

Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 23-25, 2009 in the Georgian D & E room of the Holiday Inn Hotel in Sudbury, Ontario.

**Day 1 – Sunday, August 23, 2009**

**PREPARATION OF MINUTES:** Sophie Courchene, Hunter-Courchene Consulting Group

**OPENING CEREMONIES – SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2009**

**PROCESSION AND FLAG RAISING**

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

**CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER**

Chair France Picotte called the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to order at 8:32 a.m. Senator Reta Gordon offered an opening prayer.

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY CHAIR**

Chair Picotte welcomed delegates to the 16<sup>th</sup> AGA of the MNO. She stated that this was the opportunity to share with each other. She was happy to see the turnout for the AGA and she looked forward to the delegates participating in the work of the AGA and the cultural activities. She stated that it would be nice to see people work hard and play hard over the next few days.

**WELCOME FROM DIGNITARIES**

**Greetings from Veterans**

Maurice Richard provided welcoming remarks on behalf of the Veterans. He welcomed the delegates to Sudbury. On behalf of the Veterans, he thanked the AGA delegates for recognizing the Veterans during the event.

**The Honourable Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Province of Ontario**

Minister Bartolucci welcomed the MNO delegates to Sudbury. He stated that they were very proud that the MNO had chosen Sudbury to hold the AGA. He brought greetings from the Premier of Ontario and the people of Sudbury. He stated that the Premier wished that he had been able to participate in the MNO AGA, as he understood the MNO had an incredible role to play in the Province. Minister Bartolucci recognized the number of youth that were participating in the AGA and he congratulated the MNO on making this happen. He wished the delegates luck and a productive AGA. President Lipinski presented Minister Bartolucci with a crystallized moose carving and a Métis Sash on behalf of the MNO.

### **The Honourable Christopher Bentley, Ministry of the Attorney General, Province of Ontario**

Minister Bentley stated that he was happy to be participating in the MNO AGA. He stated that a lot had happened since he had first started speaking with the MNO five years ago. Much of the work that had been undertaken had strengthened the Métis in Ontario. The work had also strengthened the rest of Ontario. He brought greetings from the Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and from the Honourable Kathleen O. Wynne, Minister of Education to the AGA MNO Delegates. Minister Bentley thought that the formalizing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MNO and the Ministry of Education would help improve the educational outcomes of Métis people in Ontario. Minister Bentley stated that they were looking forward, as a government, to continuing to strengthen the relations with the MNO. President Lipinski presented Minister Bentley with a crystallized moose carving on behalf of the MNO for the work that he had done over the years.

### **France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament for Nickel Belt and Representative of the Provincial New Democratic Party (NDP)**

Ms. Gélinas, NDP Health Critic, welcomed the delegates to the AGA in Sudbury on behalf of the NDP. She encouraged the delegates to take advantage of the many riches of the area. She congratulated the MNO on the 16<sup>th</sup> AGA. President Lipinski presented the Ms. Gélinas with a crystallized moose carving on behalf of the MNO.

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNING**

#### **Ministry of Education**

The MNO AGA delegates witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the MNO and the Ministry of Education by MNO President Lipinski, Chair France Picotte and the Honourable Rick Bartolucci.

### **WELCOME FROM DIGNITARIES (Continued)**

#### **President Audrey Poitras, Métis Nation of Alberta**

President Poitras, Métis Nation of Alberta, acknowledged the Senators, Veterans, Elders, delegates, youth and President Lipinski. She thanked the MNO for the invitation to participate in the AGA. She looked forward to learning from the MNO over the next few days. She thanked the MNO for sharing the work that they were undertaking especially in the area of the Duty to Consult. She appreciated the information and the help that was provided. She congratulated the MNO for the signing of the MOU with the Ministry of Education. On behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta, she wished them luck with their AGA and congratulated them for a job well done. President Lipinski presented President Poitras with a crystallized moose carving on behalf of the MNO.

#### **President Clement Chartier, Métis National Council**

President Chartier, Métis National Council, thanked the MNO for the invitation to attend the MNO AGA. He acknowledged the Veterans, Senators, Elders, women, youth, leaders of the Métis Nation of Ontario, delegates and friends of the Métis. He stated that it was always a pleasure to have an opportunity to be amongst them. He thanked Senator Gordon for her special words that morning. He stated that he thought that it was an eloquent prayer that had captured the essence of the Métis Veterans. He stated that, in terms of the Veterans, it had been a difficult struggle to get the proper recognition that they so rightfully deserved. The leadership had tried to address this issue; they tried and get some semblance of justice for these great people that had sacrificed so much. He stated that President Chartrand, Manitoba

Métis Federation, held the Veterans portfolio nationally and that he had been working very hard on the issues. President Chartrand was able to convince the Juno Beach Museum Board that there needed to be recognition of Métis Veterans and the Métis flag flew with the flags of other Nations this past year. They also agreed that they would showcase the Métis on a rotation basis. They have agreed to add a Red River Cart to the site and, every few years, a Métis Nation year would be declared. He stated that they were working with the government to have veterans attend the ceremonies next year. He stated that this did not address the shortcomings that the Veterans experienced when they returned but it was a first step.

President Chartier informed the participants that another area that the MNC was working on was the Residential School Survivors file. He stated that the Métis went through the same abuses as the First Nations and yet the Métis were not acknowledged in the agreement. Some of their people that attended the Indian Residential Schools were compensated and dealt with. He was a representative of the Métis Nation to hear the government apology to support the Métis people that attended and also to support the First Nations and Inuit People but he had made it clear that the agreement did not address the outstanding issues of the Métis people. The next step for Métis people was to decide whether or not they would participate in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). However, in order to have true reconciliation someone had to acknowledge that they did wrong. If this were to happen, the Métis people could participate in the TRC process. The decision about participation would need to be made by the Métis people.

He informed the delegates that last week the MNC was informed that the Catholic entities had put aside moneys for Residential Schools Survivors. The MNC was informed that the money would flow to AFN, ITK and MNC. He said that they needed to decide whether this was something they wanted to get involved in at this time given the situation.

In September of last year, the MNC signed a Métis Protocol with the Federal Government. He stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the MNO was engaged in was very promising and the relationship was very good. However, he added, what was also very good was the fact that there was funding attached to these agreements.

President Chartier stated that they needed to move forward on all fronts – on their Rights and Programs and Services. They needed to have a balanced approach in order to move forward. President Lipinski presented President Chartier with a crystallized moose carving on behalf of the MNO.

#### **DEPUTY CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER**

The Deputy Chief Electoral Officer informed the delegates that they had held a vote for the vacant positions of Youth and Veterans representatives. They had two nominees for the Youth position and each nominee had received 9 votes with one spoiled ballot. Under the electoral code, the Chief Electoral Officer would break the tie. It was decided that they would draw names to break the tie and Nicholas Colin was elected as the youth representative.

Chair Picotte introduced the PCMNO members to the AGA delegates.

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNING**

### **College Boreal**

The MNO AGA delegates witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the MNO and the College Boreal by MNO President Lipinski and College Boreal President Hubert. Chair Picotte presented a crystallized moose carving to President Hubert and President Hubert presented Chair Picotte with Aboriginal Tea to thank her for her work.

### **Providence Care**

The MNO AGA delegates witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the MNO and Providence Care by MNO President Lipinski and Allen Proust, Vice President Mental Health Services, Providence Care. Chair Picotte presented a crystallized moose carving to Mr. Proust on behalf of the MNO.

## **WELCOME FROM DIGNITARIES (Continued)**

### **Richard Sarrazin, Sudbury Métis Council, President**

President Sarrazin welcomed the delegates to Sudbury and wished them a good AGA.

**Recess** – The meeting recessed at 10:05 a.m. and resumed at 10:36 a.m.

### **STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS - MNO President Gary Lipinski**

President Lipinski welcomed the delegates to the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario. He thanked the participants for attending and, he added, that he was pleasantly surprised by the number of people who attended the dinner the previous evening. It was heartwarming to see so many proud Métis people as the PCMNO paddled up to the tent. Métis people had a very proud and rich history and had contributing widely to this country. The Métis stories needed to be told and shared more often and he was happy that the event the previous evening had given them this opportunity. He said that so much of what they were undertaking as a Nation was setting the stage for this to happen more often. The AGA was going to exciting and he looked forward to the next few days.

Over the past fourteen months, he said, they had seen some adjustments in the Métis Nation priorities. He recognized all the work that had taken place in the last fourteen months since he had been elected President and he felt that they were now moving to another level in the work that the MNO would be undertaking. Many initiatives had been undertaken, such as the MNO Strategic Plan that would be presented to the Assembly for approval. The Strategic Plan would provide guidance to the MNO as it moved forward in its' work. He recognized that the Strategic Plan was a living document and the process allowed for adjustments to the plan as new priorities were identified.

President Lipinski indicated that it was great to be able to assemble the leadership from across the province at the AGA. They also had the opportunity to have a large contingency of youth participating in the AGA. He congratulated Nick Callaghan on being elected the new Youth Representative. He recognized that youth were the ones that would be picking up the torch in the future and moving the Métis agenda forward. It was important to make sure that the youth were participating at all levels within the MNO. He mentioned that the youth would be putting forward a resolution requesting that the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centres (UMAYC) funding be reinstated to allow for MNO youth to fully participate. It was time to make sure that youth engagement happened at the MNO.

In the past fourteen months, the MNO had held three significant events. He informed the delegates that the MNO was unable to hold an AGA last year, as cash flow was an issue and that was why the decision had been made to postpone the AGA. The MNO was able to hold the AGA in conjunction with Louis Riel Day. The MNO was able to make sure that the appropriate funding support was in place to ensure a successful AGA. This was the correct decision to make at the time.

It is most memorable event to report was the signing of the Framework Agreement. The signing of the Framework was significant in the recognition of Métis people in Ontario. In the past, the Government of Ontario had said that Métis people did not exist but when the Powley Case was won, they had to respond to the Métis differently. The Framework was important in moving forward the rights of Métis people in Ontario. He informed the delegates that the Framework Agreement was available in the AGA meeting kits. The Framework Agreement was what set the stage for the opportunity to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with other Ministries. The importance of having a relationship was proven. If they did not have a relationship, it was difficult to move forward with issues of importance to Métis people. The courts should always be the last option when moving forward. The MNO needed to move forward with open dialogue and, at the same time, be prepared to go to court when necessary. In the initial discussions around Powley, they did not know the amount of time and money that the case would involve. They were successful because they stood together as Métis People and now people understood the importance of the case and supported the case. As the MNO goes forward, it would be important to recognize that going to court was the last option. He said that, at the same time, they should be celebrating the fact that they did not have any current court cases. It was time to seize the opportunity to work with the government, as they were willing to work with the MNO. It was remarkable to see how the relationship between the MNO and the government had changed. With the current government, they had moved forward on several initiatives such as the Tri-Partite agreement that was currently in place and the appointment of a Chair of Métis Studies.

This year, the MNO was extremely pleased that the government put forward \$3 million for the formation of the Chair of Métis Studies. When the University of Ottawa was selected, they also put forward \$1M for the Chair of Métis Studies. This was important to the MNO as a Nation and the MNO looked forward to the candidate being announced shortly.

The MNO had moved the yardstick forward with the Government of Ontario. The MNO had signed a negotiated Harvesting Agreement with the Government of Ontario. It was not perfect but they had an agreement and they were still talking about how to better it. The Government was standing behind the agreement and honouring it. The Government was also reengaging to continue to make it better. As long as they had a process that was moving forward, there was hope for the Métis Nation. He referred the delegates to the meeting kit and a letter from the Minister recommitting to the process. When they met with the Minister in December, the MNO stated that the number of harvesting cards was to be for one year only and she requested that her officials talk with the MNO to address the issue around increasing the caps while the MNO worked on research. The process was moving forward and they hoped there would be movement on this issue. He stated that none of the other MNC governing members had a negotiated agreement in place. Alberta did have an agreement but when the new government was elected, the agreement was cancelled. The situation was similar in Manitoba where the MMF was in court defending their rights to harvest and they had won their case. In Saskatchewan, they were finally beginning to negotiate to avoid going to court. Ontario had

achieved a lot with more work to do in order to move forward. They needed to recognize that their colleagues were not as lucky as Ontario Métis people. Too often the governments would move forward with a case even though they knew they would lose. He asked what the honour of the Crown meant and that this was wrong. This needed to be recognized and the government should be negotiating with Métis people and not taking them to court.

The MNO had also been in discussions with a number of Ministries to get them to sign MOUs. These discussions were continuing and they looked forward to further MOUs being signed.

He informed the delegates that the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs had agreed to the proposal that the MNO had put forward on the Duty to Consult. The Ministry would be funding the MNO in the amount of \$2.6 million as part of the New Relationship Fund. He stated that this was a wonderful announcement and built on the direction that the delegates provided to the MNO at the last AGA. The New Relationship Fund was set up to build capacity in the Métis Nation. This fund would allow for the work that was required in order engage in Duty to Consult issues that arose. This funding will allow the Métis Nation to hire the required expertise to be fully engaged in the consultation process.

The MNO was also in discussions with the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs with regards to resource sharing. Discussions were underway on how these moneys would be allocated between First Nations and Métis people. He stated that the government made a lot of money off the resources taken from Métis lands. If stipulations for resource sharing were in place, the MNO would be in a wonderful position to undertake the work that they envisioned.

President Lipinski informed the delegates that, this year as part of the AGA agenda, the MNO Directors would be presenting on the various activities that they had undertaken or would be undertaking. This would provide delegates with a broad idea of all the work that was happening at the MNO.

One other area that the MNO was engaged in was work around the Green Energy Act. This was consistent with what the MNO had put forward as core Métis values. These issues affected Métis people on a daily basis. It was important for Métis people to be involved in the discussion on the Green Energy Act. This would open opportunities for Métis People. They needed to be forward thinking about supporting initiatives that were important to Métis People.

President Lipinski stated that people had seen the changes that the MNO was undertaking in the last fourteen months and these changes had a huge impact on the MNO staff. The goal was to have the MNO seen as the best Aboriginal organization in the country. He stated that there was a lot of pressure on the staff with the changes and the goals that had been set for them. It took a long time to turn the ship around but the changes that were happening at the MNO were moving them in the right direction. He expressed his appreciation to the MNO staff and their hard work and their continued commitment to the changes required.

The Audit would provide delegates with a clear understanding of where the MNO stood. They would also be presenting a clear plan on how the MNO would be moving forward.

In closing, he stated that he looked forward to a wonderful AGA. The cultural events planned provided them with the opportunity to promote and nurture Métis culture. He wished the delegates a great and productive 16<sup>th</sup> AGA.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

A request was made to add a Council Presidents meeting to the AGA agenda in order for them to have discussions in order to bring issues forward to the PCMNO. The Chair responded that this could not happen within the body of the agenda but that they could approach staff to see if a meeting could happen outside the agenda.

A request was made to allow time on the agenda to welcome Métis Citizens to the microphone for the good of the Nation. The Chair responded that all citizens were welcome to the microphone after every discussion and at the end of the agenda during the resolution process.

A request was made to move the Resolutions to first item in the morning on Tuesday. The Chair stated that she would need to verify if all speakers scheduled at that time would be able to make the change to allow for this top happen. President Lipinski indicated that he would prefer that the Resolutions be dealt with on Monday versus Tuesday. The Chair agreed that the Resolutions would be dealt with at the end of the agenda on Monday. The Chair indicated that this may require that they work through lunch in order to deal with all the Resolutions.

### **It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Wayne Jourdain)**

That Resolutions be moved to be dealt with as the last order of business on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA09-01)**

### **It was MOVED (Charbonneau) and SECONDED (Rick Piquette)**

That the Agenda for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario meeting scheduled August 23-25, 2009 be approved as amended.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA09-02)**

## **OVERVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS PROCESS**

### **It was MOVED (Judy Troot) and SECONDED (Senator Helen Bradley)**

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

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA09-03)**

Chair Picotte requested that the Resolutions Committee set the deadline for receiving resolutions for review and presentation on Monday, August 24, 2009.

## **REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **It was MOVED (Rick Schofield) and SECONDED (Joanne Young)**

That the Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> MNO AGA be accepted as amended as follows:

- All spelling mistakes to be revised throughout the minutes
- Verification of spelling of names to be done throughout the minutes

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA09-04)**

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Chair Picotte opened the microphones to delegates for comment and business arising from the MNO 15<sup>th</sup> Annual AGA.

A delegate stated that he did not think that the first paragraph in motion AGA08-06 was accurate, as it could be interpreted as the MNO encroaching on southern Manitoba Territory

based on historical fact. Councilor Saulnier stated that it said now known as Ontario so it was strictly concerned with the Territory that was now known as Ontario.

**Recess** - The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:18 p.m. and resumed at 1:21 p.m.

### **Housekeeping**

Chair Picotte informed the delegates that the Resolutions Committee had told her that that all resolutions must be submitted in writing by 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 23, 2009. She requested that each Resolution submitted include the name of a mover and seconder to the resolution.

Chair Picotte asked Joanne Meyers, MNO, to come forward to talk about the AGA sponsors. Joanne Meyers acknowledged the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly sponsors.

### **ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Vice Chair Sharon McBride reported that there were 158 registered delegates in attendance at the 16<sup>th</sup> MNO AGA and advised that 80 of the registered delegates were required to be present to form a quorum. Motions to amend the bylaws or which affected citizen's rights required 2/3, or 106, of the delegates to vote in favour in order to be approved.

### **OVERVIEW ON PROGRESS OF FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT**

President Lipinski stated that his comments would be brief, as this item had been addressed in the State of the Nation that he gave during the morning session. He stated that he was hopeful that delegates had taken the time to read the Framework Agreement. President Lipinski congratulated the staff on the work they had done and the details that they had put into presenting the work that they undertook over the year.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson stated that, from a staff perspective, they really appreciated the opportunity to present to the delegates. He stated that the more professional and more accountable the MNO became, the more funding they would be able to access. He thanked the delegates for the opportunity he had to hire professional staff that he got to work with on a daily base.

He thanked the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs for their continued support of the MNO. Over the past year, the staff currently working at the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs had allowed a new relationship to emerge. He acknowledged the representatives of the Office of the Federal Interlocutor that were present at the AGA. He stated that they were the ones that worked with the MNO on the Powley funding. Without the help of these people, the MNO would not be able to get the work done. He also thanked them for the contribution that allowed the MNO to hold their AGA.

COO Wilson informed the delegates that one of the challenges that the staff faced on a daily basis was the fact that most government officials did not understand Métis Governance. He also stated that many Métis Nation citizens did not understand the governing structure. He stated that it was their responsibility to make sure that they understood the governing structure of the Métis Nation in Ontario.

COO Wilson provided an overview of the MNO Organizational Chart to the delegates. He also provided a power point presentation entitled "*Métis Nation of Ontario – Organization Chart*"



dated June 30, 2009. He went through the Organizational Chart and introduced the staff to the delegates. He also provided a brief overview of the responsibilities of each Director.

### **HOUSING BRANCH UPDATE**

Jean McIsaac, Director of Housing, provided a power point presentation entitled "*MNO Housing Branch Presentation to AGA 2009*" to the AGA delegates and she also referred the delegates to page 49 of the document entitled "*Annual Report – 2008-2009*" for the Housing Branch Report.

### **EDUCATION AND TRAINING UPDATE**

Jen St-Germain, Director of Education and Training Branch, presented the power point entitled "*MNO Education and Training – AGA Report 2009*" to the AGA delegates and she also referred the delegates to page 37 of the document entitled "*Annual Report – 2008-2009*" for the Education

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- A delegate requested that the Education Kit be made available on line. Ms. St-Germain responded that the kit was not currently available but the Education Branch could provide him with some information that could be used in schools. The goal was to get the kit together at a future date. She also responded that the MNO was looking at developing a speakers bureau that people would be able to access.
- A delegate requested information on retraining for citizens that had lost jobs. Ms. St-Germain responded that the citizens should go to one of the offices because there were dollars for retraining available.

### **LANDS, RESOURCES AND CONSULTATION UPDATE**

Melanie Paradis, Director of Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch, presented the power point entitled "*Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch*" to the delegates and she also referred the delegates to page 40 of the document entitled "*Annual Report – 2008-2009*" for the Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch Report.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- A delegate asked if there was a book of recipes available. In response, a delegate from the floor stated that the NAHO Métis Centre had developed a recipe book.
- A delegate asked about the consultations that were undertaken and whether COOP positions were available. Ms. Paradis stated that this was something that the MNO had requested as part of the accommodation phase of the Duty to Consult.
- A delegate asked how youth could be become more involved in the consultations. Ms. Paradis encouraged youth and Senators to be involved throughout the consultation process. A delegate suggested that youth go to the Community Council meetings, as information was available at these meetings to help youth get involved.

### **REGISTRY BRANCH UPDATE**

Janet Leader, Director of Registry, provided a power point presentation entitled "*Registry Report – Registry Overview for 2008-2009 – Registry Statistics from 2008-2009 – Update on Phase One of database upgrade – Overview of the revised Registry Policy*" to the delegates and she also referred the delegates to page 44 of the document entitled "*Annual Report – 2008-2009*" for the Registry Branch Report.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- A delegate stated that she had mentioned that the MNO had to lay off intake officers. He asked if the MNO was pursuing funding to be able to rehire intake officers. COO Wilson responded that the funding was cut by the Office of the Federal Interlocutor due to the money being dispersed to Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (MN-S) that they did not previously receive. However, he stated, the MNO was always applying for more.
- A delegate asked about the 1250 harvesters cards that were issued and how the number as decided. COO Wilson asked that the question be deferred until the next day as part of the Métis Harvesting Issues agenda item.
- A youth delegate stated that there was no council in Toronto at this point and he encouraged any youth to start to reach out in Toronto to find a way to get involved. COO Wilson stated that there would be an open house coming up in Toronto shortly at the MNO satellite office and he encouraged people to attend. He also stated that the Leadership was trying to start a Toronto Council.
- A Senator informed the AGA that she was not able to use the Métis Card for certain identification purposes. Janet Leader stated that they were working on information for citizens about what their card could be used for.

President Lipinski stated that the questions and comments were bringing out the challenges that the MNO faced because of the type of funding that the MNO received. It showed the vulnerability that the MNO faced when last minute funding was cut. He stated that this was a national issue that needed to be dealt with. A national voice and united voice from the Board of Governors was very important when it came to the issue of the Métis Registry. They were talking about the complete support of the Métis Registry System across Canada. He used the comparison to the Indian Registry in which the Federal Government had been spending money for years.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

Joanne Meyer, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, provided a power point presentation entitled "*MNO Intergovernmental Relations Branch – Métis Nation of Ontario 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly*" dated August 2009" to the delegates and referred them to page 26 of the document entitled "*Annual Report – 2008-2009*" for the Intergovernmental Relations report.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- A delegate asked whom he should contact to register as a Métis business. Ms. Meyer responded that he should e-mail her at the MNO office.
- A delegate asked for clarification on slide 11 of the presentation when reference was made to the Treaty Commission. Ms. Meyer responded that the MNO would be getting involved with the Treaty Commission and that discussions were currently underway about how the Métis were to be involved.
- A delegate asked about councils accessing help in the writing and preparation of proposals from the MNO. COO Wilson responded that the MNO had always been willing to help with proposal development. He invited councils to contact the MNO if they required help.

## **HEALTH BRANCH UPDATE**

Donna Lyons, Director of Health Services, provided a power point presentation entitled "*Health Branch*" dated 2009 to the delegates. She also referred the delegates to page 30 of the document entitled "*Annual Report – 2008-2009*" for the Health and Wellness Report.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- A delegate asked about the availability of dental health care. Ms. Lyons responded that the MNO did not have funding to provide dental health care but that it may be something that the MNO should look into.
- A delegate asked if services were available to family members that were not Métis. Ms. Lyons responded that anyone could access the programs and that there was no requirement to be Métis.
- A delegate asked if any information was available with regards to the H1N1 influenza virus. Ms. Lyons stated that information was available on the MNO website but, in terms of incidence rates and risk levels for the Métis, she was not sure that information was available.

### **UPDATE ON GREEN ENERGY ACT**

Hillary Thatcher, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, provided a power point presentation entitled "*Building a Green Economy for Ontario: The Green Energy Act – Presentation for the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly*" dated August 23, 2009 to the delegates.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- A delegate asked if there was any financial help for individuals as part of the program. Ms. Thatcher responded that there were programs for individuals to access funding but not through this program. The program presented was for community development.
- A delegate asked why they were not pushing solar panels versus wind power. Ms. Thatcher responded that solar panels were very expensive to manufacture and they also were not being manufactured in Ontario.
- A delegate asked if the program allowed for a community to build a prototype and market the technology. Ms. Thatcher responded that it would depend on the type of energy he was talking about. The energy would need to fall within the definition of renewable energy for it to be considered. She stated that there were other programs in the Ministry that providing that type of funding.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 23-25, 2009 adjourned on Day 1 – August 23, 2009 at 4:47 p.m. and agreed to reconvene on Day 2 – August 24, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

## **DAY 2 - MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2009**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED**

Chair Picotte reconvened the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario at 8:30 a.m.

Chair Picotte welcomed the delegates back to the meeting and stated that she was happy to see them and she looked forward to the work. She provided an overview of the agenda for the day.

### **CORPORATE SERVICES UPDATE**

Secretary/Treasurer Pile informed the delegates that this year the MNO had a fairly good year but that they were still dealing with a fairly high debt load. The MNO had went beyond the accountability guidelines and they should be proud of this. Both he and the President had told the PCMNO that the MNO wanted to be the guiding light to show other organizations how things

should be done. With the new accounting guidelines, many organizations were going to need to change how they reported on their financials but the MNO was already meeting or surpassing these guidelines. He stated that they had heard loud and clear that the Council Presidents needed financial training and this would be happening under the funding that was received through the New Relationship Fund. The new changes were difficult but they were needed and the organization was starting to turn around.

Doug Wilson, Chief Operating Officer, stated that they were cognizant of the change to the agenda and would be providing information on what had happened and how the MNO got to where it was.

He informed the delegates that before the election last year, the Métis Nation of Ontario was put under a third party monitor by the Province of Ontario. This had had a great impact on the MNO. When President Lipinski first came into power, he stated that he came in with a goal to be fully transparent. He would be providing information to the delegates on the third party monitor and what it had meant to the MNO. The changes that were required were dramatic and they were already underway. These changes would benefit the communities, as more money would flow to them but with these changes the MNO would be demanding more reporting from the communities. He stated even though Price Cooper Waterhouse would be leaving by the end of September, the practices that they had implemented would be continuing.

Chief Operating Officer Wilson provided a power point presentation entitled "*Price Waterhouse Cooper*" to the delegates. The MNO received the initial report from Price Waterhouse Cooper on July 3, 2008. This report included an in depth analysis of the MNO financial policies and procedures. Price Waterhouse Cooper had, from that point on, continued controllership of the MNO expenditures. Every expense that the MNO made was reviewed and either accepted or rejected by Price Waterhouse Cooper. If the expenditure was rejected, the MNO was required to review the expenditure and provide additional information to get it accepted or move the expenditure somewhere else. COO Wilson provided an example to the delegates of the reports that the MNO received on a weekly basis that they were required to review in order to get expenses approved. The entire process could take weeks to finalize for each expense on the report. The process was time consuming and this was what caused delays in MNO being able to process payments. The MNO had to hire two temporary accounting staff to work in the Finance Branch just to keep up with the demands from Price Waterhouse Cooper. The MNO also had bi-weekly meetings with Price Waterhouse Cooper to review every single item to see what was completed and if any other issues needed to be dealt with. In the process, the MNO had also been re-writing its' financial policies and 23 of the 27 policies were completed.

COO Wilson stated that, in the past, the MNO worked from a single pot of money and then wrote reports to satisfy funders. This had changed and now each Director and Manager had authority over their budgets to ensure that expenditures met the program guidelines. The Directors and Managers had received financial training from Price Waterhouse Cooper and the intention was to offer similar training at the community level. Expenditures would no longer be authorized unless they had been approved prior to the expense being incurred. He used the example of the AGA stating that every single expense was covered under a budget line. Everything had been accounted for and authorized in advance. The satellite meetings had occurred prior to the AGA in order to get funding that allowed the travel expenses of many delegates. He informed the delegates that this was something unique to the MNO, as other Board of Governor members did not fund their delegates to attend the AGA.

COO Wilson stated that, in the process, it was critical that when money went to communities, they had the same responsibility to report back on the funding received. It was critical for communities to provide reports because, if one report was missing, the funding did not flow.

COO Wilson informed the delegates that the MNO was currently preparing for the departure of the Price Cooper Waterhouse and, in order for this to be accomplished, the MNO needed to receive a positive review from Price Cooper Waterhouse. He stated that this was well underway as the MNO was meeting the goals set out by Price Cooper Waterhouse. This included the establishment of long-term financial stability including the ability to manage the MNO debt. Also, the MNO was establishing accountability for the governance and administration of the MNO finances. It was important that the debt repayment plan be put in place in order to move forward. The MNO had put in place a debt repayment plan over a twenty-four year period but anticipated that this would happen much sooner.

COO Wilson stated that this gave the delegates an idea of the stress that the staff had been under and also the stress that the MNO had been under.

### **2008/2009 Audited Financial Statements**

Randy Tivy, Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants, provided an overview of the MNO audit statement for 2008/2009 for the delegates.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- A delegate referred to page 14 of the audit, item number 5, asking for clarification on what was meant by the amount due to community councils. Mr. Tivy responded that the amount was \$16, 622 and it was related to the purchase of a building in Timmins.
- A delegate asked what the acronym MAF stood for in the Audit. Steve Berry responded that the MNO received funding from Service Canada for the Métis Allocation Fund.

### **It was MOVED (Jo Anne Young) and SECONDED (Senator Helen Bradley)**

That the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario approve the Audited Financial Statements dated March 31, 2009.

### **RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA09-05)**

President Lipinski thanked the delegates and the MNO staff. He clarified that the Audit was a snap shot as of March 31, 2009. This Audit reflected a new course over the last 9 months that the MNO was taking. It reflected the true obligations of the MNO and where the MNO stood financially. Now, the MNO and the delegates knew where they stood financially and how they were going to move forward. He appreciated the amount of work that the staff had undertaken on a daily basis in order to meet the reporting requirements as set out by Price Waterhouse Cooper. He stated that the Financial Statements showed that the MNO was on a good course and that, if the MNO did not have a debt to repay, for the first time ever the MNO would have generated a profit thanks to the MNO Housing Branch. The profit would have been approximately \$170 000 which had been put towards the debt repayment plan. He stated that additional information would be provided as they moved forward but that it was important to remember that every time an expense was requested that they would have to ask themselves if it was covered under a funding agreement. They needed to know where the money was coming from prior to making the expenditure.

## **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

### **It was MOVED (Jo Anne Young) and SECONDED (Senator Helen Bradley)**

That the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario appoint the accounting firm of Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants as the MNO Auditors for the fiscal year 2009-2010.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA09-06)**

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Stephen Berry, Director of Finance, provided a power point entitled “MNO – Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2009” to the delegates.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- A delegate stated that the MNO citizens needed to thank President Lipinski, COO Wilson and the MNO staff for the direction that the MNO was moving in and he looked forward to the next steps.

## **MNO STRATEGIC PLAN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

Doug Wilson, COO, provided a power point presentation entitled “Métis Nation of Ontario: Strategic Plan 2009-2014” dated August 2009 to the delegates.

COO Wilson informed the delegates that the goal was to provide highlights and seek the Assembly’s approval of the MNO Strategic Plan. He was hoping to be able to provide enough information to allow for the Assembly to approve the MNO Strategic Plan. COO Wilson provided an overview of the presentation to the delegates.

The following was offered in response to questions and comments:

- A delegate asked if MNO would be getting the OMA programs back. COO Wilson responded the MNO also had the same programs that OMA was currently running.
- A delegate asked if the Strategic Plan would be addressing the issue of Métis citizenship with regards to the definition of who was or was not Métis. COO Wilson responded that this was addressed in the Strategic Plan.

### **It was MOVED (Rick Scofield) and SECONDED (Jo Anne Young)**

That the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario approve the MNO Strategic Plan as presented.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA09-07)**

President Lipinski congratulated the Assembly for the work that was undertaken in the development of the Strategic Plan. He also thanked the MNO staff. Many people around the province had contributed to the development of the Strategic Plan; it was an ambitious plan but the work had begun to implement it. He looked forward to moving forward on the Strategic Plan.

## RESOLUTIONS

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES09-01</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>TREATY COMMISSION OF ONTARIO</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Senator Wagner-Millington</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Senator Bradley</b>

**WHEREAS** the Ipperwash Inquiry Report recommended the establishment of a Treaty Commission of Ontario to further the reconciliation process between the Crown and Aboriginal peoples in Ontario;

**AND WHEREAS** Ontario is unique in being the only province where the Métis were included, as a collective, in one of the historic treaties (i.e., the Half-breed Adhesion to Treaty #3);

**AND WHEREAS** the Crown's exclusion of Ontario Métis from the other historic treaties in the province, even in the face of requests for inclusion by Métis as well as support from First Nations for Métis inclusion in some of these treaties, is an important and often untold part of the treaty making process in Ontario;

**AND WHEREAS** Ontario Métis also played important roles in the development, negotiation and signing of some of the historic treaties in Ontario as supporters, interpreters and witnesses to these sacred agreements;

**AND WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario wants to work collaboratively with Canada, Ontario and First Nations to ensure Ontario Métis are included in the development of the Treaty Commission of Ontario as well as to ensure that the unique history and realities of Ontario Métis with respect to the treaty process in Ontario are included in the ultimate mandate of the Treaty Commission;

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

1. That the MNO President write to Canada, Ontario and the Chiefs of Ontario outlining the Métis Nation's perspectives and interests in participating in the development of the Treaty Commission of Ontario as well as being included within the ultimate mandate of the Commission;
2. That the MNO attempt to establish a respectful and mutually agreeable process on this issue with the Chiefs of Ontario, as a part of the Métis Nation of Ontario – Chiefs of Ontario Protocol; and
3. That the MNO be directed to attempt to secure funding from Ontario and Canada in order to engage in a research and community consultation process on Métis participation in a Treaty Commission of Ontario.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-01)**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES09-02</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>RESOURCE BENEFIT SHARING</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Victor</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Senator Bradley</b>

**WHEREAS** the Ontario Government has announced its' commitment to resource benefit sharing with First Nations and Métis communities;

**AND WHEREAS** regional rights-bearing Métis communities, which are a part of the Métis Nation, have traditional territories throughout the province;

**AND WHEREAS** these Métis traditional territories are shared with First Nations throughout the province;

**AND WHEREAS** according to the 2006 Census Ontario Métis represent approximately 30% of the total Aboriginal population in Ontario;

**AND WHEREAS** the Métis Nation and its communities want to build strong and self-sustaining individuals, families and communities through cultural and economic development;

**AND WHEREAS** other Métis governments have established Métis-control funds (i.e., Clarence Campeau Development Fund in Saskatchewan, Louis Riel Corporation in Manitoba, etc.) which provide support to Métis individuals, business and communities for cultural and economic development;

**AND WHEREAS** Ontario Métis do not have any type of fund which they can access in order to support Métis cultural or economic development aspirations;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That the MNO be mandated to work with Ontario to secure a minimum of 30% of the total Aboriginal allocation of any resource benefit sharing funding provided by Ontario based on the Aboriginal population in Ontario;
2. That the MNO look towards developing a Métis Nation controlled trust fund that would be endowed by any Métis resource benefit sharing allocation as well as other government funding sources in order to support Métis individuals, businesses and communities with respect to cultural and economic development in Ontario;
3. That the MNO consult with Métis citizens and communities on the composition, structure and mandate of such a fund; and
4. That the MNO work with both the provincial and federal government on the establishment of such a fund.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-02)**



<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES09-03</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>NEW RELATIONSHIP FUND</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Senator Wagner-Millington</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Senator Bradley</b>

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

**AND WHEREAS** Ontario Métis have developed an inclusive, transparent and predictable consultation framework based on extensive consultations in order to ensure Métis Protocol Regions, communities and all Métis citizens have the opportunity to be engaged and consulted on policies, projects and developments that have the potential to affect Métis rights, interests and way of life;

**AND WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario was successful in securing funding in 2009/10 from the New Relationship Fund to support the MNO's consultation framework, which includes Regional Consultation Protocols and the MNO's Land, Resources and Consultation Branch;

**AND WHEREAS** the Ontario Government's financial commitment to the New Relationship Fund currently ends as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010;

**AND WHEREAS** Ontario Métis overwhelmingly support the New Relationship Fund and want this core consultation capacity funding to continue for future fiscal years as well as hope that this funding can be increased to support the additional required staff outlined in the MNO's multi-year core consultation capacity work plan and any new MNO Community Councils that are formed;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That the MNO AGA reaffirms its support for the MNO's regional consultation protocols and the MNO's overall consultation model which engages all levels of the MNO's government structure (i.e., local, regional and provincial) and all segments of the MNO's population (i.e., youth, Elders, women, harvesters, etc.);
2. That the MNO be mandated to work with the Ontario Government on behalf of Ontario Métis to turn the New Relationship Fund and the Métis allocation of the Fund into a permanent program or trust fund so the consultation capacity being built is not lost; and
3. That the MNO work with the Ontario Government to secure increased New Relationship Fund funding in future fiscal years in order to support the full implementation of the MNO's multi-year core consultation capacity work plan as well as funding for any new Community Councils created as a part of the MNO's overall governance structure.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-03)**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES09-04</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Senator Wagner-Millington</b>
<b>Seconder:</b>	<b>Bonnie Cann</b>

**WHEREAS** the protection and support of the Métis child and family is fundamental to the ongoing existence of Métis communities and the Métis Nation;

**AND WHEREAS** the Métis Nation and its communities have a right to be engaged in provincial child and family services systems when the Métis child and family are potentially affected;

**AND WHEREAS** the Ontario Government's current child and family services system does not effectively engage the Métis Nation or its communities;

**AND WHEREAS** the Métis Nation and its communities have not been engaged and do not currently support the current pan-Aboriginal child and family service agencies that exist in some urban centres;

**AND WHEREAS** these pan-Aboriginal child and family service agencies do not have the right or jurisdiction to represent the rights and interests of the Métis Nation, Métis communities, the Métis child or Métis families;

**AND WHEREAS** other Métis governments throughout the Métis Nation are engaged by their respective provincial governments to ensure Métis communities are effectively engaged and participate in the child welfare system;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That the MNO raise its concerns about the lack of Métis involvement in Ontario's current child and family services system as a part of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement process as well as at the annual meeting with the Ontario Premier;
2. That the MNO President write to the responsible Minister requesting a meeting as well as the development of a collaborative process so Métis can become engaged in Ontario's child and family services system;
3. That the MNO President write to the existing pan-Aboriginal child and family services organizations in Ontario outlining the Métis Nation's interest and concerns and stress that they do not have the right or jurisdiction to represent the rights and interests of the Métis child or Métis families;
4. That the MNO's leadership report back to the next AGA on the progress made on this file with respect to securing a way for the Métis Nation and its communities to become more effectively engaged in Ontario's child and family services system.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-04)**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES09-05</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>MÉTIS ACT</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Wayne Trudeau</b>
<b>Seconder:</b>	<b>Vic Willard</b>

**WHEREAS** over the last 15 years, Ontario Métis have developed their own unique governance structures at the local, regional and provincial levels through the Métis Nation of Ontario with a view to implementing Métis self-government;

**AND WHEREAS** these Métis-created and mandated governance structures and institutions effectively and democratically represent Métis citizens and communities at the local, regional and provincial levels throughout Ontario;

**AND WHEREAS** Ontario Métis desire for this unique Métis governance structure to be respected and recognized by other levels of government;

**AND WHEREAS** other provincial governments have passed legislation recognizing Métis governance structures and institutions;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That the MNO pursue discussions with the Ontario Government for the development and passing of legislation which recognizes the MNO's unique governance structure at the local, regional and provincial levels in the province.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-05)**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES09-06</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>UMAYC FUNDING</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Nick Callaghan</b>
<b>Seconder:</b>	<b>Senator Wilson</b>

**WHEREAS** Department of Canadian Heritage is responsible for the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centers (UMAYC) Program,

**AND WHEREAS** Métis Nation of Ontario had been receiving funding for youth programs, which supported the programs and services specific to Métis youth in Ontario,

**AND WHEREAS** Government of Canada suspended the UMACY funding from the MNO and this has severely impacted Métis youth in Ontario by taking away important resources that are used for youth cultural and heritage activities and communications on important youth issues.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 16<sup>th</sup> AGA of the MNO:

1. Direct President Gary Lipinski to lobby and negotiate with the federal government, in particular Heritage Canada who is responsible for the UMACY program, to reinstate full funding for youth programs for Métis in Ontario.
2. Encourage Métis youth to become more seriously involved in MNO, to ensure youth are involved in all local councils as well as at the PCMNO and the AGA, to take full advantage of the opportunities that are here now and will be in place in the future.

3. Organize a more cohesive Ontario Métis youth network, with a strategic direction, to fulfill the mandate of youth at the MNO, in Ontario, and across Canada.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-06)**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES09-07</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>COUNCIL PRESIDENTS MEETING</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Jo Anne Young</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Rick Paquette</b>

**WHEREAS** the Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario is a meeting for all Métis Nation of Ontario citizens;

**AND WHEREAS** the Annual General Assembly approves, validates and instructs the PCMNO in the administration of the Métis Nation of Ontario;

**AND WHEREAS** the Community Council Presidents or their designated representatives are duly elected representatives of the Community Council at the Annual General Assembly;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That the MNO work to secure a meeting room for the MNO Community Council Presidents or their designates that are in attendance at a MNO Annual General Assembly, as a part of the MNO's overall Annual General Assembly schedule.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-07)**

**Related Questions and Discussion**

- Jason Madden, Legal Counsel. stated that he had concerns with this resolution as put forward, as it may require a by-law amendment. He stated that he needed clarification on what was meant by the resolution as tabled. As tabled the resolution would carve out a special role for the Presidents that was not reflected on the MNO By-Laws. Jo Anne Young responded that what they were attempting to address the issue of the Council President having the opportunity to share information during the AGA.
- COO Wilson responded that the MNO could never guarantee funding to allow for this to happen and also that it would be difficult to meet any requests that the Presidents might have following their meeting. He thought that it would be more valuable to have the MNO secure funding that would allow for the Presidents to meet prior to the AGA so that their issues could actually be addressed.
- Wendy Landry responded that the motion was an attempt to recognize the opportunity for the Presidents to get together and share information when they are all in the same city. They were just asking for the same opportunity that the Veterans, Youth and Women's Secretariat had at the AGA. It was really offering the Presidents an opportunity to get together.
- President Lipinski stated that he understood the issues that were being raised with this resolution. He referred them to the Strategic Plan where this would be addressed. Other regions brought there Presidents together 6 months before the AGA in order to make the work more effective; this was something that the MNO would like to look into further.
- Senator Schofield proposed that the Presidents schedule a monthly conference call. He thought that it was important that the Presidents had input, as they had responsibilities to their communities.
- Senator Gordon stated that the Presidents could have made a request to have a meeting as the Youth, Veterans and Women's Secretariat had prior to the AGA.

- A delegate stated that it was shameful that the council Presidents could not meet at the AGA. All they wanted was the opportunity to get together at the AGA to share information.
- Jason Madden, Legal Counsel, responded that it was important that the wording on the resolution not bind the MNO administration in terms of having to hold the meeting when funding was not available. The delegate responded that they were worried that if the meeting was tied to funding being available that it would never happen.
- Richard Sarrazin stated that they were just looking for an hour timeslot and that the meeting would be for Presidents that were already attending the AGA.
- The Resolution was re-worded to reflect the discussions

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES09-08</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>REGISTRATION OF MÉTIS CITIZENS</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Senator Bradley</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Senator Wagner-Millington</b>

Be it resolved that a person who successfully obtains citizenship into the Métis Nation of Ontario receive a letter introducing them to the Métis Nation of Ontario's governance structure which includes the PCMNO, their Regional Councilor and their respective MNO Community Council.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-08)**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES09-09</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>FUNDING TO KEEP YOUTH AT THE ENTIRE AGA</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Rick Paquette</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Senator Wagner-Millington</b>

**WHEREAS** the youth of the MNO are our future leaders;

**AND WHEREAS** the AGA is where they will learn the workings of the MNO and how business is conducted;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

That the MNO attempt to secure funding to enable youth to be participate the full scheduled MNO Annual General Assembly.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-09)**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES09-10</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>POST POWLEY FUNDING</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Pauline Saulnier</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Senator Bradley</b>

**WHEREAS** the Federal Government's five-year Post Powley funding is coming to an end;

**AND WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario registry requires ongoing funding to continue their important work in registering Ontario Métis;

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**

That the MNO be directed to pursue negotiations with the Federal Government to secure ongoing funding for the MNO Registry from the Federal Government.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-10)**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES09-11</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO)</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Pauline Saulnier</b>
<b>Seconder:</b>	<b>Lynn Pantouso</b>

**WHEREAS**, various government agencies have signed Memorandums of Understanding with the Métis Nation of Ontario.

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**

That the MNO be directed to pursue the Ontario Women's Directorate to negotiate and sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the MNO.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-11)**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES09-12</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Steve</b>
<b>Seconder:</b>	<b>Jo Anne Young</b>

**WHEREAS** it is important for the MNO to provide timely information to its citizens;

**WHEREAS** additional time to review documents would enhance MNO Annual General Assemblies;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

That the MNO attempt to provide as much information as possible about upcoming AGAs to Métis citizens, Community Councils and PCMNO one week prior to the holding of an AGA.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-12)**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES09-13</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>ACCEPT MNO BRANCH REPORTS</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Senator Bradley</b>
<b>Seconder:</b>	<b>Pauline Saulnier</b>

Move to accept the MNO Branch reports that were provided to the Assembly on Intergovernmental Relations; Health Services; Housing; Corporate Services; Registry; Education and Training; Lands, Resources and Consultation and Culture and Heritage.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES0913)**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES09-14</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY COUNCIL SENATORS HONOURARY RECOGNITION</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Senator Wagner-Millington</b>
<b>Seconder:</b>	<b>Senator Bradley</b>

**WHEREAS** Senators play an important and respected role within the Métis Nation of Ontario's governance structure;

**AND WHEREAS** many Senators have provided their wisdom, guidance and support to MNO Community Councils for a significant period of time;

**AND WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario wants to recognize and respect the contributions of these long-serving MNO Community Council Senators;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

1. That a Senator who continuously holds the Senator position on a MNO Community Council for over 10 years be entitled to retain the title of Past Senator forever, but this honorary title is to acknowledge and respect the contributions of these Senators only and does not entitle them to participate in or vote in the meetings of the MNO Community Council after they are no longer on the Council.
2. That this honorary recognition for long-serving MNO Community Council Senators does not alter or effect the MNO's existing bylaws with respect to recognition of PCMNO Past Senators and does not alter the existing election processes for PCMNO Senators at MNO Annual General Assemblies nor does it require the MNO to cover any costs associated with the participation of Community Council honorary Past Senators to attend MNO meetings, events or assemblies.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS**

**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 23-25, 2009 adjourned on Day 2 – August 24, 2009 at 2:57 p.m. and agreed to reconvene on Day 3 – August 24, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

**DAY 3 – TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2009**

**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED**

Chair Picotte reconvened the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario at 8:31 a.m.

Chair Picotte welcomed the delegates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario. She stated that they had a rather full agenda and that they were going to try to get through the agenda on time. She stated that they had gotten a lot of work done and she was looking forward to the work that they would be undertaking in the coming year. She informed the delegates that she appreciated the work that they had done over the last two days. It was great opportunity for sharing ideas and expressing their opinions. She also thanked the delegates for respecting the Chair's position. It had been a great AGA.

**REGIONAL CHIEF ANGUS TOULOUSE, CHIEFS OF ONTARIO**

Regional Chief Angus Toulouse provided welcoming remarks to the delegates in his language.

Regional Chief Toulouse informed the delegates that his home was about an hour west of Sudbury and that he was glad to be home. He had the privilege of going to President Lipinski's home territory over the previous weekend as he was attending a powwow in a small community in Treaty Three. The community was hosting the opening of their traditional grounds and gathering site. It was a wonderful sight to see people celebrating their culture and heritage. There were a lot of similarities in the struggles that Métis and First Nations faced. Getting the government to recognize that they were a distinct people and that they had much to offer the country and the Province of Ontario was one of their common struggles. He had the opportunity to speak to President Lipinski about a common agenda and he felt that these discussions

needed to go further to see where the Métis and the Chiefs of Ontario could work together. They had been able to get the government to recognize that the Métis and First Nations were very distinct and that there was a need to separate their agendas a few years ago. He thought that this was beginning to happen and this was allowing for movement and work to move forward.

He stated, however, there was much work that needed to happen between the MNO and the Chiefs of Ontario to see how they could work together on various issues such as the environment, resource sharing, mines and resources and other priority areas. The Chiefs of Ontario and MNO would continue to have common discussions with government and there was a need to formalize a MOU between the two organizations. He thanked the MNO for inviting him to participate in the AGA.

President Gary Lipinski presented a crystallized moose carving and a Métis Sash to Regional Chief Toulouse on behalf of the MNO. He congratulated Regional Chief Toulouse on his re-election as the Regional Chief. He was extremely pleased that the Regional Chief was present at the AGA. He wanted to renew the relationship between the organizations. The Nation-to-Nation relationship that they had had taken multiple years to put into place. These relationships were based on their histories. They represented a distinct people and they had a specific constituency. He had no mandate to speak on behalf First Nations and he spoke on behalf of Métis people. However, he was absolutely supportive of First Nation in the pursuit of their rights in whatever way they could to make living conditions better for their people. He congratulated Regional Chief Toulouse and the Chiefs in the work they do for their people. First Nations had their rights and benefits and Métis had their rights and benefits. It was never meant that the Nations would share from the same pot. They were separate people and should be dealt with as separate people. They needed to deal with each other in mutual respect and then they would be able to work together. He thanked the Regional Chief for coming to the AGA and he looked forward to working with him in the future.

#### **CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR ABORIGINAL BUSINESS (CCAB)**

Doug Wilson, COO, introduced Clint Davis, President and Chief Operating Officer (CEO), CCAB, to the delegates. The CCAB was an important organization and that the information that Mr. Davis would be sharing was relevant to the work that the MNO had been undertaking over the last few days.

Clint Davis stated that it was an honour to be at the MNO AGA. It was a tremendous and incredible time for Aboriginal Business in the country. The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business kept hearing about new partnerships in business and this was incredible. Companies were looking to Aboriginal people as the only growing population in terms of a labour force. It was exciting to see Aboriginal people starting to exercise economic influence in the country.

He stated that he would be talking to the delegates about the CCAB and then he would be talking to them about Progressive Aboriginal Relations within his presentation.

Clint Davis, President and CEO of the CCAB presented the power point entitled "*Progressive Aboriginal Relations – PAR Certification – Company and Community Benefits*" to the AGA delegates.

Doug Wilson, COO, presented Clint Davis with a canoe paddle on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario.



## **UPDATE ON MÉTIS RIGHTS LITIGATION AND ISSUES FROM ACROSS THE MÉTIS NATION - CAPTAIN OF THE HUNT REPORT - MNO HARVESTERS SURVEY RESULTS - MNO-MNR HARVESTING AGREEMENT UPDATE**

President Lipinski stated that one of the consequences of making adjustments to the agenda was that there were four different topics that essentially fell under one category and he would be reporting on all of them at the same time. He stated that neither Jason Madden nor Jean Teillet were available to provide the update and that he would do his best to provide an update to the delegates on their behalf.

President Lipinski provided an update on the current court cases that were happening across the Métis Nation. He stated that, given that what was happening in other Board of Governor's regions, Ontario was in a better position.

President Lipinski stated that the negotiations that began in 2004 with regards to harvesting in Ontario included the four-point agreement that was still in place. One of the tradeoffs was that the MNO would issue up to maximum of 1250 cards harvesting cards for the first year only. To that point, the MNO had only issued 850 cards. Unfortunately, some officials did not like the agreement and there was some push back from the government people. There was undermining of the agreement. A number of people with valid harvesters cards were charged even though there was an agreement in place. The MNO was furious that the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) was still laying charges. The MNO Legal Counsel team of Jean Teillet and Jason Madden came up with a way of defending the MNO harvesters but this caused wasted time and significant costs to the MNO. The defense was that the MNO had an agreement in place and MNR was violating this agreement. While this was going on there were no discussions between the MNR and MNO. When the decisions came down, the Judge agreed that the agreement was good and that the government needed to respect the agreement. This decision had a significant impact on all Aboriginal people. It was only in the last year or two that the MNO had re-established discussions with MNR after the court decisions came down. Last year was the first year that the MNO received funding to deal with these important issues.

He assured the delegates that one of the major priority issues that the MNO was bringing to the MNR and the Minister was the 1250 harvesters card caps. They had peaked at 1250 cards and they needed movement on these numbers. The MNO had received a letter from the Minister instructing her officials to have discussions on increasing the cap. People needed to understand why the MNO agreed to the 1250 cap in the first place. The MNO position was that there should not be a cap but they had to agree to the cap. He stated that this was because the MNR was saying that the Métis people east and south of Sudbury could not prove a community therefore would not be able to get harvesters cards. The MNO decided to agree to a 1250 cap while research went on with regards to these areas so that they could prove that these communities do meet the Powley requirement.

The other element of the agreement was the registry. The registry files contained personal information. No personal files were shared other than the people that had given permission for accessing their files, but this did not happen often. President Lipinski stated that he had taken the position that he should not have access to the Registry files. The only people that had access to registry files were the Registrar and the Director of Registry but it was not unrealistic to think that an independent auditor should be able to come into the registry and do an Audit;

someone not related to either the government or the MNO. At some point, this would need to be done with an independent Auditor. Guidelines for the Audit would need to be developed prior to the Audit happening. It was for this reason that people were receiving requests for information, in preparation for the Audit. President Lipinski informed the delegates that every Harvester card was in the process of being renewed. He explained that with those renewals the harvesters would receive a letter telling them about these issues and saying that they may be asked for additional information in preparation of the Audit.

President Lipinski also informed the delegates that another survey of the Harvesters had been completed. The MNO contracted with an independent contractor to do an analysis of the survey. He thanked all the harvesters for their participation. The data was showing that 184 moose were harvested. Clearly the notion that Métis harvesting was a threat to conservation was just not being shown. The information was showing that Métis harvesters were respectful of the environment.

#### **Related Questions and Discussion:**

- A delegate asked if there had ever been a blood quantum test in the courts and was that coming. President Lipinski stated that he did not believe that this was coming.
- A delegate asked if, at some point, the Federal Government would be taking over the registration system. President Lipinski stated that he hoped not. He said that he hoped that they would support the current registry. The MNO needed to be able to support its registry systems and that funding should be provided as part of core funding.
- A delegate asked how many people registered for a harvest card and were still waiting for cards. President Lipinski stated that they had only just reached the 1250 cap and 200 more people were asking for cards. However, it would be helpful if people continued to apply for cards so that they could have accurate numbers when they were negotiating for additional cards.
- President Lipinski stated that the Captains of the Hunt would have more in depth knowledge about where the hunting lines currently stood.
- A delegate indicated that she had 6 trap lines in the Chapleau area and she wanted to know why her harvester card was being revoked and she was being told to go to Québec. The response was that, if she had an Ontario line that shows Ontario ancestry, she was encouraged to ask why the harvester card was being revoked.
- A delegate asked what triggered an accommodation in the Duty to Consult process. President Lipinski responded that, as part of the Duty to Consult, the impact was assessed and then potential accommodations were looked into.

#### **MEETING REPORTS**

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

Sharon McBride, spokesperson of the WSMNO, informed the delegates that over the last year the WSMNO had submitted another proposal for funding and it was not funded. This year the WSMNO had a small meeting with three MNO staff from the Health Unit to prepare a proposal for funding. She was very positive about the process and was hopeful that they would receive funding.

The WSMNO has prepared a questionnaire that was distributed at the AGA and they would be preparing a report with the result that would be provided to the PCMNO.

##### **Veterans**

Maurice Sarazin informed the delegates that on Saturday the Veterans had a meeting. There were 17 Veterans at the table and 47 veterans were registered as part of the MNO. The Veterans had decided to change their election format and had elected a new council. At the meeting, they decided to change the format of the elections and they elected a council. Council members were as follows:

Senator: Elmer Ross  
Treasurer: Rainy Gabel  
Secretary: Joe Paquette  
Sergeant at Arms/Chair: Jean \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice President: Steve Callaghan  
President: Maurice Sarazin

He informed the AGA that they had been doing fundraising over the AGA and they had raised \$1,600 and that three councils had donated an additional \$750.

### **Youth**

Nick Callaghan, Youth Representative, thanked the OPA for giving them the opportunity to get together and discuss energy issues. He read a note that was prepared by the youth to the AGA delegates. The note focused on the importance of youth participation in the MNO.

### **Senators**

Senator Reta Gordon informed the delegates that the moneys collected for the Veterans was up to \$1705. She stated that this was just the beginning and that more fundraising was required.

She informed the delegates that they had 26 Council Senators, 5 PCMNO Senators and 6 Honorary Senators. She thanked the Senators for the work that they had done to get the councils running in many areas. The Senators sat on approximately 50 some boards representing the MNO. She thanked and blessed everyone and wished them a safe journey.

### **CLOSING REMARKS AND CLOSING CEREMONY**

As part of the Closing Ceremonies, President Lipinski informed the delegates that the MNO would be starting a new tradition of passing the Métis Nation flag on to the next host of the MNO AGA. Sudbury Council President Sarrazin passed the Métis Nation flag onto a Senator from Thunder Bay Council who was representing President Landry, who was unable to attend the AGA. The Senator accepted the flag on behalf of President Landry. President Landry sent a message to the AGA delegates inviting everyone to the 17<sup>th</sup> AGA in 2010 that would be held in Thunder Bay.

President Lipinski congratulated the Sudbury Métis Council for hosting the AGA and putting on such a great event. He reminded delegates to mark their calendars for the 17<sup>th</sup> AGA that would be taking place in Thunder Bay from August 22-24, 2009 at Old Fort William. President Lipinski also thanked the MNO staff for the work and the many hours that they put into the preparation and execution of the AGA. He thanked them for their commitment and stated that it had been a very successful 16<sup>th</sup> AGA.

Closing comments by President Gary Lipinski focused on the 16<sup>th</sup> AGA the work that been accomplished over the three days. The signing of three MOUs, the ratification of the MNO Strategic Plan were milestones for the MNO. He encouraged the delegates to read the full

Strategic Plan to see the work that the MNO would be undertaking. They had moved forward as a people and a Nation in passing the Resolutions at the Assembly. It was a long day but a very important element of the AGA. The ongoing recognition of the volunteers and the recognition of Louise Goulding as volunteer of the year was a very important part of the AGA. They had wonderful cultural opportunities throughout the AGA. President Lipinski wished everyone a safe journey home.

He thanked all of the delegations that supported the Assembly and their understanding that there were challenges but that they were moving forward. He stated that there were great things happening for the Métis people in Ontario.

Chair Picotte thanked everyone for their participation and wished them a safe journey home.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 23-25, 2009 concluded on Day 3 – August 25, 2009 at 11:41 a.m. Senator René Gravel closed the meeting with a prayer.

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 23-25, 2009 and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption.

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Tim Pile, Secretary/Treasurer

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France Picotte, Chair