adjourned on Day 1 – August 20, 2011 at 4:15 p.m. and agreed to reconvene on Day 2 – August 21, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

DAY 2 - SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2011

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

Chair Picotte reconvened the 18th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario at 9:00 a.m.

OPENING REMARKS

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

ADVANCING METIS RIGHTS

Jean Teillet/Jason Madden

Ms. Teillet provided a powerpoint presentation entitled “ ”. She explained that the Métis law had been advancing quickly over the last few years. Until they had taken the first harvesting cases in the 1990’s, there was nothing happening in this area.

In terms of Eastern Canada and Quebec, she provided an overview of the Vautour cases where they were trying to establish that there were Métis in New Brunswick. She explained that there have been seven rulings against them. In Labrador, after research was completed, cases were dropped because their own experts were saying there were no Métis there; they found that they were Inuit. In Quebec, 17 cases were bundled together and they were advanced \$500K to conduct the research to support their claim. She explained that this case would determine if there were Métis communities in Quebec; they were doing what Ontario had done in Powley.

Saskatchewan was currently in negotiations and they have taken cases but it has only resulted in a tweaking of the situation. They were currently looking at a harvesting agreement negotiation. In Manitoba, after winning the Gooden case, they started negotiations but it was not going well. However, they were able to harvest in a large part of the province because of Gooden. In Alberta, they had the Hirsekorn case. In Alberta, they have a province wide agreement for all Métis, MNA members and Settlement members, stating that they could harvest any time of the year for food. The agreement was cancelled by the Minister of Natural Resources and the Métis responded with large community hunts. There were three cases that were followed up on by the MNA and these were Bates, Jones and Hirsekorn. Out of this group

there only remains one defendant. He was hunting in the Cypress Hills area and this was beyond what was considered Métis traditional lands. There is no judgment on this yet at this time.

This case was critical, Ms. Teillet explained, because it spoke to the mobility of their rights. She explained how there was an interconnectedness between the different Métis economies across the homeland and how family could be part of different geographically based economies. The mobility of Métis families throughout history causes some issues when attempting to establish ancestral connections to the land. Their view was that the community they belong to was the larger Métis community and all they would need to do was prove they were part of the Métis Nation. Winning this case would have repercussions across the Métis Nation. She stated that she had high hopes of winning this case but it likely would not happen in Alberta.

Ms. Teillet provided an overview of the Cunningham case. This case related if Métis citizens could also be Indians under the Indian Act. Before Bill C-31, Métis citizens could not register as Indians but now they can. It was decided that there would be a cut off date in 1990 if they wanted to register as Indians. The Cunningham family did register as Indians after this cut off date and they ended up in the Supreme Court last December. They claimed they had the right to both and said that they only did this for the First Nation health benefits and this was a violation of the equality rights. In the end, the SCC denied them because, they said, the MSA was provided for the Métis and this would erode the values and culture of the Métis.

The Daniels case related the definition of Indian under Constitution Act section 91(24). This had taken seven years to go to trial and the answer should come sometime next year.

The Manitoba Métis Federation case challenged the validity of several pieces of legislation enacted between 1871 and 1886. The claim was that these pieces of legislation were unconstitutional because it altered the Manitoba Act, 1870, thereby depriving the plaintiffs of the land base promised to them. In other word, the Manitoba Act had set aside lands for the “half breeds”, 1.4M acres, and only less than 1% of that had been provided. The case was the federal crown had the fiduciary obligation related the sections 31 and 32 of the Manitoba Act in relation to the distribution of these lands to the Métis and this did not take place.

There were claims that the land was given up. However, of a population of about 12000 in Red River, about 10000 were Métis and 70% of those were minors and nowhere in the world can a minor give up their land rights. Even in 1870 Canada, this was unlawful. In addition, Canada sought to colonize Manitoba and took steps to enable settlement and development and this resulted in brutal and violent colonial oppression.

In lower courts, judges ruled that the Métis were way too late to bring this case. The case will be argued in the Supreme Court of Canada in December 2011. One of the issues was that MMF was told that they could not bring this case forward on behalf of their people. This was important point to all Métis regions because the case was based on their collective rights not an individual right and this was supported by the elected governments.

Recess - The meeting recessed for break at 10:24 a.m. and resumed at 10:41 a.m.

MNO's Strategic Approach to Advancing Métis Rights

Mr. Madden mentioned that Ms. Teillet had given a broad overview and now he wanted to speak about Ontario and strengthening their rights based agenda. He stated that a recognition of their constitutional rights would be the basis for addressing all their other issues. He stressed that the whole point of MNO was to have the Métis recognized as a distinct people.

He said that the MNO realized that they might have to take a more aggressive approach and push the courts more regarding Métis rights but they wanted to continue to research and negotiate. He stated that they were always ready to negotiate but the other party had to be at the table to be able to do this. The four pronged approach included negotiations, litigation, research and implementation. He said that they implement self-government by their action – the registry, the harvesting agreement, the consultation protocol among others. This gives their claim to being a distinct people credibility.

With regards to research, some on Ontario Métis existed but it was limited. They needed to identify their own research and tell their own story. People were fascinated by the Métis history in the province and their own people needed to access to this research. They needed to tell their own story because 90% of the research funding is in First Nations history and they cannot provide unique Métis perspectives. In addition, the Métis history in Ontario would be told using different document sources and these documents need to be reviewed. They had to work together as communities to make their research come alive including sharing photos and publishing more research and making it available to their communities.

One of the issues they have faced in Ontario was they could not be identified by a dot on a map because they were more regional. This was what they needed to provide using empirical sources. He provided an example of study that was completed recently and was available on the MNO website. This was the type of reports that would be needed to support a court case. The research was needed but it also had to be conducted with MNO as equal partners because otherwise it would be only one sided and biased. In conducting the research, they would also have to look at Quebec because this border was artificial and they needed to see how the historical communities connected.

Another source of information was traditional knowledge and land use studies. He showed a map outlining land use in region #3, which identified which areas that the Métis had used traditionally. This was important because it added a layer to the research and information that they had already compiled. He added that historic and modern photographs were also useful because they connected the past and present. He stated that this was why they should always take photos because they would become part of the historical record.

In terms of root ancestors/family, he said that people had great ideas during the consultation process. He said that they heard that they needed to make it easier to maneuver the system and people needed to know what records to look for. He added that the Parry Sound includes over 1000 family names and the goal of MNO was to gather this information. He explained that they needed this research because it was the key to establishing existing rights; they had to show that they were there and they were practicing their unique lifestyle.

In terms of negotiations, they were looking at an increase of the number of harvester cards. Based on a resolution at last year's AGA, they wanted the government to recognize their rights on more than just harvesting. They wanted to deal with the government on a number of fronts

and followed up with government about how they were road blocked and they needed to negotiate. Out of that came an agreement on the establishment of a high level working group who would work with the Métis recognizing that there were Métis in different areas of Ontario and research was needed in a number of areas. He said that they had a terms of reference now and have officially met already. Their next meeting was scheduled for September. He stressed that if they had to go back to Court, they wanted to show that they had made every attempt to negotiate first. From their perspective, court was not the complete answer; they had to consolidate the rules through negotiation, consultation and accommodation.

If they were forced to litigate, Mr. Madden explained, they need to build up their funds for that. They were also supporting the MMF case at the Supreme Court of Canada. They had to talk about the honour of the Crown and Canada needed to undertake a process to address Métis issues like they had in the First Nation treaties process.

Mr. Madden stated that they were going to develop their own laws and if their people were charged, they would defend them similarly to process with the harvesting agreement. It was not always about harvesting and he mentioned the example of the Child Welfare report and how the Métis input was ignored. There needed to be discussions on how their laws would be implemented and an action plan on Métis rights.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- It was noted that many census document use the term “squaw” and Ms. Teillet mentioned that all this indicated that this person had Indian background and it was not enough for proving Métis ancestry
- It was noted that there were government documents, surveyor’s reports, that showed half-breeds in the north east. Ms. Teillet stated that they would need more than this but this was a good start.
- It was noted that some harvesters were asked to choose from three different areas that they were eligible to exercise their harvester rights and Mr. Madden agreed that providing the documentation for all areas was a good idea. It was also suggested that this would be supportive of the idea that they were all interconnected and would support the mobility of their rights.
- There was some discussion on information that could be available in the United States that could support their case. Ms. Teillet noted that for most of the cases so far they have had to access information that existed in the US.
- It was also noted that some communities had identified person working on research in their area and Ms. Teillet noted that once the researcher had been chosen, they should work with community based researchers to be part of that.
- There was a question raised on the four point agreement and if there were any aspects of that they had not lived up to from their side. There was concern that a new government might not want to continue with that agreement. Mr. Madden stated that this could be a political decision or it can be cancelled by mutual agreement. He mentioned that they had followed up on an MNR letter stating that this agreement had expired and while the MNO had addressed that, there were still outstanding issues. For example, the independent review process was tied to any increase in harvesting cards.
- There was a question was raised in terms of changes to the registry process referred to just family names or specific names. Mr. Madden stated that they had to make it specific; they would have to take the list and go generation by generation since then. He hoped that they could get this list online with some funding.

CONSULTATION ON METIS IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRY

Mr. Madden provided a powerpoint presentation entitled "[REDACTED]". He explained that the mandate for consultation was a 2 year time period and phase I has been completed. The "Métis Identification and Registry 2010/2011 Community Consultations What We Heard Report" was located under tab 13 in the meeting kit. He mentioned that people had provided some useful recommendations particularly around making the process more user-friendly. Some actions could be taken now to address this such as the development of FAQ documents, identifying how to research or where to find existing research. He provides an overview of online resources that could be helpful. Some of this research has been posted to the MNO website for information purposes; it did not mean that MNO agreed with all their conclusions.

He added that this issue of the Quebec boundary was an ongoing one and they needed to discuss how this might be dealt with in the future. He acknowledged that there were families who lived on this border who did not make a distinction between one side and the other.

In terms of root ancestors and family groups, he said that they were working on this but it was a time consuming process to make this research available in a user friendly way. He also stated that it costs money to develop these databases and make this information accessible to people. He stated that just because they post information, it did not mean that this was all the information out there, it was just what was available at the time of posting.

In terms the next phase of the consultation process, he provided an overview of the activities and timelines for the next year. He added that one of the key points that came out the consultation last year was the need to make those who have been adopted Métis citizens and there would be a resolutions put forward this year to address that.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- Clarification was provided on the historical wording of Métis and how there was reference to the French word. It was suggested that ongoing research could clarify some of the issues around what Métis were called historically. Mr. Madden explained that the word used would often depend on who was producing the record.
- It was noted that some census work had been in the past but often the personal opinion of the writer had a big impact on the words used and information gathered. Ms. Teillet agreed and stated that they needed to cross reference as many documents as they could the information to ensure its accuracy.
- Ms. Teillet explained that the genealogical connection was key but they were looking for community, culture, language and different way of existing. It was not just about the blood but the way of life, culture and language. Mr. Madden stated that they were looking for root Métis ancestry.
- There was some discussion around the fact that historically many of the Métis chose to hide their identity due to prejudice. Ms. Teillet said this prejudice did not widely exist earlier on, this started later. Earlier on, Métis had no reason to hide; they were the majority and a well respected people.
- The question around the cap was raised and Mr. Madden mentioned that this was a rights based issue and if they could prove that with increased research, they could get that cap removed. He stated that a constitutional right could not be capped. Right now, the applicant had to meet the burden of proof for Powley.

President Lipinski stated that they had covered a lot of information this morning and it was important for delegates to recognize how interconnected the issues were. They realized how frustrating the issue of the cap was but they also had to understand that they had a lot of work to do to advance their research and increase public awareness on the issue. The work that was going on in the communities was key including the traditional knowledge studies, other local research and documentation.

Chair Picotte mentioned that they would table the Update Reports until the following morning and the meeting was adjourned for the day.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The 18th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 20-22, 2011 adjourned on Day 2 – August 21, 2011 at 12:37 p.m. and agreed to reconvene on Day 3 – August 22, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

DAY 3 - MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2011

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

Chair Picotte reconvened the 18th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario at 8:30 a.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Chair Picotte welcomed that participants back to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda for the day. She mentioned that they would be making adjustments to the agenda – they would complete the updates from the previous day and Michif Language Presentation from Kenora Métis Council.

MICHIF LANGUAGE PRESENTATION

Caitlin Stenlund, 8, and Hayley Fortier, 7, introduced themselves in Michif. Theresa Stenlund mentioned that the council had received funding and they would provide a presentation on their language project. Ms. Sandy Triskle, Kenora Métis Council, provided a presentation entitled “Michif Language Project”.

UPDATES

Senators

Executive Senator Gordon explained that each year she communicates with Senators from across Ontario and she is humbled and honoured to be in such company. She said that each year they take stock of what they have accomplished and they have been successful in a number of areas. The Senators can keep them focused and on track and their experience has taught them all that they needed to have goals but also be flexible as they moved forward. They remind everyone that they need a plan and have to choose their battles carefully. They were all bound together for a common purpose.

She asked all Senators to stand for the applause of the Assembly. She provided greetings on behalf of Senator Earl Scofield who was unable to make it this year. He also asked that a message be read about his son Eric Scofield, who recently passed away. This message was read to the Assembly.

Veteran's Council

Councilor Sarrazin provided an update on the Veteran's Council and mentioned that there have been some resignations due to some bylaws issues and the ability to sit on different committees. He acknowledged the willingness by Mr. Jason Deffosse, new President, and Christopher Plummer, Treasurer, to take on these roles.

Mr. Sarrazin turned the presentation over to President Deffosse. He thanked Mr. Rowlinson for helping them and thanks to Mr. Sarrazin for his hard work. He called up Senator Alis Kennedy, Toronto and York Métis Council, and she was presented with an Eagle Feather. He thanked her for all her contributions. He then introduced the rest of the Veteran's Council.

President Deffosse stated that they would be recognize the sacrifices and dedication of Veteran Peter Jack Grisdale and he received the following honours: he was presented with an Eagle Feather from Elmer Ross; he was presented with the Louis Riel Medal from Maurice Sarrazin; and, the Batoche Reconciliation Medal from President Deffosse.

There was also a presentation to Kempton (Bucky) Gravelle for his brother, Private Oscar Gravelle, which was the Batoche Reconciliation Medal. President Deffosse mentioned they would also present the Louis Riel Medal to Private Gravelle's family as well.

Veteran's Council Secretary Joe Paquette mentioned that he had a flag from the Gabriel Dumont Institute recognizing the Veterans of Batoche and he brought it home for the Veterans here. President Deffosse thanked everyone for their support.

Women's Secretariat

Vice-Chair McBride provided her report entitled "Report for the Annual General Assembly, Year Ending April, 2010 - March 2011". She also asked the member of the Women's Council to stand up and be recognized by the entire Assembly. At the national level, she mentioned, they had incorporated and they were looking at increasing communications with all their representatives. Ms. Lisa Pigeau, MNO, provided information on funding that would be used for an event related to violence against Aboriginal women that would take place in September in Toronto.

Youth Council

PCMNO Youth Representative Nicholas Callaghan thanked the Assembly for the opportunity to address them and stated that the focus of the youth here were to stay in touch regularly and to fill in some vacancies in the regions. He provided an outline of the positions that have been filled in terms of youth positions in the regions. He explained that the youth could access more information on the MNO website and they also had a facebook page. He provided a brief overview of their trip to Batoche this year and some plans they had for a drumming workshop this year. This workshop would require them to build their own drum and learn a song. He thanked the staff t the MNOET for their support.

UPON THE PASSING OF JACK LAYTON

During the AGA, the Assembly had learned of the passing of Jack Layton. President Lipinski stated that this was tragic news and he was an amazing leader with great passion. He had fought for his party and his beliefs and brought his Party to a new level. A moment of silence was observed and Senator Wagner stated that may all the good things he has done carry on.

RESOLUTIONS

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

A motion was presented to the floor that needed to be dealt with before the resolutions process could continue.

It was MOVED (Eugene Coulter) and SECONDED (Allan Vallee)

That all Resolutions for the 18th MNO Annual General Assembly be voted on by secret ballot.

DEFEATED (AGA11-09)

As per MNO bylaws, there would be no discussion on the motion; it would go directly to a vote. Those who voted in favour numbers 46 and 83 voted against. There were no abstentions.

The Chair of the Resolutions Committee advised the Assembly that they would begin with the Special Business Resolutions.

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES11-01
Title:	TO AMEND MNO HARVESTERS POLICY
Mover:	Louise Goulding (#94-0099)
Second:	Richard Sarrazin (#99-6133)

WHEREAS the MNO Captains of the Hunt met on March 26, 2011 and approved proposed changes to the MNO Harvesting Policy based on their discussions and consultations with Métis harvesters;

AND WHEREAS the PCMNO met on June 27, 2011 and also approved the proposed changes to the MNO Harvesting Policy based on the recommendations of the MNO Captains of the Hunt;

AND WHEREAS the exact wording of the proposed changes to sections 2.1 (d) [footnotes 10 and 12], 3.1 (b) [footnote 15], 3.4 [footnote 17], 4.5 [footnote 28] of the MNO Harvesting Policy is attached:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE 2011 MNO AGA adopts the changes to the MNO Harvesting Policy date June 27, 2011, which is attached to this resolution.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPECRES11-01)

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES11-02
Title:	TO AMEND s. 5.3; s. 6.8 and s. 6.8 (e) of the MNO ELECTORAL CODE
Mover:	Janine Landry (#08-1690)
Second:	Ginny Gonneau (#05-0384)

WHEREAS it is important that the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council be referred to in a way acceptable to the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council;

AND WHEREAS the current electoral code refers to Regional Youth Representatives, as Regional Youth Councilors and this should be changed to Regional Youth Representatives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that s. 5.3, s. 6.8 and s. 6.8 (e) of the MNO Electoral Code be changed to read as follows:

Change s. 5.3 of the electoral code to read “Only electors who are between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty-nine(29) years of age may vote for the youth representatives on the PCMNO or for the Regional Youth Representatives on the MNOYC.”

Change s. 6.8 of the electoral code to read “All nominations for youth representative on the PCMNO and MNOYC Regional Youth Representatives shall include the following:”

Change s. 6.8 (e) of the electoral code to read “candidates for MNOYC Regional Youth Representatives require seven (7) signatures from electors who are under the age of 29 from the region in which are seeking election.”

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPECRES11-02)

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES11-03
Title:	TO AMEND s. 6.8 (e) OF THE MNO ELECTORAL CODE
Mover:	Janine Landry (#08-1690)
Seconders:	Ginny Gonneau (#05-0384)

WHEREAS it is important that the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council Regional Youth Representatives be elected rather than appointed;

AND WHEREAS the current electoral code states that Regional Youth Representatives require seven (7) signatures from electors who are under the age of 29 from the region in which they are seeking election and this should be changed to four (4) signatures;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that s.6.8(e) of the MNO Electoral Code be changed to read as follows:

Change s.6.8(e) of the electoral code to read “candidates for MNOYC Regional Youth Representatives require four (4) signatures from electors who are under the age of 29 from the region in which they are seeking election.”

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPECRES11-03)

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES11-04
Title:	TO AMEND s.1.3(a); s.2.1(b); 2.1(m); s.5.3; s.6.3(e); s.6.8; s.6.11; s.9.1(c); s.13.4(b); and, s.18.1 of the MNO Electoral Code
Mover:	Janine Landry (#08-1690)
Seconders:	Ginny Gonneau (#05-0384)

WHEREAS it is important that the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council be referred to in a way acceptable to the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council ;

AND WHEREAS the current electoral code refers to the Council as the MNOY and this should be changed

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that s.1.3(a); s.2.1(b); 2.1(m); s.5.3; s.6.3(e); s.6.8; s.6.11; s.9.1(c); s.13.4(b); and, s.18.1 of the MNO Electoral Code be changes to read as follows:

Change s.1.3(a) of the electoral code to read “Part A of the MNO Electoral Code shall contain the rules governing the elections for the PCMNO, MNOYC and the MNOVC;

Change s.2.1(b) of the electoral code to read “ “candidate” means a person whose name is posted on the list of the candidates for office in the PCMNO, MNOYC, and the MNOVC;

Change 2.1(m) of the electoral code to read “ “MNOYC” means the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council”;

Change s.5.3 of the electoral code to read “Only electors who are between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty-nine (29) years of age may vote for youth representatives on the PCMNO or for regional youth councilors on the MNOYC” ;

Change s.6.3(e) of the electoral code to read “if seeking to be a youth candidate in the PCMNO and the MNOYC regional council is 26 years of age or younger on the day of elections”;

Change s.6.8 of the electoral code to read “All nominations for youth representatives on the PCMNO and the MNOYC regional councilors shall include the following” ;

Change s.6.11 of the electoral code to read “A candidate may not accept a nomination for more than one position on the PCMNO, MNOYC or the MNOVC”;

Change s.9.1(c) of the electoral code to read “notwithstanding Article 9.1(a), the Annual Summer Assembly election process for filling vacancies in the MNOYC shall be established by the chief electoral officer in consultation with the MNOYC” ;

Change s.13.4(b) of the electoral code to read “immediate relatives of candidates for MNOYC or MNOVC may not be appointed as election officers in the same region” ; and,

Change s.18.1 of the electoral code to read “There shall be three ballots, one for the PCMNO, one for the MNOYC and one for the MNOVC. Every ballot shall contain the name of the candidates which shall be arranged alphabetically in the order of their surnames and if there are two (2) or more candidates with the same surname, then in order of their given name”.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPECRES11-04)

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES11-05
Title:	TO AMEND s.6.4 (c) of the MNO Electoral Code
Mover:	Marc Laurin (#00-7972)
Second:	Maurice Sarrazin (#99-6346)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario has provincial elections every four years;

AND WHEREAS the majority of the nominees for PCMNO election are volunteers;

AND WHEREAS the majority of MNO citizens live in any of the Five Regions collectively;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that s.6.4(c) of the MNO Electoral Code be changed to read as follows:

- 6.4 *Subject to Article 6.10,47 all nominations for the executive shall include the following:*
- (a) *written acceptance of the nomination by the candidate;*
 - (b) *a statement that the candidate has read the MNO Electoral Code and MNO Bylaws and is eligible to be nominated as a candidate in the MNO election;*
 - (c) *a minimum of seven (7) signatures of electors in each region; and*
 - (d) *a non-refundable deposit in the sum of one-hundred dollars (\$100.00), which shall be deposited into the MNO electoral fund.*

Change Article 6.4 to read as following:

Subject to Article 6.10, all nominations for the executive shall include the following:

- (a) *written acceptance of the nomination by the candidate;*
- (b) *a statement that the candidate has read the MNO Electoral Code and MNO Bylaws and is eligible to be nominated as a candidate in the MNO election;*
- (c) *a minimum of seven (7) signatures of electors in **five of the nine regions**; and*
- (d) *a non-refundable deposit in the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) which shall be deposited into the MNO electoral fund.*

RESOLVED (AGA-SPECRES11-05)

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES11-06
Title:	TO AMEND s.6.3 of the MNO Electoral Code
Mover:	Marc Laurin (#00-7972)
Seconders:	Richard Sarrazin (#99-6133)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario Community Councils are integral to the governing structure of the MNO:

AND WHEREAS retaining volunteers to sit on Community Councils remains difficult;

AND WHEREAS the Community Councils depend on their current council volunteers to collectively operate the council;

AND WHEREAS any situation that causes a vacancy on council interrupts the council operations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in order to fill any vacancy on council due to a councilor seeking nomination in the PCMNO Elections in a timely manner that s.6.3 subsection of the MNO Electoral Code be changed to add the following:

In section 6.3, this resolution should be added:

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- (k) *If seeking to be a candidate for PCMNO, persons holding current community council positions must resign from their position at least 1 month prior to being nominated for PCMNO elections and if a candidate is unsuccessful in the election process this person cannot/may not reassume his or her position or any other position at the community council level until elections are held for that respective council.*

DEFEATED (AGA-SPECRES11-06)

SIMPLE RESOLUTIONS

The Chair of the Resolutions Committee advised the Assembly that they would continue on with the Simple Resolutions.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES11-01
Title:	MÉTIS CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
Mover:	Theresa Stenlund
Seconder:	Wendy Landry

WHEREAS Métis children and the Métis family are the heart and soul of Métis communities across the entire province of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the protection of Métis children and raising them in Métis homes and ensuring they have opportunities to participate in Métis culture is fundamental to the continuation and preservation of Métis communities;

AND WHEREAS Métis governments in other provinces across the Métis Nation Homeland participate in the provincial child welfare system in order to protect the interests of the Métis child and the Métis family;

AND WHEREAS Ontario's current child welfare system largely ignores the unique realities and needs of Métis children and Métis families in this province;

AND WHEREAS pan-Aboriginal approaches to child welfare services are dominated by First Nations and non-Aboriginal peoples and do not understand or serve the unique interests of the Métis child or Métis families;

AND WHEREAS the recently tabled *Children First: Report on the Status of Aboriginal Child Welfare in Ontario* completely ignores the welfare of the Métis child and the perspectives of the Métis Nation and its communities in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS on August 15, 2011, the MNO President has written to the Ontario Minister for Children and Youth Services criticizing the Children First report for its complete exclusion of the Métis perspective as well requesting an urgent meeting to discuss and remedy this exclusion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE 2011 MNO AGA:

1. Rejects the Children First Report because it does not provide the Ontario Minister for Children and Youth Services any information on the Métis perspective with respect to the child welfare system in Ontario;

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2. Supports the MNO President's letter to the Ontario Minister for Children and Youth Services dated August 15, 2011 and directs the MNO to work with the Ontario Government in order to attempt to secure funding in order to prepare a supplemental report to the Children First report that addresses the unique rights, realities, interests and perspectives of Métis children, families and communities in relation to Ontario child welfare system;
 3. Authorizes the MNO to explore and identify legal options, including, the use of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, the Ontario Ombudsman or the courts to ensure that Métis children and Métis families are considered and protected in relation to Ontario's child welfare system; and
 4. Directs the MNO initiate a fundraising campaign, as part of the Métis Legal Defense Fund, in order to litigate for the protection of the interests of Métis children and Métis families, if the Ontario Government refuses to consider and include the Métis perspective in the child welfare system.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES11-01)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES11-02
Title:	DEVELOP POLICY ON ADOPTION
Mover:	Pauline Saulnier
Seconder:	Joanne Wass

WHEREAS the Métis child and the Métis family are the heart and soul of Métis communities and the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS Métis have customs, practices and traditions of adopting children without Métis Nation ancestry and raising them in Métis homes and in Métis culture and traditions;

AND WHEREAS these adopted children are raised as Métis and may self-identify as Métis like the rest of their family;

AND WHEREAS the Métis National Council's National Definition of Métis and the MNO's Definition of Métis, which is consistent with the National Definition of Métis, does not provide for the ability of individuals who are adopted as children and raised in Métis homes to register as MNO citizens;

AND WHEREAS the issue of adoption was identified as a priority within Phase I of the MNO's consultations on Métis identification and registry and there was broad-based support that individuals who have been adopted as children and raised in Métis homes should have the ability to register as MNO citizens, if they self-identify as Métis and as a part of the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS other Métis Nation governments such as the Métis Nation British Columbia have moved forward on the adoption issue already;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada in the Powley case has recognized that

individuals can be ancestrally connected to Métis communities through birth or adoption;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE 2011 MNO AGA

1. Direct the PCMNO to develop a policy and required by law changes that allows for individuals who have been adopted as children and raised in Métis homes to be able to register as MNO citizens based on specific requirements being met, and that this policy and associated bylaws changes be brought to the next MNO AGA for consideration; and,
2. Direct the MNO leadership to bring this position forward to the Métis National Council for discussion and action by the Métis Nation as a whole.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES11-02)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES11-03
Title:	DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MÉTIS BY ONTARIO'S MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Mover:	Louise Goulding
Seconded:	Larry Duval

WHEREAS Métis communities emerged, as a part of the larger Métis Nation, throughout what is now known as Ontario and the historic Northwest prior to Canada becoming Canada;

AND WHEREAS these Ontario Métis communities had land interests and a special relationship to the land, along with traditional territories that sustained their identity, culture and way of life;

AND WHEREAS these Métis communities are a fundamental part of the history and fabric of Ontario and have exercised their rights on their traditional territories for generations;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Métis have been recorded in Ontario's history and have asserted and pushed for the recognition of their rights through civil disobedience, petitions, litigation, etc. with just some examples of this including:

- The Mica Bay Uprising that led to the Robinson Superior and Robinson Superior Treaties around the Great Lakes;
- Petitions from Métis for lands in and around Lake Huron, Georgian Bay and Penetanguishene;
- Petition for lands to be provided to Métis as part of the creation of Treaty #9;
- Requests for the recognition of Métis rights and equality in the Mattawa/Nipissing region;
- Petitions and demands for Métis recognition in the Lake Superior/Nipigon/Michipicoten region;
- The Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty #3.

AND WHEREAS both levels of government were largely indifferent to the identity and rights of Ontario Métis and ignored their duties owing to Métis that flow from the honour of the Crown;

AND WHEREAS based on the Métis Nation's ongoing push for justice the Aboriginal and Treaty

rights of Métis were finally protected within Canada's Constitution in 1982;

AND WHEREAS s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 was meant to be a turning point, but was largely ignored with respect to its protections to the Métis until the historic Powley case;

AND WHEREAS for much of this 200+ year period the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has denied the existence of any Métis rights and interests with respect to access to lands and resources in Ontario, and has continuously harassed, bullied and prosecuted Métis for exercising their traditional customs, practices and traditions;

AND WHEREAS this MNR denial has resulted in Métis being criminalized while exercising constitutionally protected rights, Métis traditional economies being decimated, and to many Métis commercial fisheries, trap lines and other resource based businesses being lost to other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples;

AND WHEREAS even in the face, of the honour of the Crown, the Constitution, the Powley case, the MNO-MNR Harvesting Agreement, the Laurin case, historic research and a continuing willingness for the MNO to meaningfully negotiate, the MNR continues to deny Métis rights and harass, bully and prosecute Métis hunters, fishers, trappers, commercial fishers and traditional resource users;

AND WHEREAS this modern day MNR indifference can be seen Métis exclusion from the benefits of most of its policies that purport to include all "Aboriginal communities", including, the Waterpower Site Release Policy, trapping policies and procedures, commercial fishing policies, consultation and accommodation policies and processes (i.e., Forest Management Plans, River System planning, Mattagami Extension Coordinating Committee, etc.);

AND WHEREAS MNR continues to harass and bully Métis people and communities by charging Métis and hoping they do not have the financial resources or perseverance to defend themselves, as can be seen in the recent Lepage family trial where MNR refused to drop all of the charges against the Lepage family commercial fishery until the trial began and the weaknesses of the MNR's case began to be examined under the light of justice;

AND WHEREAS the MNR continues to operate as "business as usual" despite:

- Being directed by the Ontario Court of Appeal in Powley to incorporate Métis rights into its regulatory regimes;
- Being criticized by the Ontario Ombudsman in 2007 for its "ad hoc" approach to dealing with Métis commercial fisherman fairly and equally to other Aboriginal peoples;
- Being directed by the Ontario Court of Justice to uphold the spirit and intent of the 2004 MNO-MNR Harvesting Agreement, but refusing to increase the 1250 cap that was to be on the agreement for the first year only and charging Métis harvesters who make use of incidental cabins; and
- Having actual and constructive knowledge of Métis Aboriginal rights claims throughout the province, but refusing to include Métis in Aboriginal committees and calling Métis communities "unsubstantiated".

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE 2011 MNO AGA:

1. Authorize the MNO leadership to formally demand a provincial or federal judicial inquiry into the MNR's harassment and discrimination against Métis in Ontario, if real and meaningful progress cannot be made on Métis land and resources related issues with the MNR over the next 6 months;
2. If progress is not made with the MNR in the next 6 months and Ontario and Canada refuse to initiate a judicial inquiry, that the MNO meet with the Ontario Ombudsman as well as the Ontario Human Rights Commission to outline the situation Ontario Métis face and request that these institutions initiate a full scale review of the MNR's actions against Métis in Ontario; and,
3. Direct the MNO to re-engage the Métis Legal Defense Fund and begin fundraising for it in order to initiate litigation against the MNR for its failure to uphold the honour of the Crown and s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* in relation to Métis rights and interests in the province.

RESOLVED (AGA-RES11-03)
One abstention

Resolution #:	AGA-RES11-04
Title:	DEVELOPING AN MNO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPROACH
Mover:	Art Bennett
Seconded:	Marcel LaFrance

WHEREAS the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose identifies economic development and self-sustainability as a priority for the Métis Nation and its communities;

AND WHEREAS the MNO wants to promote economic development at the local, regional and provincial levels in order to achieve the goals and aspirations of the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose;

AND WHEREAS the MNO and its Communities Councils are increasingly being presented with economic development opportunities at the local, regional and provincial levels;

AND WHEREAS MNO wants to create a consistent, effective and transparent economic development model to ensure:

- Assistance, facilitation and supports for Métis economic development at the local, regional and provincial levels;
- Local, regional and provincial economic development can be pursued in an efficient manner that limits the legal liabilities of those entities as well as all MNO citizens and the MNO Secretariat;
- Assets and profits from community economic development remain at the local level and are reported in a transparent manner;
- Assets and profits from local, regional and provincial economic development remain collectively held and are used for the benefit of the collective (i.e., cannot be transferred to specific individuals);
- Assets and profits at the local, regional and provincial levels are identified and reported in a transparent manner to MNO citizens;

- The MNO Secretariat is aware of and can ensure appropriate corporate and tax filings are completed by provincial, regional and local economic development entities so it does not become liable for failures to make corporate filings and/or file and pay required taxes that are outside of its control;
- Protect the MNO's not-for-profit status and makes effective use of tax planning.

AND WHEREAS other Aboriginal groups have developed economic development approaches for their nations at the local, regional and provincial levels that might be of assistance to the MNO;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE 2011 MNO AGA:

1. Directs the PCMNO to review the current economic development approach the MNO in order to identify needs, challenges, gaps, etc. as well as other Aboriginal economic development models used across Canada;
2. Directs the PCMNO to develop a consistent Métis economic development approach that is aligned with the principles identified above in order to improve, assist and facilitate Métis economic development at the local, regional and provincial levels across the MNO.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES11-04)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES11-05
Title:	MÉTIS REPRESENTATIVES ON SCHOOL BOARDS
Mover:	Marlene Davidson
Seconded:	Theresa Stenlund

WHEREAS the education of Métis students is vital to Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS the inclusion of the Métis perspective in the current education system is important;

AND WHEREAS the current Education Act does not include Métis representatives on school boards throughout the province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2011 Annual General Meeting directs the MNO to lobby the Ministry of Education to amend the Education Act to include a Métis representative on each school board in Ontario.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES11-05)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES11-06
Title:	AMENDMENT TO MNO POLICY #2011-02
Mover:	Ginny Gonneau
Seconded:	Nick Callaghan

WHEREAS the 2011 MNO AGA adopted MNO Policy #2011-02;

AND WHEREAS that policy currently requires the mover and the seconder of a special business resolution to be present at the AGA in order for the submitted resolution to be brought before the floor of a MNO AGA;

AND WHEREAS sometimes due to extenuating or emergency circumstances a mover and the seconder who have submitted a special business resolution may not be able to attend the AGA;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that section 3 of MNO Policy #2011-02 be amended to allow multiple movers and seconders to sign a submitted special business resolution;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that section 4 of MNO Policy #2011-02 be amended to allow for a special business resolution that meets all other requirements of the policy to be brought to the floor if at least one of the movers and seconders that signed and submitted a special business resolution prior to the required deadline is present at the MNO AGA; and

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the movers and seconders can choose from amongst themselves which individual mover and seconder in attendance at an AGA will stand to bring forward the special business resolution.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES11-06)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES11-07
Title:	MNO FOUNDING PRESIDENT COSTS PAID FOR MNO AGA
Mover:	Senator Reta Gordon
Seconder:	Sharon McBride

WHEREAS the MNO Founding President played an important part in the MNO's history;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO Founding President be invited to all future MNO AGAs as one of the dignitaries and that the MNO pay for all costs associated with the Founding President's travel, accommodations and food.

WITHDRAWN (AGA-RES11-07)

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.

CLOSING REMARKS – MNO PRESIDENT GARY LIPINSKI

President Lipinski mentioned that the MNO AGA was coming to a close but they were still to conduct the AGAs of the MNOCC and MNODC. He thanked the Moon River Métis Council for their outstanding hospitality and the wonderful welcome that they had all received from the Town of Parry Sound. He commended the delegates for the amount of work that they had undertaken this week and provided an overview of all the activities that have taken place. He said that they had accomplished a lot on the business of the MNO this week. They would be going to Sault Ste. Marie next year and they were in the process of finalizing dates for that. He thanked them for their resolutions this year and wished them safe travels home.

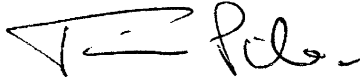
CLOSING

Chair Picotte closed the meeting reminding participants that, following the close of the MNO AGA, the MNOCC and MNODC AGAs would be taking place.

ADJOURNMENT

The 18th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 20-22, 2011 concluded on Day 3 – August 22, 2011 at 11:45 a.m. Senator Verna Porter closed the AGA with a prayer.

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the 18th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 20-22, 2011 and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption.



Tim Pile, Secretary/Treasurer



France Picotte, Chair