

Minutes of the 20th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 24 – 26, 2013, at the Delta Ottawa City Centre, Ottawa, Ontario.

PREPARATION OF MINUTES Sharon Visitor, Hunter-Courchene Consulting Group

DAY 1 – SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2013

OPENING CEREMONIES

PROCESSION AND FLAG RAISING

The flags of the Métis Nation Hunting Colours; Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); and, Province of Ontario were marched into the 20th Annual General Assembly (AGA).

CALL TO ORDER

MNO Chair France Picotte, called the 20th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario to order at 8:35 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Senator Lois McCallum, Ottawa Métis Regional Council, welcomed the participants to Ottawa for the AGA and opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. OPENING REMARKS

1.1 MNO Chair

Chair Picotte provided her opening remarks in Michif. She welcomed the participants to the AGA and encouraged everyone to review the materials provided as well as to remember and honour their ancestors by speaking their language. She then introduced Ms. Sharon McBride, MNO Vice-Chair and invited her to provide opening remarks.

1.2 MNO Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair McBride welcomed everyone to the 20th Annual General Assembly of the MNO and thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting and hoped that they enjoyed their time in Ottawa, Ontario.

1.3 Introduction of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario

Vice-Chair McBride introduced the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) to the Assembly.

2. WELCOMING REMARKS

2.1 Mr. Tom Thompson Jr., Councilor – Region 6, PCMNO

Mr. Tom Thompson Jr., Councilor – Region 6, PCMNO, welcomed everyone to Region 6 for the 20th AGA. He recognized the efforts of the three (3) host Presidents and Councils who had worked collaboratively to host the event, including: High Land Waters Métis Council; Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council; and, the Ottawa Métis Regional Council.

2.2 Deputy Mayor Steven Desroches, City of Ottawa

Deputy Mayor Steven Desroches, City of Ottawa, welcomed the participants to the National Capital Region, on behalf of Mayor Jim Watson. He indicated that Ottawa had a special duty to all Canadians; to build a capital city that Canadians could take pride in. He thanked the MNO for choosing Ottawa to host the 20th Annual General Assembly and stated that the City of Ottawa looked forward to welcoming the MNO participants back for future events. Chair Picotte presented Deputy Mayor Desroches with a commemorative coin, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the MNO, as well as the 10th anniversary of the Powley decision. The Deputy Mayor was also presented with hand-carved wooden spoons, symbolizing the Métis love of music.

2.3 The Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett, PC, MD, MP, St. Paul's, Critic for Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada

The Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett, PC, MD, MP, St. Paul's, Critic for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) acknowledged the 20th anniversary of the MNO and the 10th anniversary of the *Powley* decision. She said that Métis had been on an amazing journey and she would work towards ensuring that the story was shared with Canadians. She indicated that "Idle Can Know More" was a shared history of both good and bad, however, she believed that it would make the country stronger. The Honourable Dr. Bennett said that through the work done by the MNO and the Métis Nation, people were proud to be Métis Citizens. She thanked the Métis Nation and its Citizens for all the work they have done. Ms. Pauline Saulnier, Councilor – Region 7, PCMNO presented The Honourable Dr. Bennett with a gift, on behalf of the MNO.

2.4 The Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Legislative Assembly of Ontario

The Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, acknowledged the Elders and Senators and recognized that it was an important year for the Métis Nation. He acknowledged the 20th anniversary of the MNO and the 10th anniversary of the *Powley* decision. He noted that it was also the 5th anniversary of the signing of the historic Framework Agreement between the MNO and the Province of Ontario. The Honourable Zimmer said that the video presentation screened at the Opening Ceremonies the previous evening was excellent and he would appreciate receiving copies so that he could screen the movie in his Caucus and also send copies to the Conservative and NDP Caucuses.

He stated that the current Framework Agreement recognized the distinct history and culture of Métis. The Agreement also reinforced both past and future commitments, particularly commitments regarding the welfare of Métis children and youth. He also said that the Métis Voyageur Development Fund was moving in the right direction and was proud of the progress that the MNO had made.

The Honourable Zimmer congratulated the MNO on the recent announcement that the MNO were now long-term owners of solar energy contracts. He said that it spoke volumes as to how far the MNO had come in building capacity. He mentioned that his Ministry was also supporting two (2) new MNO projects that would build additional capacity: the hiring of an Economic Development Coordinator; and, the hiring of a Traditional Knowledge Collection Coordinator. Those projects were being funded through the New Relationship Fund. He then introduced Premier Kathleen Wynne's video presentation.

The Honourable Zimmer presented President Lipinski with a painting on behalf of the Ministry and the Ontario Liberal Caucus. President Lipinski presented Minister Zimmer with a gift, on behalf of the MNO.

2.5 Premier Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario – Video Presentation

Premier Kathleen Wynne congratulated the MNO on its 20th anniversary. She was proud that the Ontario Government and the MNO shared a good relationship. She was pleased to be working together to promote Métis history and culture and improving the quality of life for Métis families and citizens as well as promoting Métis rights within Ontario. She looked forward to continue to build the relationship when renewing the Framework Agreement.

2.6 The Honourable Yasir Naqvi, Minister of Labour and MPP for Ottawa Centre

The Honourable Yasir Naqvi, Minister of Labour and MPP for Ottawa Centre said that it was a great honour to host the MNO's 20th anniversary in Ottawa. He congratulated the MNO on celebrating its 20th anniversary on behalf of the entire Government of Ontario. He said there was a need to work together to enhance education and sensitivity of Aboriginal and Métis history for new Canadians so that they understood why the Aboriginal population made Canada so strong. Minister Naqvi said he looked forward to working with the MNO on that particular issue. Mr. Tim Pile, Secretary-Treasurer, PCMNO presented Minister Naqvi with a gift, on behalf of the MNO.

2.7 Minister Madeleine Meilleur, Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs and Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services

Minister Madeleine Meilleur, Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs and Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services thanked the MNO for organizing the annual meeting. She noted that the Province was coordinating the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Champlain in Ontario. The commemoration would be inclusive and highlight Franco-Ontarian heritage as well as the history of Métis communities in Ontario. She hoped that the event would educate the public about Métis history and culture. Minister Meilleur stated that she was proud to be part of a government that recognized the many contributions of the Métis people. Chair Picotte presented Minister Meilleur with a gift, on behalf of the MNO.

2.8 Mr. Royal Galipeau, MP, Ottawa-Orleans

Mr. Royal Galipeau, MP, Ottawa-Orleans acknowledged Elders, delegates and colleagues. He congratulated the MNO on its 20th anniversary and acknowledged the renewal of the Métis Nation Protocol in April 2013 between the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and the Métis National Council (MNC). The Protocol Agreement defined expectations and outlined ways of working together, focusing on job creation; support for economic growth and long-term prosperity for Métis in Canada. Mr. Marcel Lafrance, Councilor – Region 3, PCMNO presented Mr. Galipeau with a gift, on behalf of the MNO.

2.9 Ms. Sylvia Maracle, Executive Director, Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres

Ms. Sylvia Maracle, Executive Director, Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC) recognized and acknowledged the MNO's 20 years. She noted that the MNO and OFIFC worked together in a variety of areas, including in: healing and wellness; ending violence against Aboriginal women and children; mental health; urban discussions; housing; and, children and youth policies. She said at times, it was not easy, however, friendships were not easy either, however, the MNO and OFIFC were friends in order to change the lives of their people. Ms. Maracle noted that many of the delegates in the room had nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles who were First Nations and First Nations people had nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles who were Métis. She mentioned that at one time, those Nations were able to be braided together; to bring together the past, present and future. Although the strands of were distinct, when braided together, there was unity and strength.

She offered condolences for the losses of the Métis Nation and also congratulations for the new Citizens that were born. She said that in moving forward, she wished great peace within the Métis Nation; that only good notions guided the Nation; and that the next 20 years be even more exciting, than the current journey that the Métis Nation have walked through.

Ms. Maracle presented President Lipinski with a gift. President Lipinski thanked Ms. Maracle for her kind words and acknowledged the positive relationship the MNO had with Friendship Centres in Ontario. Ms. Theresa Stenlund, Councilor – Region 1, PCMNO, presented Ms. Maracle with a gift, on behalf of the MNO.

2.10 Assistant Deputy Minister Janine Griffore, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

Ms. Janine Griffore, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MCTU), expressed her pleasure at being asked to participate in the MNO's 20th anniversary AGA. She recognized the significant achievements of the MNO over the past 20 years and congratulated the Assembly on that important milestone.

She said that Aboriginal education remained a key priority for the learning Ministries. The Aboriginal Education Office remained focused on reaching two (2) primary objectives by 2016: continue to improve academic achievement for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students by closing existing achievement gaps; and, raising the awareness and knowledge of all students and people on the First Nation, Métis and Inuit histories, perspectives and cultures. Ms. Griffore indicated that as the Ministry moved forward, collaboration with its Métis partners was critical in being able to achieve those goals. Mr. Ernest Gatien, Councilor – Region 4, PCMNO, presented Ms. Griffore with a gift, on behalf of the MNO.

2.11 Ms. Hilary Thatcher, Ontario Power Authority

Ms. Hilary Thatcher, Ontario Power Authority (OPA), thanked the MNO and President Lipinski, for inviting OPA and the Ministry of Energy to facilitate a dialogue on long-term energy planning. There were 125 participants in attendance, including 47 youth representatives. The discussion focused on Métis perspectives on nuclear, wind and solar energy and focused as well as collaboration. The participants discussed design programs and plans and recognized and

supported the various regional needs. The participants recognized that working together as a collective Nation would create a better plan.

Ms. Thatcher congratulated the MNO on their 20th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of the *Powley* decision and looked forward to the next 20 years. She said that she would soon be starting at the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs as the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of Aboriginal Relations and Partnerships. She said that in her new position, she will continue to work towards meeting the needs of Métis people across the province. Mr. Cam Burgess, Councilor – Region 2, PCMNO presented Ms. Thatcher with a gift, on behalf of the MNO.

2.12 President Clement Chartier, Métis National Council

President Clement Chartier, Métis National Council (MNC) congratulated the MNO on its 20th anniversary. He noted that had had the privilege of being at the first organizing meetings of the MNO. He stated that it was also the 30th anniversary of the founding of the MNC. President Chartier said that he was impressed by the progress made between the MNO and the provincial government over the past few years and he hoped that progress continued.

He said that the 10th anniversary of the *Powley* decision marked a significant victory in the Supreme Court of Canada that Métis took great pride in throughout the Homeland. President Chartier noted that was two (2) other significant court cases, including the *Daniels* case and the *Manitoba Métis Federation* (MMF) case. Those cases would strengthen the Métis rightful place in Canada.

On April 29, 2013, the MNC renewed the five-year Métis Nation Protocol with the federal government. Significant work had been accomplished under that protocol and the MNC expects even more will be accomplished within the next five years. In July 2013, the Métis Nation received a commitment from the five (5) Premiers of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, to continue to work with the Métis Nation leadership, both at the officials level and Ministerial level to fulfill the previous commitment of drafting a National Métis Economic Development Strategy.

President Chartier mentioned that at the MNC AGA in December 2010, a resolution was passed to adopt a Métis Nation constitution. Work continues on the development of the constitution, through the Métis Rights Panel and it was anticipated that the constitution would be adopted at the upcoming Assembly in December 2013. Ms. Juliette Denis, Councilor – Region 5, PCMNO presented President Chartier with a gift, on behalf of the MNO.

2.13 President Bruce Dumont, Métis Nation British Columbia

President Bruce Dumont, Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) thanked the MNO for the invitation to participate in the 20th anniversary celebrations on behalf of . He acknowledged the Elders, Senators and Veterans, the Métis Citizens and families, dignitaries and PCMNO.

He stated that Métis faced similar challenges regardless of where they lived; Métis were resilient and persistent and although the government now called Métis people “constitutional Indians”, Métis would forever be Métis. He brought greetings on behalf of the MNBC Citizens, staff and Board of Directors.

President Dumont said that he brought a special gift for President Lipinski. He said that about 2 years ago, he and his wife were driving down Vancouver Island, when they saw an eagle get hit by a passing vehicle. President Dumont and his wife picked the eagle up and brought it to the animal rescue centre. Unfortunately, the 4-year old bald eagle did not survive and it was only recently that he and his wife were able to get the body of the eagle back. He said that the presentation of an eagle feather was an important procedure. He noted that the Creator chose the eagle to be a leader and the eagle had a spiritual connection to the Creator. The eagle feather was sacred and caused the Creator to take immediate action. The eagle flies higher and has sharper vision than any other bird. The wings of an eagle represent balance and the feathers represent wisdom; love; respect; bravery; honesty; humility; and, truth. President Dumont also made a yellow cedar cradle for the eagle feather and his wife made a beaded hide covering for the feather. President Dumont presented President Lipinski with an eagle feather on behalf of the MNBC.

President Lipinski said that he was both honoured and humbled by the presentation of the eagle feather. He said it has been an honour to work with President Dumont and his colleagues to advance issues of the Métis Nation. Mr. Peter Rivers, Region 9 – Councilor, PCMNO, presented President Dumont with a gift, on behalf of the MNO.

2.14 President Audrey Poitras, Métis Nation of Alberta

President Audrey Poitras, Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) recognized the Veterans, Senators, Elders, President Lipinski, PCMNO, dignitaries, youth and friends. She brought greetings on behalf of the MNA. She said that it was an honour working with her colleagues at the MNO, MNBC and other Métis leadership at the national level as well as in earlier years in moving the Métis Nation forward. She recognized Founding President of the MNO, Tony Belcourt; President Lipinski; and, President Dumont. President Poitras congratulated the MNO on their 20th anniversary and presented President Lipinski with a gift.

President Lipinski thanked the leaders who traveled to Ontario to attend the MNO's 20th AGA and indicated that those partnerships and relationships meant a great deal to the MNO. He also recognized that the MNA had celebrated its 85th AGA earlier that year as well. Mr. Peter Rivers, Region 9 – Councilor, PCMNO presented President Poitras with a gift, on behalf of the MNO.

2.15 Mr. Tony Belcourt, Founding President of the MNO

Mr. Tony Belcourt, Founding President of the MNO, acknowledged the Veterans, Senators, President Lipinski, President Chartier, President Dumont, President Poitras, PCMNO, Ministers and fellow Métis. He said that there were many wonderful stories over the past 20 years that brought pride to the Métis Nation. He noted that there had been incredible progress made not only in Ontario, but also across the country.

Mr. Belcourt stated that in 1981, Métis were arguing for inclusion in Canada's constitution and thanks to Mr. Harry Daniels, "Métis" were listed among First Nations and Inuit within the constitution. However, two (2) important clauses were dropped from the constitution; the equity clause; and, the Aboriginal rights clause. At that time, the Chair of the Métis Commission of the Ontario Métis Association (OMA) rallied everyone in town to attend an Aboriginal Rights Coalition. That meeting grew to 1000 people as First Nations, Métis and Inuit representatives from across the country traveled to Ottawa to attend the meeting to develop a strategy to get the Aboriginal rights clause back into the constitution. Teams were developed that would go to

every provincial and territorial capital to lobby the provincial/territorial governments for support to get the Aboriginal rights clause reinstated.

He mentioned that when the MNO was formed, Métis Citizens came up against entrenched racial discrimination within the Government of Ontario. Métis people were told that they did not exist; that there were no Métis communities within the province; that they did not have a history of place; the government would not recognize or providing funding for Métis people within the province. Mr. Belcourt said that when he heard Premier Wynne's video message, it gave him a sense of pride.

Mr. Belcourt said that it was an honour working with President Lipinski and the PCMNO and he was proud of all of the achievements of the Métis Nation within Ontario. He concluded that recently, he had found a box of the MNO's very first newspaper, simply called "Métis – Volume 1". Some copies had been distributed to delegates and he asked that the Honourable Zimmer provide a copy to Premier Wynne on his behalf.

President Lipinski thanked Mr. Belcourt for his remarks and particularly for his mentorship throughout the years.

Chair Picotte took the opportunity to acknowledge Mr. Pierre Zundel, President, University of Sudbury; Mr. Jim Madder, President, Confederation College; Mr. Clint Davis, Vice President, Aboriginal Affairs, TD Bank Group; Mr. Joseph Boyden, Author; and, Mr. Darryl Sturtevant, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Youth Services for attending the MNO's 20th AGA. She then invited President Lipinski to provide the State of the Nation Address.

3. STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

MNO President Gary Lipinski said that it had been a special morning for him, to listen to all of the speakers and dignitaries. He thanked everyone for their comments and welcomed Citizens, Senators and Veterans to the MNO's 20th AGA. He said that the PCMNO, governing structure and MNO staff were an amazing team to work with in moving Métis issues forward. He said that it was wonderful to have such a large youth contingent in attendance and it was important for the youth to understand the historical foundations that the Métis Nation continues to build upon, so that they could achieve even greater success.

President Lipinski recognized that it was a great success when Métis people held prominent positions within government or industry in order to bring an important message and perspective into discussions. There was a need for the Métis Nation to think about high-level careers within government and industry, including political positions.

He said that the underlying theme of the video presentation from the previous evening was to recognize and celebrate 20 years of success and 20 years of achievement. The MNO would be making copies available, as it will be a good educational tool.

In 2010, "*The Year of the Métis*" was declared by the government, which was significant. In 2012, the federal government also recognized Métis contributions to the War of 1812. He and MNO Veterans President Joseph Paquette were honoured to accept medals on behalf of those Métis veterans in Ontario.

President Lipinski mentioned that the *Powley* case was significant, not only for Métis in Ontario, but also for Métis people across the Homeland. He noted that on November 17, 2008, the signing of the Framework Agreement signified a different way of working with the Ontario government and with partners. The Agreement created cooperative relationships, where benefits such as the New Relationship Fund enabled the development of Consultation Branches and engagement with proponents. Duty to Consult was also occurring across the Regions and the province and was the biggest advancement for Métis rights since *Powley*.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs); Impacts and Benefits Agreements; Relationship Agreements; etc., were being signed and Métis jobs were being created and Métis businesses had greater opportunities. President Lipinski thanked the Ontario Government for working with the MNO on the Framework Agreement. He also noted that the Ontario Government committed \$30M to the Voyageur Development Fund. The Fund provided assistance to Métis citizens to develop business proposals and business plans as well as provided financing. However, there was a need for discussions with the federal government, as the federal government was not making any contribution to the Voyageur Development Fund.

President Lipinski said that the Framework Agreement was also instrumental in helping Métis children in education. In 2009, almost immediately following the signing of the Agreement, then Minister of Education, Kathleen Wynne, signed an MOU with the MNO to reduce the educational gaps between Métis learners and the mainstream.

He mentioned that the MNO's *Statement of Prime Purpose* had two (2) sub-themes; continue to advance the Métis Rights agenda; and, continue to advance social issues. Over the past year, there have been some great successes for the Métis Nation. The MMF had a successful outcome for its land claim case that spanned 30 years in the courts. The *Daniels* case was also significant. The media was saying that Métis were now Indians, however, Citizens went to bed as Métis and when they woke up, they were still Métis. The case was about responsibility and jurisdiction and the MNO had been granted Intervener status for that particular case.

The *Statement of Prime Purpose* also identified economic development as a priority. A presentation would be provided to the Assembly on moving forward with an economic development side to the MNO. The MNO was also looking at ways to create self-sustainability and become less dependent on government funding. It was important to have funding to promote Métis culture, for example, as well as pay down the existing debt.

The MNO has entered into 20-year government contracts to produce 15.3MW of electricity. That particular economic development opportunity had the potential to become a significant nest egg for future generations in the room.

President Lipinski referred participants to the Annual Report that had been distributed with the AGA kits. He encouraged participants to review the Report because it provided detail on the activities of each of the MNO's Branches. He was impressed with the dedication of all of the staff who gave 100% and who were passionate about their jobs. He continued that every Branch had grown throughout the years.

For example, the Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch was now processing 4000 Notices of Projects each year in Ontario; delivered 20 project agreements, representing \$2M in

funding; and, was engaged with 40 proponents. The LRC Branch also included Community Relations and those staff provided assistance directly to communities. They undertook asset mapping and met with Councils and communities across the province to identify needs and determine how the MNO can better support communities.

The Education and Training Branch had provided service to just under 1000 clients over the past year. The Branch helps people to gain the skill sets needed to advance within their career paths. The Employment in Energy project provides specific industry training in the energy field and Navigating Employment Pathways focuses on the tourism and hospitality sector. The Métis Mining Strategy is moving to Ontario and there would be many more employment opportunities in the future.

The Healing and Wellness Branch delivers the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program, as well as Community Wellness. There was a huge growth in client numbers as well as client interventions and the difference could be seen in communities that the MNO served. Work was also being done under Children and Youth Services and around Violence Against Women.

President Lipinski said that the MNO wanted to become a destination where people wanted to be employed; a place where people could be hired at an entry-level position and continue to gain experience to advance within the organization. In the past year, 7 new positions were created; 8 temporary positions were made permanent; and, over 40 jobs were posted. The MNO received 5,300 applications for the jobs posted.

The IT Branch provided technical support for over 150 computers across the province. Website visitors have increased by 30% in the past year, with 105,000 people visiting the site. MNO branding has been completed and the publications that leave the office, including the recent video presentation, were done in-house by MNO staff.

The Infinity Property Services, formerly the Housing Branch, have been making some amazing transitions. The Branch generates revenue that can be used to pay down the debt. Intergovernmental Affairs helped to maintain and build relationships with government partners. The Registry Branch has done some great work as well. The Branch recently hosted a 2-day Forum in Sudbury to meet directly with Citizens regarding issues relating to Harvesting letters. The Registry employed 8 staff and issued 657 Citizen cards this past year; 485 replacement cars; and, processed 722 harvesting applications.

President Lipinski also wanted to compliment the work of the Finance Department and report on the significant progress that has been made. In 2008-09, the MNO had a combined debt of \$4,655,000 and as of March 31, 2013, the MNO was now \$1.4M in debt, which represented a decrease of 70% over the past 5 years.

He reported that it had been a successful year within the MNO and he was 100% certain that the future was very bright for the Métis Nation because of staff and volunteers and everyone working together for the betterment of Métis people.

4. MNO VETERAN'S COUNCIL – MEDAL PRESENTATION

President Joseph Paquette, MNO Veteran's Council, indicated that today was a special day for all Métis Veterans. He stated that in January 1913, a Métis was born in Britt, Ontario. That Métis

eventually enlisted in the Canadian Army and served in WWII. He said that he and the MNOVC were honoured to acknowledge Métis Veteran Alexander Boucher, who was 100 years old and 8 months. President Lipinski presented Métis Veteran Boucher with the Louis Riel Commemorative Medal and accompanying Louis Riel Certificate verifying the medal. Métis Veteran Boucher thanked the Métis Nation for the medal.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chair Picotte referred participants to the AGA Agenda under Tab 2 of the meeting kits and asked for a motion for approval.

It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Tony Belcourt)

That the Agenda for the 20th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario meeting scheduled August 24 – 26, 2013, be approved as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA13-01)

RECESS The Meeting recessed for lunch at 11:26 a.m. and resumed at 1:01 p.m.

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUORUM

Vice-Chair McBride reported that there were 206 registered delegates at the 20th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario. She advised that 103 registered delegates were required to form quorum. She also noted that motions to amend the by-laws required approval by 2/3rds of the registered delegates, which was 137.

7. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Secretary-Treasurer Pile reviewed the motions and resolutions from the Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Derrick Pont)

That the Minutes of the 19th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario be accepted as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA13-02)

7.1 Business Arising From the Minutes

Chair Picotte invited MNO's legal counsel, Mr. Jason Madden to the table to address the outstanding resolutions from the previous AGA. Mr. Madden referred participants to Tab 8 of the meeting kits. Mr. Madden said that in the past year, the PCMNO amended the By-Laws and those amendments needed to be ratified by the Assembly. He also noted that at the previous AGA, two (2) Special Business Resolutions were not addressed because the Assembly did not have quorum. Chair Picotte recognized quorum as there were currently 175 voting delegates in the room.

8. RESOLUTIONS

8.1 Special Business Resolutions

The first resolution incorporated the MNO's *Statement of Prime Purpose* within the MNO By-Laws as an appendix. Based on that resolution, the PCMNO amended the By-Laws to reflect the inclusion of the *Statement of Prime Purpose*. Mr. Madden reviewed the revised changes to the MNO By-Laws dated December 2012.

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES2013-01
Title:	ACCEPTANCE OF MNO BY-LAWS DATED DECEMBER 2012
Mover:	Joanne Young
Seconder:	Guy Mandeville

That the MNO 2013 AGA accept the changes to the By-Laws made by the PCMNO over the last year, as set out in the MNO Secretariat By-laws, dated December 2012. The additions are underlined and bolded as follows:



Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat By-Laws

Two Classes of Membership	of	<u>Both classes of membership commit to uphold and advance the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose, which is attached to these By-laws as Appendix A, as the foundational and guiding principles and aspirations of the MNO.</u>
Purpose and Composition PCMNO	and of	The PCMNO shall <u>make decisions and act in a manner consistent with upholding and advancing the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and shall</u> take its direction from and shall report to the general assembly.
Executive Committee (Officers)		The executive committee <u>will make decisions and act in a manner consistent with upholding and advancing the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and</u> shall have the day-to-day management and administration of the MNO and shall ensure that resolutions and motions passed by the General Assembly and the PCMNO are carried out.
Decision Making		At all meetings of general assembly, citizens shall <u>make decisions consistent with upholding and advancing the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and shall</u> strive to make decisions by consensus.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPECRES2013-01)

Questions and Discussion

Senator Joseph Poitras asked whether the *Statement of Prime Purpose* would have greater significance as a preamble, as opposed to an appendix. Mr. Madden mentioned that in most contracts, preambles were not legally binding. He also noted that as an appendix, the *Statement of Prime Purpose* had no less significance and it was interwoven with several clauses of the By-Laws.

Mr. Madden referred participants to Tab 4 of the meeting kits. He said that the second resolution focused on revisions to MNO Policy #2011-002 *Process for Conducting Special Business at a General Assembly*. Mr. Madden reviewed the proposed changes.

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES2013-02
Title:	TO AMEND MNO POLICY ON ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS
Mover:	Gary Lipinski
Seconded:	France Picotte

WHEREAS the 2012 MNO AGA gave direction that additional clarity be provided in relation to the parameters of non-special business resolutions in order to ensure that non-special business resolutions do not financially bind or compromise the MNO.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that s.34.2 of the MNO By-Laws be amended to add in the underlined and bolded words below:

34.2 Any special **or non-special business resolutions** to be dealt with at a general assembly must comply with the *MNO Policy – Process for Conducting Special Business at a General Assembly* as amended from time to time.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED the *MNO Policy – Process for Conducting Special Business at a General Assembly* (MNO Policy #2011-002) be amended to add in the underlined and bolded words as follows:



**MNO Policy #2011-002
Process for Conducting Special
Business at a General Assembly**

**Background on and
Context for Policy**

For greater certainty, resolutions that do not propose to amend the MNO's foundational principles, by-laws or policies that have not been previously adopted by the general assembly are not special business and are not required to comply with the thirty (30) day notice requirement. Resolutions that are **non-special business** can be put before any general assembly based on the process set out in #5 below.

Process

Annual General Assembly Process

5. At an annual general assembly, the resolutions committee may also receive other resolutions proposed by MNO citizens that are not special business. **These are called non-special business resolutions. These types of resolutions provide general policy and political direction to the MNO. For example, a suitable non-special business resolution could set out a position that the MNO should take on a specific policy issue, encourage the MNO to undertake specific activities to advance the Métis Nation's agenda, provide direction on important political issues at the provincial, national or international levels that affect Ontario Métis, recognize Métis accomplishments, etc. These resolutions cannot be drafted in a way where they financially bind the MNO or make it act in a manner that is inconsistent with existing contractual relationships it already has in place. They also cannot deal with internal and individual staffing and personnel issues. If a proposed non-special business resolution deals with these ineligible issues, the resolution committee shall not present it to the**

general assembly. All non-special business resolutions submitted to the resolutions committee at a general assembly must include the names, signatures and MNO citizenship card numbers of the mover and seconder for the resolution. The mover and seconder of a resolution that is non-special business must be in attendance when the resolution is brought to the floor for vote by the assembly. As a guide to MNO citizens, a sample resolution that is non-special business is attached to this policy as Annex B.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPECRES2013-02)

9. APPOINTMENT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Resolutions Committee would accept resolutions until noon on Sunday, August 25, 2013. The Committee would then review the resolutions and bring the compliant resolutions to the Assembly for consideration.

It was MOVED (Peter Rivers) and SECONDED (Thomas Thompson)

That the Resolutions Committee for the 20th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario scheduled August 24 – 26, 2013, 2013 be comprised of Senator Ray Bergie; Pauline Saulnier; and, Mitchell Case.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA13-03)

Questions and Discussion

The question was raised as to whether there were any additional delegates interested in sitting on the Resolutions Committee, however, there were none.

7.1 Business Arising From the Minutes (Cont'd)

The question was raised as to the status of the MNO Election Reform. Chair Picotte indicated that in the front pocket of the meeting kits was a document entitled “*Métis Nation of Ontario Election Reform Report*” dated August 22, 2013. The report included a summary of recommendations developed by the Chief Electoral Officer and Process Review Committee. The Committee was working towards amending the MNO Electoral Code and would table the proposed amendments at the 2014 AGA. The Committee was still looking for additional comments and suggestions before tabling a final version in 2014 for AGA approval and those should be forwarded as soon as possible.

10. MÉTIS RIGHTS UPDATE

10.1 National Overview

Ms. Jean Teillet provided an update on Métis Law activity for 2012 – 2013. She provided an overview of the following cases:

- *Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Case* – The Honour of the Crown;
- *Daniels Case* – Federal or Provincial Responsibility;
- New Brunswick Cases – No Evidence of Métis in New Brunswick;
- *Legrande* – No Aboriginal Right to hunt in a wildlife sanctuary;
- *Langan* – No Historic Métis community in San Clara, Manitoba prior to effective control;
- *Beer* – Métis Right to harvest wood without a permit;
- *Bellrose* – No tax exemption for Métis elected officials under the *Income Tax Act*;

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- *Hirse Korn* – Hunting & Mobility;
 - *Cunningham* – Are Métis “Indians”?;
 - *Tsillhqot’in Nation* – Aboriginal Title;
 - *O’Sullivan Lake Outfitters* – Incidental cabins; and,
 - *Moulton Contracting Ltd.* – Individuals require authorization of Aboriginal collection to assert rights in court.

RECESS The Meeting recessed for break at 2:43 p.m. and resumed at 2:59 p.m.

10.2 Ontario Issues

Mr. Madden provided an overview of cases and issues that impacted Ontario, including:

- Ontario’s Harvesting Agreement;
- Evolution and movement of Métis case law, i.e. how *Hirse Korn* was connected to *Powley* and *Goodon*, etc.;
- *Powley*;
- Broader impacts of the *MMF Case*; and,
- *R. v. Blais*.

Questions and Discussion

A participant mentioned that his Community Council was entering into discussions with regional developers and proponents wanted to determine the Métis population of particular areas. Mr. Madden said that communities should not be providing Métis populations for specific communities, however, regional populations could be shared. It was important that Métis populations were not tied into a localized community.

The question was raised as to whether or not advance notice was required for an amendment to the MNO Harvesters Cards resolution passed at the 2012 AGA. Mr. Madden indicated that the MNO Harvesters Cards resolution was not a special business resolution, so another resolution could be introduced that would overturn the 2012 resolution.

A participant from Region 3 indicated that they met a lot of individuals from Quebec who were inquiring about harvesting rights within Quebec. Mr. Madden stated that a litigation case was occurring in Quebec, however, it was not near the Ontario Region. He also noted that the MNO’s jurisdiction was Ontario. Ms. Teillet added that when discussing Métis communities, Métis were not bound by provincial boundaries and Métis lived within the watersheds. It could be possible that Métis populations in Ontario flowed into Quebec. The issue of whether or not those individuals had rights within Ontario, depended on whether or not they were connected to Ontario Métis.

A participant asked what impact the *Daniels* case would have on education funding for postsecondary education, for example. Ms. Teillet responded that the best result would be that Métis fell under federal jurisdiction, however, Métis did not want the federal government to define who the Métis were; that decision should be left to Métis.

Mr. Art Bennett, Captain of the Hunt, Region 4, said that there were many Harvesters that came from Drummond Island and migrated from the mainland to St. Joseph’s Island; Nestorville; Thessalon; etc. and were there for generations. The Registry Office needed to be aware that Harvesters with Drummond Island ancestry, also had ancestry in the North Shore and Lake

Huron. Ms. Teillet said that the Harvesting areas needed work and the MNO was hopeful that *Hirse Korn* would be helpful in addressing some of the mobility issues, which would help to resolve some of the Harvesting territory issues. The MNO was trying to address those issues through the courts; doing research; and, traditional studies.

A participant indicated that her family came from the Red River and she asked how they could become involved with the *MMF* case, since her family now lived in Ontario. Ms. Teillet responded that the MMF would be negotiating with Canada and Manitoba about the land issue and compensation. She noted that one of the first steps that occurred in land claim agreements was the identification of beneficiaries, which would take years. She believed that that process was ten (10) years down the road.

Chair Picotte thanked Ms. Teillet and Mr. Madden for their presentation and thanked the participants for their questions.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The 20th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 24 – 26, 2013 adjourned on Day 1 – August 24, 2013 at 3:59 p.m. and agreed to reconvene on Day 2 – August 25, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

DAY 2 – SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2013
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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

The 20th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 24 – 26, 2013 reconvened on Day 2 – August 25, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

11. OPENING REMARKS

Chair Picotte welcomed the participants back to the meeting and provided an overview of the previous day's activities.

12. OUR YOUTH – OUR FUTURE PRESENTATION

President Lipinski said that at the 2011 AGA, the Assembly passed a resolution to develop its own report on Métis Child and Family Services issues, because a report on Aboriginal child welfare had been developed for the provincial government and "Métis" had not even been considered. The MNO's report was tabled with and well received by the Government of Ontario.

Following that resolution, the MNO was able to move forward on a new process with the Aboriginal Leadership Round Table Council and there was a solid commitment to include Métis and First Nations as the process moved forward.

He encouraged delegates to look at the children and youth posters in the front pocket of the meeting kits. President Lipinski stated that that was an area where everyone could play a role; people did not have to wait for the head office or the Branches or Community Councils to take the lead; individuals could make a difference in the lives of children and youth. He had an opportunity to meet with the Youth Council and those youth were also in a position to be role models to younger children and youth.

Each person in the room could make a significant difference in someone's life. He encouraged the participants to look beyond their own children and include other children from the community in family activities. Children need support and encouragement, especially in the early years. It could be something simple like inviting your children's friends on a family fishing trip. Children and youth need to make it a priority to graduate from high school and pursue postsecondary education. President Lipinski stated that if the Métis Nation can make a difference with children and youth, Métis will go much further. He continued that if the Métis Nation wanted to address so many social determinants of health that was the group to help now. Children and youth will change the future; they will have a good education; a good job; a good house; and, good health.

President Lipinski invited Ms. Wenda Watteyne, Director, Healing and Wellness Branch and Ms. Jen St. Germain, Director, Employment and Training Branch to provide an overview of the PowerPoint presentation entitled "*Update on Children and Youth*". The presentation focused on the following: Métis Child and Family Issues; Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy; Programming Priorities; Leadership Development; Transitions to the workforce; Supporting Students; and, Connecting with Culture.

President Lipinski thanked Ms. Watteyne and Ms. Germain for their presentation. He added that the government was moving to change reference to "Indians" within the Child Act to include "Métis" as well. He encouraged participants to provide ideas and suggestions to MNO staff on how to encourage and support Métis children and youth.

13. ADVANCING PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

13.1 Announcement on MNO Economic Development Partnership

President Lipinski said that since its inception, the MNO has wanted to be economically self-sufficient and develop prosperity. The MNO has reached a milestone and now has a successful business project underway.

Ontario's *Green Energy Act* provided funding for the Aboriginal Loans Guarantee Program. The Program provided \$30-40M for Aboriginal community programs that supported the *Green Energy Act*. The MNO was able to partner with a proven company that was already administering a number of solar projects. The MNO formed the MNO Solar Company for the purposes of the project and entered into a limited partnership with BrightRoof Solar. The MNO-BrightRoof Solar LP applied for and was successful in securing a number of projects under the Feed-In-Tariff (FIT) program. The MNO, with its partner, will produce and develop solar contracts to produce 15.3MW of electricity, which will generate revenues and profits.

The MNO will be creating a separate Economic Development Branch that will be able to recapitalize revenue to meet priorities determined by the Assembly. The new Branch will also not conflict with the political and administrative side of the MNO, such as the MNO being able to keep its not-for-profit status. President Lipinski said that it was an exciting time.

13.2 Adopting an MNO Economic Development Policy: Advancing Métis Economic Development at the Local, Regional and Provincial Levels

Mr. Madden referred participants to Tab 7 of the meeting kits to the "*Advancing Prosperity & Economic Self-Sufficiency*" document. He provided an overview of the document. He then referred participants to the document entitled, "*Métis Nation of Ontario – Prosperity and Self-*

Sufficiency Law’ marked draft and dated August 22, 2013. Mr. Madden reviewed the clauses within the document.

Questions and Discussion

Mr. Rick Paquette, Niagara Region Métis Council, believed that the new policy would affect Community Councils and Consultation Committees. He asked if policies would be developed to mitigate dispute resolutions, for example. Mr. Madden said that currently, there were no existing opportunities, however, Section 21 spoke to that issue specifically. He stated that what the *Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law* did was to create a framework to enable those future discussions to occur; it did not presume or determine those future discussions. It was also important to create a structure with the capacity and expertise in economic development that was separate from the MNO Secretariat.

Mr. Robert Giroux, Sudbury Métis Council commented that Community Councils also needed to benefit from the MNO’s economic development opportunities. He said that more and more work was being asked of Regional Representatives and Presidents, however, those positions were not paid positions. Often the work of those positions required a full-time commitment, however, many people who held those positions worked full-time. President Lipinski said that the point made was valid and one often heard from many leaders within the MNO. He supposed the model because a large percentage of revenue generated was earmarked for governance, which would include supporting Community Councils and Regional Councilors.

Mr. Robert Bird, Toronto and York Region Métis Council, asked if there would be an independent management position within the Limited Partnership that reported directly to the Board of Directors and the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the MNO. Mr. Madden responded that the Limited Partnership would create an Audit Committee and Finance Committee, however, it would not report directly to the MNO COO. There was a need for the MNO to remain at arm’s length from the Limited Partnership because the MNO would not control the business partnership.

Mr. Bird referenced Sections 25 and 34 and noted that the word “*will*” was used in Section 25 and the word “*shall*” were used in Section 34. He believed that the law should use consistent terminology. Mr. Madden said that “*will*” would be changed to “*shall*” throughout the document.

Mr. Madden mentioned that the MNO was attempting to use law because the MNO, as a legislative body, could pass laws; not only policies. He noted that passing laws was more consistent with a self-government approach that the MNO was moving towards. Mr. Madden continued that the laws would operate the way as the policies and any changes would need to be done by special business resolution.

Ms. Juliette Denis, Councilor – Region 5, PCMNO stated that she supported the proposed structure, however, she was concerned that the potential existed to have two (2) parallel processes in place because of the existing Economic Development Corporations. She said that it would be beneficial to address Sections 24 and 26 as soon as possible; before opportunities were identified. Mr. Madden commented that he hoped that the law had enough checks and balances in place where that situation would not occur. He acknowledged that there was a need to address the remaining Community Council Corporations as soon as possible.

Senator Joseph Poitras said that he would be supporting the document, although he had some concerns. He wanted to ensure that the economic development corporation did not have so much latitude that they entered into partnerships contrary to MNO's vision. He also suggested that in Section 43, the words "acted upon" be revised to "implemented". Mr. Madden stated that the Assembly just passed by-law changes that incorporated the MNO's *Statement of Prime Purpose* and any companies or corporations the MNO economic development corporation invested in would be consistent with the *Statement of Prime Purpose*. He said that he believed that the current law included mechanisms that would ensure the development corporation stayed true to the *Statement of Prime Purpose*.

Mr. Jesse Lafleur, Toronto and York Region Métis Council asked how the law would affect Métis entrepreneurs. He also asked whether the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) would be broadened to also provide funding for entrepreneurs, as opposed to only the resource industry. Mr. Madden clarified that the law had nothing to do with Métis entrepreneurs. Individuals could still bid on contracts at any time. However, the law would be applicable for opportunities specifically designated in communities. He added that the MVDF was currently restricted to providing funding to resource businesses, however, a resolution would be coming forward that called upon the federal government to contribute to the MVDF. Mr. Lafleur suggested that letters be sent to Members of Parliament as part of a lobbying effort to secure a federal contribution for the MVDF.

Mr. Andy Lefebvre, Timmins Métis Council referred to Section 26 and asked how the law would apply to those communities that secured region-specific funding. For example, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, provided by FedNor, was northern-specific. Mr. Madden said that there was a need for mutual agreement on behalf of the MNO and Community Council when consolidating an existing community economic development corporation under the MNO's new economic development structure. He noted that Infinity Trust applied to future partnerships.

8. RESOLUTIONS (CONT'D)

8.2 Non-Special Business Resolutions

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2013-ECDEVLAW
Title:	MNO PROSPERITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY LAW
Mover:	Louise Goulding
Seconder:	Senator Rene Gravelle

WHEREAS one of the fundamental objectives of the MNO, as set out in its Statement of Prime Purpose, is to develop prosperity and economic self-sufficiency for Métis citizens, Métis communities and the Métis Nation—as a whole—within Ontario;

AND WHEREAS successive Annual General Assemblies have provided direction to the MNO to establish business structures and processes in order to maximize effectiveness, efficiency and success in pursuing Métis economic development opportunity at the local, regional and provincial levels;

AND WHEREAS based on this direction, the MNO has sought and obtained expert corporate, legal and tax advice on how to best structure and implement an economic development model

that achieves the abovementioned objective and direction;

AND WHEREAS the MNO is now in a position to successfully explore, access and benefit from economic opportunities that are available to it at the local, regional and provincial levels throughout Ontario;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in furtherance of the advancement of Métis prosperity and economic self- sufficiency, the MNO adopts the MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2013-ECDEVLAW)

RECESS The Meeting recessed for break at 10:45 a.m. and resumed at 11:00 a.m.

14. FINANCIAL UPDATE

14.1 Treasurer's Update

Secretary-Treasurer Pile referred participants to the "*Métis Nation of Ontario Financial Statements For the Years Ended March 31, 2013, March 31, 2012 and as at April 1, 2011*". He said that the MNO had decreased its debt once again and also had an unqualified financial statement for the audit. Secretary-Treasurer Pile said that it was important that Community Councils remained diligent in keeping their financial records in order and providing financial statements to the MNO by April 30 to ensure accountability to the MNO Secretariat.

14.2 Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2013

Ms. Judie McKenney, Director of Finance, MNO provided an overview of the Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2013. The overview focused on the following: Steps Taken to Strengthen MNO Financially; Activities During the Year; Current Financial Position; and, Debt Repayment & Net Assets Deficiency.

14.3 Approval of the 2012/2013 Audit

Mr. Randy Tivy, Collins Barrow Brown, reviewed the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2013.

Questions and Discussion

Mr. Robert Bird commented that on page 11, alphabetical order was used when listing the Community Councils, however, on pages 5 and 19, alphabetical order was not used. He also referred to page 17, item 5 and asked whether the number of shares could be listed as well for Detour Gold. He asked whether there was anything related to Detour Gold with respect to cash, income or revenue that could be included under "Other Assets".

Mr. Tivy said that with respect to disclosure, the MNO could disclose as much information as they wanted with respect to Detour Gold. He said that the detail provided was adequate disclosure from the auditor's point of view. President Lipinski said that Regions were moving towards the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and Impact and Benefits Agreements (IBAs) with private companies and proponents to enter into discussions and negotiations. Often, those agreements had confidentiality clauses and the level of detail of number of shares, for example, could not be shared.

It was MOVED (Joseph Poitras) and SECONDED (Joanne Young)

That the 20th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario approved the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2013.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA13-04)

14.4 Appointment of the Auditor

It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Steve Callaghan)

That the 20th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario appoint the accounting firm of Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants as the MNO Auditors for the Year Ended March 31, 2014.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA13-05)

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNMENT

The 20th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 24 – 26, 2013 adjourned on Day 2 – August 25, 2013 at 12:10 p.m. and agreed to reconvene on Day 3 – August 26, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

DAY 3 – MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2013
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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

The 20th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 24 – 26, 2013 reconvened on Day 3 – August 26, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

15. OPENING REMARKS

Chair Picotte welcomed the participants to the final day of the 20th AGA and provided an overview of the previous day's activities.

16. UPDATES

16.1 Senator's Report

Senator Reta Gordon asked for a moment of silence and prayer for those beloved Citizens who were no longer with them and also for their loved ones who, due to illness, could not be with them at the AGA.

She reported that MNO Senators had a number of functions, including representing the MNO on various committees and sharing Métis knowledge and culture. She had canvassed 13 Senators to assist her with the Senator's Report and learned that in just one month, collectively, the Senators had attended 86 functions. In addition, the Senators sat on 41 different committees. She acknowledged that there were 25 Council Senators; 6 Honourary Senators; and, 4 PCMNO Senators. Senator Gordon stated that the Senators were volunteers and served as invaluable ambassadors of the Métis Nation. She asked the Senators to stand so that the Assembly could acknowledge them. Senator Gordon thanked the Citizens, PCMNO and staff for their continued support.

8. RESOLUTIONS (CONT'D)

8.2 Non-Special Business Resolutions (Cont'd)

Ms. Pauline Saulnier introduced the Resolutions Committee and indicated that the Mover must read the resolution into the record and once seconded by the Seconder, the Chair would recognize the resolution.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2013-01
Title:	MÉTIS NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL
Mover:	Mitchell Case
Seconder:	Brianne Gosselin

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario has long made great strides in bringing Youth into the MNO;

AND WHEREAS it is critical to the future of the Métis Nation that Youth are informed and involved in the governance across the homeland to help strengthen the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS building strong relationships with Youth from other Métis governments across the homeland helps strengthen the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS the National Métis Youth Advisory Council collapsed a number of years ago due to lack of funding;

AND WHEREAS the 2013 Métis National Council AGA passed a unanimous resolution to direct the MNC to seek out to restart this important forum for Métis Youth;

AND WHEREAS the MNOYC has been working very hard to establish the credibility of the Youth Council and is as such well positioned to take a leadership role in the National Youth Council.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly of 2013 direct the PCMNO, Métis Nation of Ontario Executive and Secretariat to work with the Métis National Council to show the Métis Nation of Ontario's support for re-establishing the Métis National Youth Advisory Council.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2013-01)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2013-02
Title:	YOUTH INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION
Mover:	Thomas A. Thompson
Seconder:	Mark Thompson

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario has long made inclusion of Youth in the Annual General Assembly a priority;

AND WHEREAS it is critical to the future of the Métis Nation of Ontario that Youth are involved and informed in the governance of the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS participation and inclusion in all sessions of Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly is the best way to understand the structures and practices of the governance systems;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly of 2013 direct the Provisional Council of Métis Nation of Ontario, the Métis Nation of Ontario Executive and the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat to work to have all documents available to the Youth delegates of the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that children of citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario be recognized as full participants for all purposes of the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly, other than voting.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2013-02)

Questions and Discussion

Mr. Madden proposed a friendly amendment of “*full participants*” vs. “*citizens*” in the final paragraph. The mover and seconder accepted the amendment.

The concern was raised that the resolution may open the door for Métis children to be participating in Presidents’ Meetings, Senators’ Meetings, etc. Mr. Madden said that many Citizens attended the AGA as full participants, however, they did not participate on the Senators’ Council, for example.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2013-03
Title:	MNO BOUNDARY RELATED ISSUES
Mover:	Cameron Burgess
Seconder:	Theresa Stenlund

WHEREAS Métis rights are based on the facts of history that Ontario Métis communities lived, used and relied on traditional territories prior to Canada becoming Canada;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Métis communities continue to rely on these traditional territories to sustain their identify, culture and way of life;

AND WHEREAS one of the MNO’s most important objectives is to protect and advance Métis rights and self-government;

AND WHEREAS when the MNO initially created its nine MNO Regions in 1993, these were created for administrative and self-government purposes – not rights claims;

AND WHEREAS the MNO Harvesting Policy that was adopted in 1996, which includes the identification of Métis harvesting areas, is based on Métis rights assertions;

AND WHEREAS in 2008, for the purposes of Crown consultation, the MNO established Regional Consultation Protocol areas, which are also based on Métis rights assertions;

AND WHEREAS the boundaries the MNO has identified for administrative purposes (i.e., MNO Region) and for rights purposes (i.e., Harvesting Areas, Regional Consultation Protocol Areas) are not one in the same;

AND WHEREAS over the last decade the MNO has undertaken additional historic research, traditional land use studies, genealogical research, etc. that provides a better understanding of the geography of Métis communities, Métis traditional territories and Métis rights claims;

AND WHEREAS it has become apparent that in some areas of the province there are shared territories and overlap where Regional Consultation Protocols may be required to work together in order to ensure Métis rights are respected and protected;

AND WHEREAS the MNO's current Consultation Model does not include mechanisms or processes to address shared territory or overlap issues that will allow for Regional Consultation Protocols to work through these issues with the support of the LRC Branch;

AND WHEREAS there is a need to review the MNO's current rights-based boundaries, based on additional historic research, traditional land use studies, genealogical research, etc. that has been gathered, as the MNO continues to move forward on advancing Métis rights and claims in Ontario;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the MNO AGA direct the MNO, subject to securing funding, to hold a 2-3 day workshop with PCMNO and Community Councils to better understand and discuss the administrative and rights-based boundaries within the MNO and discuss how the MNO can be better positioned to advance Métis rights in the future;
2. That based on the outcomes of the abovementioned workshop that the MNO move forward on putting shared territory/overlap arrangements and/or agreements in place between Regional Consultation Protocols in order to avoid disagreements or disputes that undermine the MNO's collective work or the credibility of the MNO in the eyes of government and proponents; and,
3. That based on the abovementioned workshop and shared territory/overlap work that the MNO report to the next MNO AGA on progress.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2013-03)

Questions and Discussion

Mr. Ernie Gatién, Councilor – Region 4, PCMNO suggested a friendly amendment to remove the word “back” from item 3. The mover and seconder accepted the amendment.

The concern was raised that the Regional Consultation Teams could potentially be comprised of a large number of representatives. Mr. Madden stated that the assumption was that entire

Community Councils would not be participating, however, perhaps 1 – 2 representatives from each Council would be participating. Each Council would send an appropriate representative that could speak to the workshop topics.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2013-04
Title:	CONSULTATION ISSUES
Mover:	Pauline Saulnier
Seconded:	Larry Duval

WHEREAS, since 2008, the MNO has developed and implemented its own consultation framework, which includes MNO, Community Councils (as set out below) and the MNO Land, Resources and Consultation Branch, working together through Regional Consultation Committee processes as set out in negotiated and signed Protocols;

AND WHEREAS Métis rights are collective rights and the MNO consultation framework is mandated by MNO citizens and Community Councils to ensure regional rights-bearing Métis communities are meaningfully consulted and accommodated;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada has recognized that Aboriginal communities can establish and mandate their own consultation structures, regardless of government positions or approaches;

AND WHEREAS other levels of government continue to attempt to impose their own site-specific approach to consultation, which MNO citizens, Community Councils and the MNO rejects;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the MNO President once again write to other levels of government to set out the MNO position on these issues to ensure it is respected;
2. That the MNO continue to apply to New Relationship Fund based on the existing mandates and authorizations within the MNO, as set out in the negotiated and signed Regional Consultation Protocols; and,
3. That the MNO work to develop additional plain speak documents for Regional Consultation Protocol Committees to explain the MNO consultation model to government and industry.

Listing of MNO Community Councils:

1. Northwest Métis Nation of Ontario Council
2. Kenora Métis Community Council
3. Sunset Country Métis Council
4. Atikokan Métis Council
5. Greenstone Council
6. Superior North Shore Métis Council

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7. Thunder Bay Métis Council
 8. Chapleau Métis Council
 9. Northern Lights Métis Council
 10. Temiskaming Métis Council
 11. Métis Nation of Ontario – Timmins
 12. Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council
 13. North Channel Métis Council
 14. Sudbury Métis Council
 15. North Bay Métis Council
 16. Mattawa Métis Council
 17. Ottawa Regional Métis Council
 18. High Land Waters Métis Council
 19. Georgian Bay Métis Council
 20. Great Lakes Métis Council
 21. Moon River Métis Council
 22. Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council
 23. Grand River Métis Council
 24. Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council
 25. Toronto and York Region Métis Council
 26. Niagara Region Métis Council
 27. Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council
 28. Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council
 29. Credit River Métis Council

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2013-04)

Questions and Discussion

Ms. Theresa Stenlund, Councilor – Region 1, PCMNO agreed that the LRC supported Community Councils, however, Councils still struggled financially and there was a need for a commitment to increase those funds. Mr. Madden said that a 2-3 workshop would be occurring and one of the topics should be funding related issues. He noted that the resolution provided the mandate for the MNO Secretariat to apply for funding for the workshop so that those types of discussions could occur.

The following amendments were suggested to the resolution:

- 1st paragraph, revise “*as set put below*” to “*as set out below*”;
- Item 1, revise “*its*” to “*it is*”;
- Item 2, insert “*in*” to “*as set out [in] the negotiated ...*” ;
- Listing of MNO Community Councils
 - “*Sunset Métis Council*” should read “*Sunset Country Métis Council*”;
 - “*Atikokan and Area Métis Council*” should be revised to “*Atikokan Métis Council*”;
 - “*Oshawa/Durham Métis Council*” should be revised to “*Oshawa & Durham Region Métis Council*”;
 - Delete item 23 because it is a repeat of item 23; and,
 - Insert “*Credit River Métis Council*” into item 29.

The amendments were accepted by the mover and seconder.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2013-05
Title:	LONG TERM ENERGY PLAN
Mover:	Ernest M. Gatien
Seconder:	Robert Bird

WHEREAS the MNO is very supportive of the First Nation and Métis community participation and partnership commitments in Ontario's current Long-Term Energy Plan;

AND WHEREAS it is the MNO's position that any future LTEP should strengthen the participation and partnership commitments made to First Nations and Métis, as a means to align government, ratepayers, industry, First Nation and Métis interests in Ontario's energy sector;

AND WHEREAS, while some industry partners, have recognized that these commitments are made to both First Nations and Métis communities, others have interpreted them to only apply to First Nations;

AND WHEREAS this has been particularly the case in relation to Hydro One and Ontario Power Generation, which have mainly focused on pursuing participation and partnerships with only First Nations to date;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the MNO work to encourage the ongoing pursuit and development of a green energy economy in Ontario, which includes First Nation and Métis communities as partners;
2. That the MNO work to ensure that in any LTEP update, the commitments to First Nation and Métis for participation and partnership be strengthened and enhanced (i.e., referring to First Nation and Métis — not "Aboriginal", creating Métis set aside targets in RFP processes, identifying geographically proximate Métis communities for discussions, etc.); and,
3. That the MNO President write to the Minister of Energy, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Hydro One and Ontario Power Generation, outlining Métis concerns about the perceived lack of Métis participation and partnership opportunities pursued by Ontario's energy corporations.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2013-05)

Questions and Discussion

The following friendly amendments were suggested:

- 2nd paragraph be revised to read "*...as a means to align government, ratepayers, industry, ...*"; and,
- Item 3 be revised to read "*...Minister of Energy, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Hydro One ...*".

The amendments were accepted by the mover and seconder.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2013-06
Title:	FEDERAL MÉTIS CLAIMS POLICY
Mover:	Theresa Stenlund
Seconded:	Mitchell Case

WHEREAS the courts continue to send ongoing direction to the Federal Government that there are outstanding Métis claims, which require negotiation and agreements with Métis governments;

AND WHEREAS Métis continue to be excluded from all Federal claims processes that have been established for First Nations and Inuit, despite the fact that the Federal Government has constitutional responsibility for Métis;

AND WHEREAS in the words of the Supreme Court of Canada, the “time has come” to honourably deal with the rights, claims and interests of the Métis;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO President write to the Federal Government that a Métis claims negotiation process be put in place in order to uphold the Honour of the Crown and achieve the promise of s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2013-06)

Questions and Discussion

Ms. Joanne Young asked if the process was still possible if the case was appealed. Mr. Madden believed that it did not matter because there were already existing cases, like the *MMF case* and *Powley* where harvesting rights had been recognized. The MNO needed to write to the government with respect to Métis claims and that the MNO also write to the MNC to push Métis claims forward at the national level.

The mover and seconder accepted the amendment of revising “*Honour to the Crown*” to “*Honour of the Crown*” in the last paragraph.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2013-07
Title:	FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION TO MÉTIS VOYAGEUR DEVELOPMENT FUND
Mover:	Mitchell Case
Seconded:	Ernest M. Gatien

WHEREAS Ontario has committed \$30 million over 10 years to support Métis businesses in the Province through the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF);

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government has provided absolutely no support to date to the MVDF, despite the fact that it has invested significant funds with other Métis capital corporations and the reality that the Ontario Métis population is the second largest in Canada;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO calls upon the Federal Government to work with MNO and MVDF to ensure a meaningful and equitable investment is made in Ontario to promote Métis economic development and businesses.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2013-07)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2013-08
Title:	MODIFICATION OF AGA-RES2012-003 TITLED MNO HARVESTERS CARDS
Mover:	Daniel Boulard
Seconded:	Lorenzo Prevost

WHEREAS current Harvester Card Holders are citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario and are part of the history in fighting for harvesting rights and in supporting, directly or indirectly, the *Powley* case;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Article 1:

Subsection “b” be changed to:

- b. The MNO Harvester Cardholder has until November 30, 2015, to ensure that his or her Harvester Card file is complete;

Subsection “c” be changed to:

- c. If the Harvester’s file is not completed prior to November 30, 2015, the Harvester’s Card will be cancelled and provided to the next MNO citizen on the list who has a completed MNO Harvester Card file that has been waiting for one of the MNO’s 1250 cards;

Section “e” be changed to:

- e. If their Harvester’s Card is cancelled on November 30, 2015, they will be able to re-apply for a MNO Harvester’s Card in the future once their file is complete and if MNO Harvester’s Cards are available for issuance;

Addition of subsection “h”:

- h. The MNO continue to negotiate to remove the 1250 cap, with intent to not cancel current Harvester Card holders, because they have been the founding Métis Citizens in the fight for harvesting rights.

RESOLUTION DEFEATED (AGA-RES2013-08)

In Favour – 9
Opposed – 130

Questions and Discussion

Mr. Daniel Boulard, Sudbury Métis Council, stated that the original resolution indicated that letters would be sent out to all Harvesters affected by the resolution, by November 2012. Mr. Boulard wanted to know how many members were affected and how many letters were sent out. He said that the MNO was also directed to attempt to secure funding to provide community workshops to assist MNO Harvester Card holders and he also wanted to know if those workshops occurred.

Mr. Boulard said that in Sudbury, many families were affected and many Harvesters were contacted only 2 days before a workshop on the issue was held in the Sudbury area. He stated that more time was needed when passing such a significant resolution. The people being affected by the resolution were Métis. Those were the same Harvesters that participated in the French River community hunt; harvested moose for the Louis Riel supper in Toronto; harvested for Elders and communities that were unable to harvest. Those Harvesters were part of history.

The *Powley* case took 10 years to fight, yet Harvesters only received one year to get their documentation in order. He said that there was not enough time or resources provided to properly assess the effects of the resolution. Mr. Boulard said that he would not support a resolution that disrespected the rights of any Métis Citizen. He stated that there were 600 Métis in Sudbury who were affected by the resolution and if it was only one Métis affected, that would be too many.

Mr. Boulard said that he was a Sudbury Métis; a Harvester; and, a Métis entrepreneur. He had sacrificed and fought for every Métis right. He had dropped harassment charges against the Ministry of Natural Resources officers when asked to do so by the Chief Captain of the Hunt because it interfered with negotiations. He said that Métis was his history and his way of life and he was not leaving; it was his right.

Mr. Madden said that the MNO needed to move the collective forward. He noted that 173 people had done what the resolution asked and completed their files. The idea that Métis Harvesters had only one year to get their documentation was not necessarily the truth. Every year, the MNO had written letters to Harvesters since the Agreement was signed in 2004. He continued that Citizens constantly told the MNO that they did not like the cap, however there was only one way to remove that cap. He stated that the issue was moving the collective rights forward and it was not about specific individuals.

Mr. Madden said that in negotiations with the government to removing the cap, an audit had to be done of the MNO Harvester Card System. The reality was that some individuals within the system had incomplete files; there was a waiting list of people with complete files; and, an audit could not be done until every Harvester in the system met the *Powley* test. He stated that when every Harvester within the system could meet the *Powley* test, the MNO could begin to negotiate to remove the cap on Harvesters cards within Ontario. Mr. Madden said that that was right; it was principled; and, it was consistent with the *Statement of Prime Purpose*. He noted that no one's Métis Citizenship was in question and it would not be taken away and once the file was complete, those Harvesters could reapply. He added that the government was aware that

the resolution was passed at the previous AGA and it would not look good to extend the timeframe an additional 2 years.

Mr. Robert Giroux, Sudbury Métis Council commented that it was only last year that Harvesters received the letter. He noted that older brothers and sisters who spoke French had a difficult time understanding an English letter. They also had no computer and when they called the head office, they were unable to speak with someone who spoke French, at that time. He said that delayed the process. A workshop was held in Sudbury and a list of documentation required was provided, however, there is no one available to help people pull that documentation together.

Ms. Louise Goulding, Moon River Métis Council spoke against the resolution and said that the issue was simple, although the process may be difficult; the files had to be complete in order to move forward in removing the cap.

Mr. Paul Lemieux, Region 5 asked for an explanation as to how an individual could be a Métis Citizen, yet not meet the *Powley* test for a Harvesters Card. Mr. Madden stated that the MNO represented Citizens of the Métis Nation; Métis had a geographic territory from the prairies, into the Northwest Territories and into parts of the United States. Citizens were ancestrally connected to Métis historic communities. The *Powley* test stated that no matter how you define the larger community, in order to prove a *Powley* harvesting right, there needed to be a connection to a historic Métis community that had been asserted and identified, based on research.

Ms. Joanne Young, Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council supported the resolution passed last year and she also agreed with Mr. Madden's statements, however, there were some issues. She noted that at least one Citizen within her Council had received his first notice that his file was incomplete in January 2013. The notion that the Registry would be able to assist Harvesters did not occur for her Council. She agreed that the MNO's credibility was on the line, however, some activities that were promised, were not delivered and that needed to be addressed.

Mr. Richard Cuddy, Credit River Métis Council said that he was the seconder on the original resolution passed last year and there was no intent to disrespect or dishonour Métis Citizens. He said there was a need to move forward.

Ms. Lisa McCron, Moon River Métis Council said that did not support the resolution. She knows a man in her community, who has become a surrogate father to her and he was one of the Harvesters affected. He was not able to complete his file and he was saddened that he would no longer be able to hunt. However, he came to her 12-year old son's first harvest of a deer and he realized that there were Métis Citizens out there that were ready and waiting to become Harvesters. He realized that the Métis Nation was a family and a collective and that it was time for Métis youth to take part in their culture.

Ms. Juliette Denis, Councilor – Region 5, PCMNO, said that she appreciated the significance of last year's resolution, however, she also understood the position of the affected Citizens within her Region. She was one of the Harvesters affected and she received her letter a few days before Christmas, as did a number of Citizens in her Region. She said that those letters could have been sent out a few days later in the New Year. Ms. Denis continued that she had written

to the Registry asking if there was anything missing from her file and she received a response indicating that her file was complete. She misplaced that correspondence and because she wanted a response in writing that her file was complete, she once again, wrote to the Registry. She was informed that there was a backlog and because it was not an emergency, it would be placed at the bottom of the pile.

Ms. Denis had never received any correspondence other than the letter sent to her just before Christmas. She said that some Citizens did not regularly receive notices that their files were incomplete. She added that more support from the MNO was also required in helping Citizens to complete their files.

President Lipinski appreciated the comments and debate from both sides. He recognized that it was a personal issue and he appreciated the comments from the mover of the resolution. It was clear that Mr. Boulard was dedicated, passionate and committed to continue to work with the MNO. The MNO was committed to working with its Citizens to pursue and advance Métis rights. The Agreement that was reached in 2004 was that an independent audit of the Harvesters Card System would take place before discussions on removing the cap occurred. President Lipinski stated that when the independent audit of the Harvesters Card System produced a great result, the Assembly would say that they would no longer be limited to the 1250 Harvesters cap; everyone who met the *Powley* test would be issued a Harvesters Card. He said that was the strength that the Assembly could provide and the MNO could be there within a year. However, if the motion was stalled, some people would still not have their documentation in place and it would be the same debate over again. President Lipinski stated that the MNO needed to move forward on the issue.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2013-09
Title:	TO OPPOSE THE PRACTICE OF FRACKING IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
Mover:	Phoebe Mandry
Second:	Brianne Gosselin

WHEREAS the practice of fracking for unconventional natural gas is continuing to expand across Canada;

AND WHEREAS there is irrefutable evidence that fracking causes irreparable environmental damage;

AND WHEREAS other nations such as France, Switzerland and Ireland have banned the practice of fracking;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario has committed itself to protecting not only our lands, but also the health and well-being of our Métis communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual General Assembly direct the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch of the Métis Nation of Ontario to oppose the practice of fracking within the Province of Ontario,

until sufficient scientific evidence has been provided that ensures the safety and well-being of MNO citizens;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO LRC be directed to actively engage proponents and opponents of hydraulic fracturing in order to ascertain the environmental and health consequences of hydraulic fracturing.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2013-09)

Questions and Discussion

Mr. Robert Graham, Thunder Bay Métis Council suggested that a presentation on fracking occur at the 2013 AGA.

Mr. Matthew Lafreniere suggested the following amendments to the resolution:

- Last paragraph, addition of “... to oppose the practice of fracking within the Province of Ontario until sufficient scientific evidence has been provided that ensures the safety and well-being of MNO Citizens;”
- Addition of “And Further Be It Resolved that the MNO LRC be directed to actively engage proponents and opponents of hydraulic fracturing in order to ascertain the environmental and health consequences of hydraulic fracturing.”

The mover and seconder accepted the amendment.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2013-10
Title:	CANOE EXPEDITION
Mover:	Katelyn LaCroix
Secunder:	Alexandra Dusome

WHEREAS the MNO as a governing body, MNO Citizens, MNO staff and MNO Youth would benefit from the opportunity that would be derived from the Canoe Expedition that would raise Métis Cultural and Historic awareness by educating the general public, visiting communities and by obtaining high profile media coverage;

AND WHEREAS if funding were available, by combining both the Summer Youth Cultural Program and the Canoe Expedition would provide the incredible opportunity to deliver cultural programming to various communities along the canoe expedition route and giving the selected Métis Youth the opportunity to learn, experience and appreciate the Way of Life of our Métis ancestors while sharing their journey with others;

AND WHEREAS in commemoration of the War of 1812, the Canoe Expedition could relive and retrace the historic fur trade routes of our Métis ancestors while bringing forth and putting emphasis on the involvement of Métis People in the War of 1812 which would strongly demonstrate that Métis people are not a forgotten people and how significant a role that Métis people had during the War;

AND WHEREAS the Canoe Expedition enables Métis Youth to showcase Métis pride and strength as a people, youth would be given an opportunity to showcase Métis pride by

becoming educated on Métis Way of Life through paddling the waterways of Canada, cooking practices, strong sense of self endurance, healthy active living, appreciation and life skills;

AND WHEREAS in the past the MNO put importance on supporting and funding two previous Canoe Expeditions in 2003 and 2005 which has had a lasting effect within the MNO both in publication of the events and on the Métis Youth involved;

AND WHEREAS there is a high interest for the opportunity to participate in a Canoe Expedition, as well as community members who have established support and interest on following this adventure; this opportunity has been discussed for the past three years within the SYCP with several summer staff showing strong interest and anticipation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO AGA 2013 direct the PCMNO and MNO Secretariat to attempt to seek funding in order to support a Canoe Expedition.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2013-10)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2013-11
Title:	COMMUNITY COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPATION
Mover:	Alain Lefebvre
Seconder:	Marcel Lafrance

WHEREAS the Statement of Prime Purpose declares to promote and foster community development;

AND WHEREAS it is important that Community Councils be included in Economic Development and Self-Sufficiency endeavours;

AND WHEREAS many Economic Development opportunities are identified at the community level;

AND WHEREAS Community Councils are able to communicate potential Economic Development and Self-Sufficiency endeavours directly to Métis citizens and businesses;

AND WHEREAS Community Councils are able to bring input from Métis citizens and businesses to Economic Development and Self-Sufficiency endeavours;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly direct the PCMNO and MNO Secretariat to look into methods and options to accept input on potential Economic Development and Self-Sufficiency opportunities sourced by Community Councils; and,
2. That the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly direct the PCMNO and MNO Secretariat to look into methods or options to involve Community Councils directly in the sourcing, planning and operation of Economic Development and Self-Sufficiency opportunities in their community.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2013-11)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2013-12
Title:	WEBCASTING FUTURE ASSEMBLIES
Mover:	Lynne Picotte
Seconded:	Amanda Desbiens

WHEREAS the MNO prides itself on forward thinking initiatives and increasing Métis involvement through programming, community activities and community consultation;

AND WHEREAS the MNO has the capabilities to utilize technology to reach the members who are unable to attend an Annual General Assembly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO, if feasible (financially, technically, legally), move forward to have the 2014 and future AGA's webstreamed and/or connected through video conference with the opportunity for interactions, as well as investigate voting capabilities by 2017 so that MNO citizens who are home bound or unable to afford to travel to the AGA be able to view the business meetings and participate in the discussions concerning resolutions. Thereby increasing the ability of participation for all Métis across the province with respect to the political direction that our leadership takes for the upcoming year from citizens as an important part of the democratic process the MNO fosters.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2013-12)

Abstention – 1

Questions and Discussion

Mr. Madden said that there were a few factors that needed to be determined, for example, when recording people for future use, consent had to be provided. There were also legal, financial and technical perspectives that needed to be considered.

He suggested adding "... *that the MNO, if feasible (financially, technically, legally), move forward ...*" to the 1st line of the 3rd paragraph. The mover and seconder agreed with the amendment.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2013-13
Title:	STEM
Mover:	Matthew Lafreniere
Seconded:	Alexander Young

WHEREAS there exists significant socioeconomic challenges facing the education and employment of Métis Youth;

AND WHEREAS the economic self-sufficiency of the Métis Nation depends on education and employment in the fields of science, technology, engineering and maths;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO is directed to develop policy principles to promote STEM education and employment amongst Métis Youth.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2013-13)

16. UPDATES (CONT'D)

16.2 MNO Veterans Council

President Joseph Paquette, MNOVC acknowledged the MNOVC members and acknowledged the passing of Senator Earl “Boots” Scofield and Veteran, Senator George Kelly. He reported that the MNOVC was awarded the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee last year. The Council also participated in November 11 events throughout the province. President Paquette stated that last year was a commemorative year and he and President Lipinski had the honour of accepting the 1812 Commemorative Banner at Rideau Hall on behalf of the Métis Nation. The Banner was now enshrined in the Canadian Archives.

He continued that the MNOVC were also awarded the Veteran’s Métis paddle by the Youth Council. The MNOVC convened earlier in the year with the Royal Canadian Legion of Dominion Command in order to gain permission to use their logo as a remembrance item on the MNOVC website to commemorate Veterans that have passed. He encouraged participants to continue to send their write-ups for the Veteran’s book and to visit the MNOVC website. The MNOVC was promoting the sale of MNOVC items, such as hats in order to generate funds for the Veterans.

President Paquette thanked the Métis Nation and particularly the youth, for their continued support.

16.3 Women’s Secretariat of the MNO

Vice-Chair McBride stated that the WSMNO members were elected at the previous AGA. The WSMNO was looking for training opportunities. She said that the members were selling angel pins to raise funds for victims services on behalf of the WSMNO. Vice-Chair McBride was recently asked to sit on the Aboriginal Women in Leadership Foundation and an Aboriginal Women in Leadership Forum would be occurring in Alberta in the near future. She noted that the WSMNO was also working on a logo. The draft logo had been developed by Christi Belcourt and the members would continue to work towards finalizing the logo.

16.4 MNO Youth Council

Mr. Mitchell Case, President, MNOYC, wanted to recognize some youth across the Province that had filled in as Council President of their local Community Councils. He reported that on Friday, the youth delegates accompanied the MNOVC to the National War Museum and spent time with Veteran Alex Boucher. He asked the delegates to provide a round of applause for the youth delegates; 13 resolutions were passed and 6 of those resolutions were tabled by the Youth Council. President Case said that he was looking forward to seeing everyone again next year.

17. 2012-2013 HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO PRESENTATION

A video presentation focusing on Métis Nation of Ontario highlights from 2012-2013 was screened.

18. CLOSING REMARKS

President Lipinski thanked the delegates for making the 20th AGA such a success. He said that right from Day 1, beginning with the proponent engagement session and building capacity within the Métis Nation. He stated that professional development led to stronger leadership and greater interaction with partners. He mentioned that the AGA Chairs did a wonderful job keeping the meeting on track and on time. President Lipinski acknowledged the movie screened that focused on 20 years of achievement and success. He noted that there were so many people working together to bring the MNO to that point. He said that that was a legacy that the young people could build on.

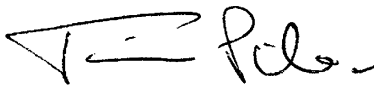
He mentioned that a significant law has been passed on economic development and self-sufficiency, which set the foundation to allow the MNO to grow and prosper. The discussions throughout the past 3 days reinforced the importance of working hard to advance Métis rights for everyone and the MNO will continue to do so. He wished everyone safe travels home and encouraged everyone to push and fight for the advancement of Métis rights and to continue to work together.

Chair Picotte thanked President Lipinski for his words and dedication to the Métis Nation. She thanked the staff for coordinating the AGA and said that it was a privilege and honour to Chair the Annual General Assemblies. She wished everyone a safe journey home and invited Senator Robert Lloyd to close the meeting with a prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

The 20th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 24 – 26, 2013 concluded on Day 3 – August 26, 2013 at 12:29 p.m. Senator Robert Lloyd closed the AGA with a prayer.

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the 20th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 24 – 26, 2013 and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption.



Tim Pile, Secretary-Treasurer



France Picotte, Chair