

Minutes of the 21st Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 23 – 25, 2014, at the Valhalla Inn, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

PREPARATION OF MINUTES Carolyn Hunter, Hunter-Courchene Consulting Group

DAY 1 – SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2014

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 21st Annual General Assembly (AGA).

CALL TO ORDER

MNO Chair France Picotte, called the 21st Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario to order at 8:16 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

It was mentioned that Senator Bob McKay, Thunder Bay Métis Council, was unable to make it so Senator Doris Lanigan, Clear Waters Métis Council, welcomed the participants to Thunder Bay for the AGA and opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. OPENING REMARKS

1.1 MNO Chair

Chair Picotte made her opening remarks in Michif. She welcomed everyone to the Assembly and stated that this was an opportunity to renew their friendships, live their culture and speak their language. She said that they also had to undertake governing activities and help their Nation grow. She introduced MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride for opening remarks.

1.2 MNO Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair McBride thanked everyone for attending and mentioned that some of them had arrived early to take the Violence Against Aboriginal Women (VAAW) training, which was very well done. She thanked the MNO Health Branch for their hard work putting that session together. She mentioned the youth from the canoe expedition and stated that these youth were important to the Métis Nation now and in the future.

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 Mayor Keith Hobbs, City of Thunder Bay

Mayor Hobbs acknowledged the dignitaries in the room as well as the Senators, Veterans, Youth (particularly those from the canoe expedition) and all delegates. On behalf of all their citizens and the city council, he welcomed everyone to Thunder Bay, recognizing the area as both First Nations and Métis traditional territory. He recognized their contributions to the local and regional economy. Thunder Bay had always been a cross roads in terms of transportation and it continued in that role to this day. Over the next three days, he stated that they had many important issues to discuss and mentioned that the MNO had had a very busy year. He wished them well in their deliberations and encouraged them to see the city, as time allowed. Regional Councilor Cameron Burgess, Region #2, presented Mayor Hobbs with a gift, a special book on the Métis in Ontario.

2.2 David Bell, Interim President, MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council

Mr. Bell welcomed everyone to Thunder Bay and invited up the other two Presidents from Region #2. Mr. Trent Desaulniers, President, MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council, wished the delegates a productive meeting and issued a particular welcome to the youth from the canoe expedition. Mr. William Gordon, President, MNO Greenstone Métis Council, also welcomed the delegates to the region. Regional Councilor Cameron Burgess, Region #2, presented the MNO Council Presidents from his region with a gift, a special book outlining on the Métis in Ontario.

2.3 Premier Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario – Video Presentation

Premier Kathleen Wynne welcomed all the delegates and mentioned that the government of Ontario was particularly proud of the recent renewal of the Framework Agreement between the MNO and Ontario. She was happy that they were able to strengthen their existing relationships with a shared commitment to common goals. Their focus was improving the quality of life for individuals, families and communities. She stated that she looked forward to working with them towards a better future and she asked them to accept her best wishes for a productive AGA.

2.4 The Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines

Minister Gravelle recognized the Senators, Presidents Lipinski and Chartier, the PCMNO, Council Presidents and all the delegates. He also acknowledged the Grand Chief Yesno, Mayor Hobbs and all the provincial and federal representatives in attendance. He welcomed everyone and applauded the youth from the canoe expedition, noting this important accomplishment. He stated that importance of the contributions of the Métis in the region historically and the importance of continuing to build those strong partnerships into the future. Minister Gravelle mentioned that mining developments that were taking place in the region and the importance of First Nation and Métis involvement in that process. His ministry had also put into place two mineral advisors specifically to deal with Métis interests and concerns. They were able to work with the MNO on a number of issues and he appreciated their perspectives and the candid advice.

Minister Gravelle also had an important presentation to MNO President Lipinski. The Diamond Jubilee Medal recognized the important contributions of certain citizens of Ontario and the difference that they make within the province. He had nominated President Lipinski for his

record of service for and in the Métis community at all levels within Ontario. He stated that had enjoyed their relationship and he hoped they would work together for many years to come. President Lipinski was presented with the Diamond Jubilee Medal stating that he was honoured by this wonderful surprise. He added that it was extra special that it was presented here at the AGA, as it was by working together that they were able to achieve these accomplishments and he accepted the Medal on behalf of all of them, the volunteers within the Métis Nation all over Ontario.

President Lipinski thanked Minister Gravelle for attending and speaking and presented him with a gift, a special book on the Métis in Ontario.

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

Minister Zimmer stated that it was a pleasure to join them at this AGA and mentioned that this was his second year participating at the MNO AGA. He mentioned that he was at Chippewa Park the previous evening to welcome the canoeists; it was a heartwarming and exciting event. To those youth, he said, it was an amazing trip and he thought they would be able to imagine their ancestors making a similar voyage.

He stated that the AGA was a great time to look back at the progress that they had made on the Framework agreement, which was renewed this past April. He provided some background on the Framework Agreement stating that this renewal reinforced the commitment of both the government of Ontario and the MNO to the benefit of all citizens. An independent review of the Agreement was undertaken and the results were that the Agreement has been effective at meeting the goals that were set out in the original agreement of 2008. The government of Ontario was pleased to renew the framework agreement. He provided an overview of the accomplishment included ongoing New Relationship Fund (NRF) monies, economic development initiatives and other collaborations between MNO and Ontario. He added that many different ministries were involved in various educational collaborations including the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, the Ministry of Education among others.

Minister Zimmer also mentioned that the review had identified areas of further action and together they had made some adjustments. The new agreement sets out how they would work together for the next five years building on the success that they had made. He said that, with the framework, they had take a whole government approach involving all the Ministers and the Premier in partnership with the MNO leadership. The government of Ontario Ministers in attendance then presented the signed agreement to President Lipinski in front of the delegates.

Minister Zimmer continued stating that the NRF was a key program to strengthen the relationship between the MNO and Ontario, as it provided capacity building support. The important work of the MNO's Lands, Resources and Consultation branch was an example of how this agreement was providing that support. The Fund and the Agreement provided effective and tangible results.

The Métis Voyageur Development Fund was another important achievement and this would provide \$30M over ten years to support Métis businesses in Ontario. There were already success stories that could be shared from the MVDF. In addition, he stated that they would

work to advocate for a matching of federal funds for this important initiative and he asked the MNO to work with them on that.

Additional research was taking place in different areas of Ontario, such as Mattawa Nipissing, to identify the existence of a historic Métis community in the area and this was being done in partnership between the MNO, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and the federal government. The researchers were working on the final draft of that research report now and that would be presented in the near future.

In conclusion he stated that they wanted to support Métis communities, it was part of this government's plan to make sure all Ontarians had access to what they needed to improve their lives. He also acknowledged Jason Madden, who was recognized by his peers as one of Canada's 25 most influential lawyers by Canadian Lawyer Magazine. He congratulated him on this important achievement.

President Lipinski thanked Minister Zimmer for his commitment to working together with MNO for the betterment of their citizens and presented him with a gift, a special book on the Métis in Ontario.

2.6 Recognition of the Youth Participants from the 2014 Canoe Expedition

Vice-Chair McBride asked Mr. Jeremy Brown to bring his group up to the stage and be introduced to the delegates. President Lipinski thanked them for their accomplishment that made all of them proud and raised awareness Métis culture of across Ontario. Minister Zimmer presented each of the youth with a certificate of achievement, a book of Métis Case Law written by Jean Teillet and a map of the expedition route. The following youth were recognized:

- Jeremy Brown;
- Genevieve Routhier;
- Joshua Szajewski;
- Kyle Grenier;
- Sahra MacLean;
- Amilia DiChiara;
- Heather Bunn;
- Gerald Lavallee;
- Emily Ingram; and,
- Elizabeth Clapin.

2.7 The Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Minister Mauro stated that he was pleased to be part of this year's AGA. He joined his colleagues in welcoming delegates to Thunder Bay, particularly the members of the canoe expedition. He stated that the canoe trip was a great opportunity to highlight Métis heritage in the province and he acknowledged this special achievement. The AGA, he said, was an important opportunity for MNO leadership to speak directly with the citizens and he looked forward to continuing the relationship of collaboration between MNO and Ontario. The renewed framework agreement was a good opportunity to continue the discussions that have been taking place such as the dialogue table to discuss natural resources issues. His ministry worked with other ministries and the MNO under the auspices of the framework agreement for the betterment of all Métis citizens across Ontario. He wished them productive deliberations during the AGA.

Regional Councilor Pauline Richardson, Region #7, thanked Minister Mauro for his remarks and presented him with a gift, a special book on the Métis in Ontario.

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

Dr. Bennett began her comments in French, acknowledging Presidents Lipinski and Chartier and thanked them for this opportunity to speak. She stated that Dr. Janet Smiley, a well known Métis doctor, had gifted her with a Métis sash and she wanted to speak today about health. She spoke about the importance of social determinants of health and recalled the important work of Dr. Smiley and others in public health. She thanked the delegates for the work they did every day in promoting awareness of Métis identity and heritage. She mentioned the resilience of the Métis people and particularly acknowledged the work of their youth leadership. The importance of teaching the children and youth people their heritage was critically important and the youth on the canoe expedition played a big part in promoting that. She mentioned that the Kelowna Accord was a distinction based approach and it was important for all Canadians to learn more about Métis culture.

She brought greetings from their leader, Justin Trudeau and the entire party and they looked forward to working with the Métis on policy development. On this the day of the funeral of Tina Fontaine, she said that they had to do more. She thanked Kristi Belcourt for her leadership in addressing the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

Regional Councilor Anita Tucker, Region #8, thanked Dr. Bennett for her remarks and presented her with a gift, a special book on the Métis in Ontario.

2.9 Mr. John Rafferty, MP, Thunder Bay-Rainy River

Mr. Rafferty stated that it was a pleasure and honour to be here for the MNO AGA and acknowledged all dignitaries and the delegates. He expressed the challenges with dealing with this federal government but he stated that the New Democratic Party and their leader Tom Mulcair saw Aboriginal issues as their first priority. He recognized the achievements of the MNO and stated that they did great work and he wanted to work with them to meet the challenges of the future.

Regional Councilor Ernie Gatien, Region #4, thanked Mr. Rafferty for his remarks and presented him with a gift, a special book on the Métis in Ontario.

2.10 Mr. Alexander Bezzina, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Youth Services

Mr. Bezzina acknowledged the dignitaries at the meeting and stated that he was honoured to be invited to participate in this AGA. He had been here for a few days already and he was welcomed to the sessions warmly and was proud to play a role in developing these positive relationships between Ontario and the MNO. He stated that that this relationship was real and dealt with real issues and they were proud to work with the MNO on a working group to end violence against Aboriginal Women. He stated that this was an important issue for all of them and they needed to shine the light on it and deal with it. They were also working on developing the Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy to ensure effective programming and they valued the partnership they had with MNO in that process.

He commented on the accomplishment of the youth involved in the canoe expedition stated that it was a tribute to the vibrancy and strength of their youth. He wanted to work with the MNO to further develop that. He looked forward to working collaboratively on addressing the unique needs of Métis children and youth.

Regional Councilor Theresa Stenlund, Region #1, thanked Deputy Minister Bezzina for his remarks and presented him with a gift, a special book on the Métis in Ontario.

2.11 Grand Chief Harvey Yesno, Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Grand Chief Yesno acknowledged the prayer of the senator and stated that it was a good way to start their gatherings. He also acknowledged the traditional territory of Fort William First Nation and he was happy to be on this territory as a guest. He stated that he was deeply honoured to be able to share some words at this gathering and he thanked the MNO for the invitation. He stated that he had been following the progress of the canoe expedition and he congratulated the youth on raising awareness on their rich history.

On behalf of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, their 49 First Nations under Treaty #5 and #9, he welcomed them and wished them the best for the meeting deliberations. He spoke about his own connection to the Métis people and the need to restore their Nations through building up their families and communities. It was unfortunate, he stated, that acts of legislation and provincial barriers have divided them and he felt that the next generation of youth would bring their Peoples together. All their youth would call for that unity, recognizing the contributions of all their Peoples. The horizon was unlimited for their youth, he said, and he was listening to what they had to say. There was a need to build on the common interests of all three groups and they need to enhance that unity and respect in order to take their rightful place in Canada. One of the most important issues they needed to work together, in unity, was the issue of the missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

Regional Councilor Peter Rivers, Region #9, thanked Grand Chief Yesno for his remarks and presented him with a gift, a special book on the Métis in Ontario. Secretary-Treasurer Pile added that he had grown up with the Grand Chief and he was a friend and he presented the Grand Chief with a Métis flag.

2.12 Former Grand Chief Leon Jourdain, Grand Council of Treaty #3

Mr. Jourdain thanked the MNO for inviting him to speak today and he brought greetings from the Grand Chief of Treaty #3, who was unable to make it today. He stated that he was Grand Chief for two terms and a Chief for thirty (30) years. He was happy to hear the representatives from Ontario and Canada say that they wanted to work in partnership to improve the future for their people, their children and he wanted to keep that promise into the future. The former grand chief stated that they had common struggles and mentioned residential schools. He stated that they had to fight to get the information they needed to continue with that process even though there was a commission established to carry this dark history to a place of reconciliation.

He stated that he had always attended Métis assemblies when he was grand chief because he felt personally that they had come from the same place. The government had tried to drive wedges between them but he said that, if they joined together, they would be stronger. They had different cultures but he said that came from the same tree. They needed to join together for the wellbeing of all the People.

He invited all in attendance to their assembly on October 21, where they could plan out the steps on how they could move forward together. Their children and youth want them to come together and he mentioned that their treaty, Treaty #3, mentioned the Métis too. He stated that the Métis had treaty rights as well and historically the Chief who was to sign the treaty stated that they had to address those children that were there that were of mixed blood. That historical chief stated that those were their grandchildren regardless of their blood and he would not sign the treaty unless there was an amendment made to include them. The former grand chief stated that the children were the centre of the family, the community and the nation. He added that women were also critically important and they needed to address the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. He thanked them for this opportunity to speak and he wished them a good meeting.

Executive Senator Reta Gordon thanked Chief Jourdain for his remarks and presented him with a gift, a special book on the Métis in Ontario. President Lipinski stated that he was honoured by Chief Jourdain's presence at the meeting and his remarks. He stated that former Grand Chief Jourdain's words were not just for today, he had spoken these words many times in the past and had backed up his words with actions. He stated those historical relationships were significant.

2.13 Mr. Lindsay Boyd, Director, Municipal and Aboriginal Affairs, Union Gas

Mr. Boyd thanked MNO for this opportunity to speak and he acknowledged the dignitaries in the room. He mentioned that he was impressed with the youth on the canoe expedition and he told the delegates their future was bright because of the potential in their youth. He mentioned that Wendy Landry worked for Union Gas and she was able to teach them a lot about Métis culture. He explained that they were supposed to sign an agreement today but their leader was unavoidably indisposed today and he sent his regrets. It will be signed at another date. Their relationship, he said, was based on mutual respect and trust along with an economic basis. He said that the partners recognized what each had to offer and Union Gas was open about their development plans but they respected that their partners used the land in different ways. He said that they were on a journey together and they looked forward to the partnership into the future. He thanked them for the opportunity; it was an honour.

Regional Councilor Marcel Lafrance, Region #3, thanked Mr. Boyd for his remarks and presented him with a gift, a special book on the Métis in Ontario.

2.14 Richard Ouellet, Director, Wabnode Centre for Aboriginal Services, Cambrian College

Mr. Ouellet thanked the MNO for the opportunity to speak and he recognized the traditional territory of the Aboriginal people of this area. He stated that he was from the Métis Nation of Alberta but he had moved to Ontario. He said that he had grown up with Métis history and the message that the Grand Chief brought here today about unity. He stated that at Cambrian College, there was limited Métis involvement at the college and he felt that there was a lot of work to be done to remedy that. It was important that they create an environment at Cambrian that was safe for all cultures because education was critically important to their future as indigenous people.

In terms of education, he felt that they needed to go to where the people were so there was a need to address the lack of high speed internet access for the communities as distance education was a way to address these education issues. He spoke about the difficulties that students faced when they had to leave home to go to school and also the fact that the course offering in small communities does not provide the base needed for higher education. He stated that they needed to address these issues by pushing governments and also working on it on their own too. In his work, he said, he wanted to support First Nation and Métis families to assist students in being successful in post-secondary.

Regional Councilor Tom Thompson Jr, Region #6, thanked Mr. Ouellet for his remarks and presented him with a gift, a special book on the Métis in Ontario.

2.15 Mr. Jim Madder, President, Confederation College

Mr. Madder thanked the MNO for the invitation to speak and acknowledged the senators and all the dignitaries in the room. He stated that he was happy to see strong representation from the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, government and from Cambrian College. He said he wanted to focus on the youth delegates and the youth canoeists from the expedition because of their valuable contribution to this AGA and also the previous AGA, which he had attended in Ottawa. When he attended the AGA in Ottawa, he mentioned that he had noticed how involved the youth were and the emphasis placed on education and learning. He also observed the MNO's focus on history and tradition. Finally he saw how the MNO fulfilled a strong advocacy and leadership role within the Métis Nation here in Ontario. He saw that these elements were important to all of them and they work that they did throughout the province. Confederation College was very supportive of the aspirations of the Métis and the college welcomed large number of Aboriginal students, many of which were Métis. He wished them a wonderful and productive AGA.

PCMNO Youth Representative Mitchell Case thanked Mr. Madder for his remarks and presented him with a gift, a special book on the Métis in Ontario.

2.16 Mr. Clément Chartier, President, Métis National Council

President Chartier thanked Chair Picotte for her introduction and acknowledged the dignitaries in that were in attendance. He particularly acknowledged the youth canoeists stating that they would remember that experience forever and he thanked them for doing that. He stated that relationships were significant and one of the most significant was the relationship between the Métis and the First Nations. They needed to find their destiny together. He mentioned the relationship of the MNO with the province of Ontario stating that the depth of that relationship was amazing and what they were able to accomplish together here in Ontario was phenomenal. The MNO had come a long way in a very short time.

He congratulated Jason Madden stating that he had known him for a long time mentioning that his presentation would take place the next day on Métis rights. It was important that they make progress on the political and social side but they also had to move the legal agenda forward. This set the foundation for their future work and he provided a quick overview of two important cases: Daniels, and, Williams. In terms of rights, he also mentioned that the scrip system had caused issues for the Métis in the west in terms of their rights but the Métis in Ontario were in a good position in terms of their rights. He stated that they needed to take some action reclaiming ownership rights for the lands and resources.

The Aboriginal Affairs working group of the Council of the Federation had been discussing a lot of important issues and one of the priorities was addressing violence against Aboriginal women. They were calling for an inquiry but the Prime Minister has been resisting this. Other issues included children issues, the care system and the 60s scoop. He said that they might be looking at some new working groups to look into these issues.

He agreed that the indigenous people needed to work together and he noted that this might be easier at the national level. He said that both the MNC and the AFN were part of a consultation process in preparation for the World Conference on Indigenous People and a action plan was being developed on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. There was also a plan to push the issue of violence against Aboriginal women on the international stage with the hope that they could get the Canadian government moving on it.

He thanked them for this opportunity to speak and wished them a productive AGA. Regional Councilor Juliette Denis, Region #5, thanked President Chartier for his remarks and presented him with a gift, a special book on the Métis in Ontario.

3. STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

MNO President Gary Lipinski acknowledge the special guests and dignitaries in attendance and provide a particular welcome to Grand Chief Yesno, stating that it was an honour to have him here at the AGA and he looked forward to reconnecting those ties from the past. He added that he appreciated the tone of the remarks this morning with the focus on working together on issues that are of common concern. He mentioned some of the milestones that have taken place this past year within the Métis Nation and stated that many important people, people who have made significant contributions to their Nation had passed on.

There have been a number of successes this year and some of the remarks from their guests had mentioned these including the renewed Framework Agreement with Ontario and the ongoing work of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund. He stated that these were the successes they could accomplish by working together, by having a government that was willing to work with them. He thanked past Premiers and Ministers for helping them reach these accomplishments. In terms of the MVDF, the financial commitment had only come from Ontario, nothing from the federal government despite the fact that they provide funding to the Métis Funds out west. The MNO with their provincial partners would be putting the pressure on the federal government to match the provincial funds committed.

In terms of federal programs, the ASETS program was set to expire in 2015. The program, from the MNO's perspective, was very effective in getting their citizens that helping hand into the workforce or education institutions. Métis leadership at the national and provincial levels have been making a case for how successful the program has been and the great outcomes from program investments. The department a successor strategy and the Métis have stressed that the decision should be made soon, as the citizens need that program.

President Lipinski stated that the countless number of volunteers who work for the Métis citizens and communities across Ontario was one of the pillars of their success. The tireless work of all their volunteers has earned them the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism. This award recognized individuals and groups for superlative volunteer

contributions to their communities and to the province of Ontario. He stated that he, along with others from the MNO, were happy and proud to accept this award on behalf of all their volunteers.

He drew their attention to the MNO Annual Report 2014, which was available in the meeting kits and he wanted to talk a bit about the New Relationship Fund (NRF). The NRF made it possible for relationships to be built with proponents, like Union Gas, and it was through those relationships that they could increase economic opportunities for their citizens and businesses. In terms of development, they wanted to keep environmental concerns in mind and they looked forward the benefits of responsible development with their solar projects. The MNO, along with their partner, was successful on 63 applications to Ontario Power Authority Feed-In Tariff (FIT) program and they were now moving in the construction phase. President Lipinski stated that it was important that they had sole source funds for now and in the future.

Another issue that was in the forefront of their minds at the MNO was violence against Aboriginal women and they held a workshop on this topic a few days previous to learn more about the magnitude of the issue. They had talked about the importance of shining a light on this dark and difficult issue. They would be putting forward a declaration in the form of a resolution at this AGA demanding a public inquiry in the missing and murdered Aboriginal women and also to show their support to work toward alleviating this violence in their communities. He stated that this was a terrible tragedy; just the RCMP statistics found that there are 1181 missing and murdered Aboriginal women. This did not include the statistics from other police services or cases of other violence against Aboriginal women. He stated that it was a tragedy of a huge scope and it was impossible to conclude that these were just individual crimes. He stressed that the root causes have to be investigated in a public inquiry so that effective and relevant actions could be taken to alleviate it. The Prime Minister had given a short and simple answer to a complex and large issue. It was important to deal with this domestic issue before looking beyond Canada's borders to deal with the issues of other nations; this was important too but they needed to take care of their own citizens first. The MNO would add their voice to the many others calling for a public inquiry.

The focus of the MNO was on children and youth and ensuring they had every opportunity to be the best they could be and he was sure they would all agree that they needed to continue on that path. Their children and youth needed to confidence to build strong relationships to support all of their aspirations. All the initiatives they worked on had this as the goal and there were all interconnected. This was a long-term plan and looking at the social determinants of health and supporting education initiatives was key in this plan. They needed to support their children and youth, not only as a Nation but as individuals and families as well.

In terms of the administration of the MNO, he drew their attention to how much they have achieved in lowering their debt since 2008. Between 1999-2003, the MNO had built up debts in the amount of \$4.5M and it was a challenge to make the decisions necessary to pay that debt since 2008. They were fortunate to develop strong partnerships and the ability to negotiate reasonable repayment plans. It had gone so well that they were eleven years ahead on their repayment plan and their debt was now less than \$1M. Next year at the AGA 2015, he expected to hear that they were debt-free. This was seen in this year's audit, which was very positive and they no longer had the "going concern" clause included. He agreed that they have had to make some difficult decisions over the last few years to get to this point but it was worth

it. The benefits of this more positive financial position would be felt in the years to come and they will leave a positive legacy in terms of the MNO's administration for the generations to come.

President Lipinski stated that he wanted to add his voice to the many congratulating the youth canoeists from the expedition for their accomplishment. He said that they were proud of them and their expedition had raised awareness of their Métis culture and heritage in the many towns they had stopped in on during their journey. He was anxious to hear their many stories from the trip and he was envious for their unique opportunity. He called them ambassadors for the MNO and he stated that it gave them great pleasure to see the accomplishments of their youth. He congratulated Jason Madden as well stating that the youth could accomplish whatever they set their minds on. He added that their families, their communities and their Nation would support them.

In conclusion, President Lipinski thanked them for coming to the AGA and for their contribution now and throughout the year. It was the delegates that made the AGA special and he looked forward to them working together over the next three days for the advancement of all their citizens.

4. REVIEW AND 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 (Cecile Wagar) and SECONDED (Terry Bloom)

That the Agenda for the 21st Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario meeting scheduled August 23-25, 2014, be approved as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA14-01)

RECESS The Meeting recessed for lunch at 11:38 a.m. and resumed at 1:02 p.m.

5. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUORUM

Vice-Chair McBride reported that there were 355 registered delegates and, of these, there were 180 citizens at the 21st Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario. She advised that 90 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 135. She also noted for information purposes that there were 48 youth delegates.

6. ADOPTION OF THE 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Secretary-Treasurer Pile reviewed the resolutions from the Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

It was MOVED (Pauline Richardson) and SECONDED (Tom Thompson Jr.)

That the Minutes of the 20th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario be accepted as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA14-02)

6.1 Business Arising From the Minutes

Chair Picotte asked if there was any business arising from those minutes but there were no comments.

7. OVERVIEW OF THE RESOLUTIONS PROCESS

Chair Picotte referenced Tab #3 in the Meeting Kit where the delegates would find the document entitled "MNO AGA 2013-14 Resolutions, Motions and Action Sheet Update". Jason Madden, MNO Legal Counsel, provided an overview of the resolutions process, which could be found under Tab #5 in the Meeting Kit. Following that, he requested nominations for the Resolutions Committee.

7.1 Appointment of Resolutions Committee

The following individuals were nominated for the Resolutions Committee: Pauline Richardson; Senator Ray Bergie; and, Mitchell Case. All those nominated accepted the nomination and agreed to sit on the Resolutions Committee.

It was MOVED (Sharon McBride) and SECONDED (Hank Rowlinson)

That the Resolutions Committee for the 21st Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario scheduled August 23-25, 2014 be comprised of: Senator Ray Bergie; Pauline Richardson; and, Mitchell Case.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA14-03)

Chair Picotte stated that the Resolutions Committee would advise the assembly when the closing time for the resolutions would be.

7.2 2014 Special Business Resolutions

Chair Picotte stated that, as she was the seconder on the special resolutions, she would turn the chair over to Vice-Chair McBride. Jason Madden read out the special resolutions, which were in the meeting kit under Tab #4.

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES2014-01
Title:	CONFIRM CHANGES TO MNO BYLAWS
Mover:	Gary Lipinski
Secunder:	France Picotte

WHEREAS the PCMNO met on March 29, 2014 and approved changes to the MNO Bylaws pursuant to the authority set out in section 39 of the MNO Bylaws;

AND WHEREAS the exact wording of the changes made to the MNO Bylaws since the last MNO AGA is highlighted in yellow and explained in detail in the attached document;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2014 MNO AGA approves the PCMNO's changes to the MNO Bylaws dated March 29, 2014, which are attached to this resolution.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPECRES2014-01)

Questions and Discussion

President Lipinski noted that the Assembly had given direction to strike a group to look at changes to the MNO Bylaws and the MNO Electoral Code. Following that process, the PCMNO went through all the proposed changes at one of their meetings this year. Some of these changes were required to be compliant with changes to the Not for Profit Corporations Act. In addition, there were changes that were required that were discussed for the past few years.

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES2014-02
Title:	CHANGES TO THE MNO ELECTORAL CODE
Mover:	Gary Lipinski
Seconder:	France Picotte

WHEREAS the 2012 MNO AGA directed that a consultation process on potential changes to the MNO Electoral Code be undertaken with MNO citizens prior to the next MNO election;

AND WHEREAS the 2012 MNO AGA appointed an independent Committee consisting of MNO citizens to review the MNO Electoral Code, the Chief Electoral Officer's report from the last MNO election as well as receive feedback and input from MNO citizens on the last MNO election;

AND WHEREAS the Committee provided a written report to the 2013 MNO AGA based on the reviews conducted and the input received on the MNO Electoral Code, which was approved by the 2013 MNO AGA;

AND WHEREAS the Committee then worked with MNO's Legal Counsel to proposed drafting changes to the MNO Electoral Code consistent with input and feedback received;

AND WHEREAS the PCMNO met on March 29, 2014 and approved the proposed changes to the MNO Electoral Code;

AND WHEREAS the exact wording of the proposed changes to the MNO Electoral Code are highlighted in yellow and explained in detail in the attached document;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2014 MNO AGA approves the proposed changes to the MNO Electoral that are attached to this resolution.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPECRES2014-02)

Questions and Discussion

Ms. Joanne Young stated that she was a member of the committee that worked on the changes to the Electoral Code. Due to the growth of the MNO and increased capacity and willingness to be involved in their electoral processes, they needed to review and update the Code. This was a first step in further transparency within the process and increased information flow to their citizens. Some of the important issues that were covered were use of MNO resources during election periods, timeframe of the campaign, advanced poll date changes among others. They were also looking at options for the future such as electronic voting but this would not be in place by 2016.

Regional Councillor Denis, Region #5, asked for clarification around the fee required for recounts (section 6.2 of the Electoral Code) and asked if they did not decide at the PCMNO that it should be returned if the person requesting the recount was shown to be successful. Ms. Teillet said that here was some discussion around this during the PCMNO. To everyone's best recollection, this fee for the recount request and process would not be returned.

It was noted that they should ensure all the Community Councils clearly understand the changes that were made and it was noted that every effort would be made to ensure that.

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES2014-03
Title:	CHANGES TO THE MNO POLICY #2011-002
Mover:	Gary Lipinski
Seconded:	France Picotte

WHEREAS the PCMNO has recently amended the MNO Bylaws in order to bring them into compliance with new Ontario legislation dealing with not-for-profit corporations that will come into effect at a future date;

AND WHEREAS MNO Policy #2011-002 requires amendments in order to be consistent with the changes made to the MNO Bylaws;

AND WHEREAS the PCMNO met on March 29, 2014 and discussed proposed changes to MNO Policy #2011-002;

AND WHEREAS the exact wording of the proposed changes to MNO Policy #2011-002 are outlined and explained in detail in the attached document;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2014 MNO AGA approves the proposed changes to MNO Policy #2011-002 that are attached to this resolution.

CARRIED (AGA-SPECRES2014-03)

127 – IN FAVOUR

25 - AGAINST

Questions and Discussion

It was noted that a change suggested and approved by the PCMNO (MNO Policy 2011-002 under Tab 4 in the meeting kit) to make the following revision should be included: "special resolution means a resolution, at a general assembly, that proposes to add, change or amend the MNO's foundational principles..." (paragraph 5). Regional Councillor Denis, Region #5, stated that the citizens need to have enough time to review any new additions as well as changes to existing policies. President Lipinski stated that he remembered that discussion as well but due to the restrictions around special business, he suggested that they make that change next year and proceed with deciding on the current wording this year. It can be updated for the next AGA.

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES2014-04
Title:	ADOPTION OF MNO REGISTRY POLICY
Mover:	Gary Lipinski
Seconded:	France Picotte

WHEREAS the MNO AGA adopted the National Definition for citizenship within the Métis Nation in 2004, which is now a part of the MNO Bylaws;

AND WHEREAS the PCMNO adopted an Interim Registry Policy in 2009 in order to provide direction to the MNO Registry for the granting of citizenship within the MNO;

AND WHEREAS the MNO undertook a series of consultations with MNO citizens between 2009 to 2011 in order to more fully explain the Interim Registry Policy and receive input and feedback from the consultations;

AND WHEREAS “What We Heard” reports with recommendations were prepared based on those consultations and circulated throughout the MNO;

AND WHEREAS previous MNO AGAs have provided direction to the MNO in relation to specific recommendations coming out of those consultations, which have been implemented by the MNO Registry;

AND WHEREAS the MNO Interim Registry Policy has now been in place for over 5 years and is relied upon by the MNO Registry for the issuance of MNO citizenship;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2014 MNO AGA adopts the Interim Registry Policy that is attached to this resolution and that all future changes to the policy must come to the MNO AGA for consideration and approval.

CARRIED (AGA-SPECRES2014-04)

122 – IN FAVOUR

21 – AGAINST

6- ABSTENTIONS

Questions and Discussion

President Lipinski stated that the policy itself was not being changed but this resolution would provide some protection for the document, as any changes to it would have to come before the Assembly for approval. A question was raised around if this had been presented to the Assembly before and the response was that it was not, it was approved by the PCMNO. Mr. Madden noted that this was acceptable practice as the PCMNO was mandated to pass policies at any time. He explained that this was exactly why they were proposing this resolution, in the future, it could not be changed without the Assembly’s approval.

Ms. Joanne Young stated that she supported the resolution and the rationale behind it but she took issue with the date of 1750, as it should not be recorded as a firm date. Mr. Madden stated that it does not undermine earlier dates because the timeframe was open ended, more flexible.

There was a question raised around acquiring citizenship when coming from outside of Ontario, specifically Quebec. Mr. Madden stated that it would depend on the case – a case could be made for some from the Temiscaming area but there would need to be supportive historical research therefore case law supporting other areas.

Ms. Benny Michaud asked a question on the requirement of “community of acceptance” and she suggested that the community could be involved in providing evidence for that. Mr. Madden noted that this could lead to a politically charged situation and that was why the MNO went with the centralized registry system. It was suggested that they would not want a system that could be adversely affected by personal politics but maybe there were other options they could consider to involve the community. Mr. Madden suggested that it was likely an amendment to the policy would be proposed eventually and they would have to vote on it.

Regional Councilor Denis, Region #5, stated that she supported the idea that this document should be protected through this resolution but she did not agree with some statements in the document. It was quoted that this was the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and has been in place for 18 years and it has not been changed at all since 1995.

Senator Lois McCallum mentioned that there was still the outstanding issue of adoption, which they had attempted to deal with in past AGAs. Mr. Alex Young thanked everyone who worked on these changes for their hard work and suggested that they had come to a decision on adoption at the Parry Sound AGA. Ms. Teillet noted that the Powley decision did allow for adoption. President Lipinski stated that they had travelled to the province to discuss the registry in a consultation process and there were many lively debates and strong opinions on both sides. The registry policy had not changed and it was currently in effect and any changes will have to be brought here to the Assembly for discussion and approval.

There was an issue raised with the map attached the document. Mr. Madden noted that this was the map associated with the harvesting agreement and it was now part of their policy. He stated that they could not change it until they were in renegotiations with MNR.

Youth Representative Mitchell Case stated they could not decide on the adoption issue today but they need to come a decision, as a government would. He asked what MNBC had decided on this issue. Ms. Teillet noted that adoptee could become Métis citizens but they could not pass on that citizenship to their children. Mr. Madden mentioned that during the consultations, there was no agreement on this issue and he agreed with Mr. Case, they will need to move forward on the issue even if they could not find a perfect solution.

Mr. Joe Paquette, MNO Veterans Council, asked for clarification on the “rights of the collective Métis Nation”. Ms. Teillet provided some historical context on the concept of a right in the context of human rights and women’s rights. She said that they were always thinking about it so the idea was always changing and evolving. Currently, she said, they saw this as having rights of a nation, a people within the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, which covers a number of different areas.

8. FINANCIAL UPDATE

8.1 Treasurer's Update

Secretary-Treasurer Pile welcomed everyone to Thunder Bay, his hometown. He also referred delegates to the document being distributed entitled "Métis Nation of Ontario President's Statement" with attached financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2014. He stated that he was very pleased to report on the 2013-14 operating year noting that MNO had continued to stay on track with another solid financial performance. They have continued to significantly reduce their debt and increased their operating budget with additional service delivery activities. With strong leadership and hard work at the community level, they continued to build a strong foundation for their organization for the betterment of their Nation. Of particular note, he mentioned, was the fact this audit was unqualified, which was a great achievement. This was the first time it did not include a note of "going concern". In conclusion, he stated that the MNO Finance Committee had reviewed the financial statements and recommended the document for approval to the PCMNO and the Assembly.

8.2 Approval of the 2013-14 Audit (MNO Auditor)

Mr. Randy Tivy, Collins Barrow, reviewed the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2014.

It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Alis Kennedy)

That the 21st Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario approved the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2014.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA14-04)

8.3 Appointment of the Auditor

It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Cecile Wagar)

That the 21st 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, 2015.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA14-05)

Ms. Joanne Young stated that that she wanted to commend the work of the MNO Director of Finance and her staff for their hard work. It was acknowledged that this was the first unqualified audit report since 1993.

It was noted that the agenda item "Finance Report" to be provided by the Director of Finance would be moved to the following morning. It was also noted that the resolutions had to be received by August 24, 2014 at 3pm.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNMENT

The 21st Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 23 – 25, 2014 adjourned on Day 1 – August 23, 2014 at 3:45 p.m. and agreed to reconvene on Day 3 – August 24, 2014 at 8:30 a.m.

DAY 2 – SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2014
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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

The 21st Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 23-25, 2014 reconvened on Day 2 – August 24, 2014 at 8:30 a.m.

9. OPENING REMARKS

Chair Picotte and Vice-Chair McBride provided an overview of the previous day's activities and deliberations.

FINANCE REPORT (cont'd)

Ms. Judie McKenney, Director of Finance, MNO provided an overview of her powerpoint presentation entitled "Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31st 2014". 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.

Questions and Discussion

President Lipinski thanked the PCMNO for providing feedback to Ms. McKenney on her presentation and for making the hard decisions necessary to turn their financial position around since 2008. Secretary-Treasurer Pile thanked Ms. McKenney and her staff for their hard work and also thanked the Regional Councilors for their assistance in gathering the information that was needed. He also thanked the Finance Committee – Executive Senator Reta Gordon, Pauline Richardson, Cameron Burgess, President Lipinski, Doug Wilson, Judie McKenney - for their hard work.

10. METIS RIGHTS NATIONAL UPDATE

Ms. Jean Teillet provided an update on the Metis law activity. She provided a powerpoint presentation entitled "Metis Law in Canada 2014". She also mentioned that all the information she was presenting could be found in the legal publication of the same name or its supplement. She provided an overview of fourteen (14) new cases across Canada including;

- 2 Consultation Cases
 - Enge (NWT); Shell Canada Energy (AB);
- 4 Hunting & Fishing cases
 - Babin (NS); Langan (MB); Smith (NS); Hirsekorn (AB)
- 2 Identity/Membership cases
 - Aulotte (AB), Gauchier (AB)
- 2 Jurisdiction cases
 - Daniels (Federal); Keewatin (ON)
- 1 class action case
 - Brown (Sixties Scoop) (Ont)
- 1 Human Rights case
 - Gereluk (BC)
- 1 Tax case
 - Girard (QC)
- 1 Aboriginal title case

-
- Tsilhqot'in (BC)

Questions and Discussion

There was a question raised around ceded and unceded territory and if those who had not signed the treaty from the area, would still be subject to the stipulations of that treaty. In reference to Treaty #3, Ms. Teillet noted that it was complicated because it was a full surrender treaty and for the First Nation it was clear that they surrendered their aboriginal title. She explained that modern treaties were not surrender treaties but all the treaties in Ontario were full surrender treaties. The issue with the Treaty #3 adherence was that they did sign it but there were questions around if it was ever implemented. The government was supposed to take further steps, she explained, so the rights might not have been extinguished but it needed to be looked at further.

Ms. Brenda Powley stated that it was important that they had their own lawyers because this was an intimidating process for the community members involved. It was very complicated process and her and her family appreciated the lawyers who stood with them during their court case.

Mr. Joe Paquette, MNOVC, asked about the title case in BC and if the land was fee simple. Ms. Teillet stated that there was a different kind of title, which took in some aspects of fee simple but was different. Mr. Paquette asked about the land title in the MMF case. Ms. Teillet stated that she felt it would likely be fee simple lands but she did not think they had any fee simple land in the area that is the focus of the case. The Crown, she explained could not grant Aboriginal title; it was either there or not but it did not stop them from getting other lands in the province.

Ms. Marlene Davidson asked Ms. Teillet what they should do about a situation in her area where the Crown forests were given to others and they were not consulted. Ms. Teillet stated that there were communities that were part of the treaties but did not sign but they did have Aboriginal title but in this particular case, it was not signed by the Métis in the area so there were no benefits. Ms. Davidson asked also about the cumulative effects of mining in the area, as Shell Canada was looking at increasing mining in the Red Lake area. Ms. Teillet stated that cumulative effects were significant but difficult to deal with because there was no mechanism for that. Mechanisms were set up only to track individual projects so more work had to be done in this area to push the government to address cumulative effects. She suggested that they needed to push to government to enact legislation to deal with this.

RECESS The Meeting recessed for break at 10:25 a.m. and resumed at 10:40 a.m.

10.1 Métis Rights Update – Ontario Issues

Mr. Madden provided an overview of his powerpoint presentation entitled “Update on Métis Legal Issues”. He provided a review of the current cases and issues that impacted Ontario. He provided an overview and update in a number of areas including:

- Harvesting issues, meeting the “Powley Test”, the independent review of their Registry files and additional research taking place to identify historic rights-bearing communities.
- He presented some maps of the MNO rights assertion areas and provided an overview of the idea of “root ancestors” and the need to have agreement on who these root ancestors were.

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- A review of boundary issues was mandated by the Assembly in 2013 and he provided an overview of the existing maps and some of the issues associated with those.
 - He provided an update on regional protocols and how supportive the regions were of this process now. There was increased awareness with proponents that the Métis needed to be consulted.
 - In terms of next steps, they would be completing the research and undertaking the independent review process as well as pushing the federal government for the establishment of a Métis Claims Policy. Also they were be pushing for the passage of an MNO Act by Ontario and playing a supportive role in Métis litigation at the national level (Daniels, MMF, Keewatin)

Questions and Discussion

Clarification was provided on the role of Canadian Standards regarding the independent review of the Registry. Mr. Madden noted that the CSA initiative was to develop a common standard between provinces and, on the rights basis, it was about the MNO and Ontario. Keewatin was showing that Ontario had the responsibility but Canada still had a role to play.

A question was asked about if those root ancestors were confirmed, could those with harvesting rights exercise those rights anywhere in Ontario. Mr. Madden stated that they had come up against this issue in the Hersikorn case (AB) where Mr. Hersikorn had moved from Manitoba to Alberta but the judgment did not address the issue of mobility of rights. The mobility of Métis rights has not been resolved yet. The MNO harvesting policy was an assertion and interim step to rights recognition but ideally, over time, this was where they wanted to go. Additionally, he clarified that the Captains of the Hunt did no have the authority to grant this kind of mobility of rights and it would likely go against the existing agreement.

11. UPDATE ON MNO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Madden provided a brief update on MNO economic development initiatives stating that they were working on setting up some administrative infrastructure to support these activities. The COO was looking for funding to hire a Chief Executive Officer of the Infinity Investment entity and they were hoping to have this person in place by the end of the Fall. Following that, they could begin building the model as outlined in the self sufficiency law. They were moving ahead on a number of different areas including the Solar Projects and other joint venture options. It was hoped that the new CEO would be able to report on this in more detail at the next AGA.

As per the self sufficiency law, they would be generating their own income from those solar projects and there would be profits from that so they needed to have a discussion on how those resources would be allocated.

12. VIDEO PRESENTATION ON ARRIVAL OF CANOE EXPEDITION TO CHIPPEWA PARK

A video presentation was made during the Assembly showing the arrival of the canoe expedition to Chippewa Park.

13. COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTATION ON NEW MNO APP

Mr. Mike Fedyk, Director of Communications, provided presentation on the MNO web portal and the new mobile app. He also showed the delegates the type of information they could access

such as traditional knowledge areas, historical communities, canoe expedition route, pictures and video.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNMENT

The 21st Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 23 – 25, 2014 adjourned on Day 2 – August 24, 2014 at 11:57.m. and agreed to reconvene on Day 3 – August 25, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

DAY 3 – MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2014
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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

The 21st Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 23-25, 2014 reconvened on Day 3 – August 25, 2014 at 8:58 a.m. The colours were retired by the Veterans.

14. OPENING REMARKS

Chair Picotte and Vice-Chair McBride provided an overview of the previous day's activities and deliberations.

15. WE ASPIRE TO ATTAIN OUR HIGHEST POTENTIAL 2013-14 HIGHLIGHT VIDEO

Mr. Mike Fedyk, Director of Communications, introduced the video stating that it was the annual report in video form and thanked the MNO Communications staff for their hard work putting it together. He also asked all delegates to forward the Communications Unit picture and stories from the communities for the Voyageur and the website.

16. UPDATES

16.1 Senator's Report

Executive Senator Reta Gordon referred the delegates to the section on the Senators in the annual report stating that they had four PCMNO Senators and 27 of the 29 councils have Senators. There were also honorary Senators who have sat on the PCMNO in the past. They had three new Senators this year and four Senators that were at the AGA this year for their first meeting. She reminded them that it was important that the Senators were there to do opening and closing prayer but they were also more involved than that and she provided an overview of some of their typical activities.

16.2 MNO Veteran's Council

Mr. Joe Paquette, President, MNOVC, thanked the organizers for planning a great AGA and for those who travelled from far away to attend and participate. He provided an overview of the Louis Riel medals they had presented this year stating that they were up to 110 as of last week. The MNOVC was instrumental in getting funding for a 100 year old veteran, Alexander Boucher, and his caregiver to attend the AGA last year in Ottawa and this was beneficial and enjoyable for this individual. He mentioned that passing of Peter Grysdale in February 2014 and three members of the MNOVC attended the celebration of his life and a Métis wreath was provided to the family. He stated that this was becoming protocol now and he felt it was important to support the veterans and their families.

He stated that they had to cancel their January meeting this year but they met in April. He added that they would be working with MNO Communications on the design of a new Louis Riel Certificate. He thanked Mike Fedyk and the Communications Unit for their assistance. He also provided an overview of some of their activities this year.

16.3 Women's Secretariat of the MNO

Vice-Chair Sharon McBride thanked the participants for attending the pre-meetings this year and stated that the session on Violence Against Aboriginal Women was particularly important to her. She thanked the Ms. Wenda Watteyne, MNO Director of Healing and Wellness, and her staff for organizing that session. They were looking at additional fundraising and holding the faceless doll activity in every community council. This was an important and worthwhile activity. She welcomed all the women from the Women's Secretariat and asked them to stand and be acknowledged.

16.4 MNO Youth Council

Mr. Mitchell Case, PCMNO Youth Representative, thanked the Assembly for this opportunity to provide a brief update on the youth activities over the past year. He explained that they had filled the vacancy on their council in region #1 and welcomed Kelly Duquette, as strong voice for youth. He also acknowledged to members of the council who have graduated - Alex Young and Sylvie Forest. He stated that they were continuing their regular calls as well as participating in different events such as leadership conferences and the TRC event in Edmonton. This was important work in healing their communities. He mentioned that the Council had a face to face meeting in February and thanked the MNOET and MNO Healing and Wellness for their assistance with that. He mentioned that he had attended Louis Riel Day in Toronto and there were many youth there.

He stated that the work that they did on the MNOYC was just a small part of the youth work that was going on all over Ontario and he commended the community council youth representatives who worked hard on local community activities. He mentioned that he was surprised to be a recipient of the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers and he stated that without the opportunities provided to him and other Métis youth, this would not have been possible. He thanked the MNO for this. He thanked the Assembly for their hard work all week and wished them safe travels.

17. RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Pauline Richardson 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. The resolutions were distributed to the Assembly as well as presented in a powerpoint presentation. Ms. Richardson stated that there were no issues with the resolutions and she asked that the Mover read the resolution at the appropriate time.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2014-01
Title:	CALLING FOR A NATIONAL INQUIRY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN
Mover:	Gary Lipinski
Seconder:	Sharon McBride

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario has a mandate to protect the rights and interests of its citizens including the right to live our lives free of all forms of violence and abuse;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario recognizes that Aboriginal woman and girls suffer disproportionately high levels of violence in all its forms;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario acknowledges the negative impacts violence has on the wellbeing of our families, our communities and our nation;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario is a full partner in Ontario's Joint Working Group to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario is a signatory to the Framework to End Violence Against Women;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario leadership is committed to preventing and addressing Violence Against Women to the best of its ability;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Métis Nation of Ontario President will write to the Prime Minister of Canada urging the federal government to implement a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED the Métis Nation of Ontario hereby proclaims the adoption of the Métis Nation Declaration to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2014-01)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2014-02
Title:	SHARING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE WITH MÉTIS YOUTH
Mover:	Katelyn Lacroix
Seconders:	Mitch Case

WHEREAS the preservation and continuation of Metis history and culture is of great importance to the Metis nation;

AND WHEREAS the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose guides the MNO to “promote the history, values, culture, language and traditions of the Metis Nation and to create an awareness of our proud heritage”;

AND WHEREAS knowledge sharing between Metis elders and youth is an excellent way to ensure that our culture remains strong and vibrant for future generations;

AND WHEREAS senator/veteran/youth workshops in the past were enthusiastically received by youth and elders alike;

AND WHEREAS traditional knowledge sharing with the youth of today ensures the preservation and transfer of knowledge to future generations of Metis and promotes and fosters the development of Metis identity, culture and pride in our history as an indigenous nation;

AND WHEREAS including youth in this process will ensure the continuation of our traditional knowledge for future generations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that subject to funding being available and secured by MNO future Annual General Assemblies will include a workshop for Senators, Veterans and Youth to share and celebrate traditional knowledge and culture of the Ontario Metis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that PCMNO and the MNOYC work to involve youth in the transfer of traditional knowledge.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2014-02)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2014-03
Title:	COMMUNICATIONS WITH MÉTIS YOUTH
Mover:	Kyle Grenier
Seconded:	Alex Young

WHEREAS youth engagement and involvement in the Metis Nation of Ontario is a current priority of the MNO;

AND WHEREAS appropriate communication is of the utmost importance in engaging and communicating with youth;

AND WHEREAS effective communications with Métis youth sometimes limits their participation in the MNO;

AND WHEREAS the MNO wants to encourage both current and new Métis youth involvement in the MNO;

AND WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Annual General Assembly to create policy that reinforces the priorities set forward in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO investigate novel social media strategies, technologies, and employment opportunities to improve communication with Métis youth and students;

AND FURTHER BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any branches of the MNO who engage with youth and/or students have active access to social media to communicate these events and programs to Métis youth and students.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2014-03)

Questions and Discussion

Mr. Young noted that this resolution was not being brought forth because of a lack of information but rather to assist in improving communications with youth by taking a more active approach to communications with youth. It was necessary in his opinion because of the dramatic increase in youth involvement in the MNO at the local and regional levels.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2014-04
Title:	MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO ACT
Mover:	Mitch Case
Seconded:	Tom Thompson

WHEREAS advancing Métis self-government agenda is a priority of the Métis Nation of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS in order to advance nation-building the MNO only established one legal and administrative arm - the MNO Secretariat Inc. - under the *Ontario Corporations Act*;

AND WHEREAS as the MNO and its various governance structures at the local, regional and provincial levels continue to grow and evolve it is recognized that the *Ontario Corporations Act* does not adequately address the needs of the MNO and creates potential liabilities for the MNO;

AND WHEREAS there is a recognition that the passage of a Métis Nation of Ontario Act, which recognizes the MNO and its various governance structures at the local, regional and provincial levels, will create a solid legal foundation for the MNO's future growth and development;

AND WHEREAS other provincial governments have passed legislation that recognizes the unique governance structures of Métis governments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2014 MNO AGA once again direct the MNO's leadership to work with the provincial government to develop and secure the passage of a Métis Nation of Ontario Act by the Ontario legislature.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2014-04)

Questions and Discussion

There was some discussion about the need to pursue legislation from other governments when they said that they were self governing. Mr. Madden stated that the right to govern themselves flows from them but it needed to be recognized by other governments. It does not put the MNO in a subordinate position because it was a just recognition. The MNO was a government and as such had to assert their right to govern themselves; they were not a corporation or organization.

Prior to the discussion of AGA-RES2014-05 and AGA-RES2014-06, Mr. Madden stated that it was inappropriate for him to be in the room for the discussion on the Daniels case or the MNC as he was involved in some way in both those areas. In addition, he would not be voting on these two resolutions. He turned his duties during the resolutions process over to Margaret Froh, MNO Director of Strategic Policy, Law and Compliance.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2014-05
Title:	A FEDERAL MÉTIS CLAIMS POLICY AND DANIELS CASE
Mover:	Mitch Case
Seconded:	Tom Thompson

WHEREAS advancing Métis rights and self-government is a priority for the MNO;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Métis communities have outstanding claims related to Métis rights, title and lands that continue to go unaddressed;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government has established specific and comprehensive claims policies for the negotiation and resolution of First Nation and Inuit claims that currently exclude Métis;

AND WHEREAS in Daniels v. Canada the Federal Court of Appeal confirmed that the Federal Government has constitutional jurisdiction and responsibility for Métis;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2014 MNO AGA provides the following direction to the MNO's leadership:

1. The MNO aggressively pursue that the Federal Government establish a Métis Claims Policy in order to begin to address and resolve outstanding Métis claims;
2. The MNO work collaboratively with other willing provincial Métis governments to draw attention to the need for a Federal Métis Claims Policy; and
3. If the Supreme Court agrees to hear the Federal Government's appeal in the Daniels case that the MNO retain the law firm of Pape Salter Teillet LLP to seek intervener status on behalf of the MNO in the appeal, subject to available funding being identified by the MNO's administration and MNO's Chief Operating Officer negotiating a mutually agreeable budget for said intervention.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2014-05)

Prior to the introduction of and discussion on AGA-RES2014-06, President Gary Lipinski declared a conflict of interest, as he was a member of the MNC Board of Governors. He leaves the room and does not vote.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2014-06
Title:	MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL
Mover:	Mitch Case
Seconder:	Tom Thompson

WHEREAS Ontario Métis communities are a fundamental and indivisible part of the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS the MNO strongly supports the principle of provincial Métis governments working together - through the Métis National Council ("MNC") - to advance the interests of the Métis Nation at the national and international levels;

AND WHEREAS the MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose clearly states that one of its guiding principles is to maintain its affiliation with the Métis National Council as one of its five Governing Members;

AND WHEREAS the MNO has ever-increasing concerns about the financial management and operations of the MNC as well as the current national leadership's ability to respectfully and fairly represent the rights and interests of all parts of the Métis Nation, including the Métis Nation within Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the current situation at the MNC has a negative impact on the perception of provincial Métis governments in the eyes of Métis citizens as well as other governments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2014 MNO AGA provides the following direction and mandate to the MNO's leadership:

1. That the MNO President attempt to work with other Presidents of the MNC's Governing Members in an attempt to improve and reform the MNC's operations and structures for the benefit of the Métis Nation as a whole, with an annual progress report provided to the Assembly at the AGA;
2. If progress cannot be made in improving the current situation or in reforming the MNC that the PCMNO have the mandate to suspend the MNO's participation in the MNC until these issues are adequately addressed in order to ensure the MNO and the MNO President are not exposed to potential liabilities or positions are not taken that compromise Métis rights, interests and claims in Ontario.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2014-06)

Questions and Discussion

There was some discussion around the timeframes and finally a friendly amendment was suggested to add at the end of point #1: "...Métis Nation as a whole, *with an annual progress report provided to the Assembly at the AGA...*". This friendly amendment was accepted by the mover and the seconder and the resolution was changed and resolved by consensus.

18. CLOSING REMARKS

President Lipinski thanked the Chair Picotte and Vice-Chair McBride for their hard work, as there were some heavy topics on their agenda. They have taken some strong and decisive actions on the Violence against Aboriginal Women issue and their voices would be heard nationally and internationally. He thanked them for all their hard work this week and throughout the year.

He stated that it warmed his heart to see so much youth involvement throughout the AGA and he looked forward to more and more youth becoming involved in MNO in the future. The activities throughout the week and over the last year filled him with pride he said; there was so much going on all over the province and he asked them to keep watching their website so they could share that information. He mentioned that example of the work of the MNOET that had such a positive impact on the personal lives of their citizens.

He said that the recipe for their success has been their ability to work together; each person in this room had a voice and that voice was listened to and respected. He told them he was proud of all they did; he wished them the best for the next year and safe travels home.

ADJOURNMENT

The 21st Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 23 – 25, 2014 concluded on Day 3 – August 25, 2014 at 11:07 a.m. Senator Bob McKay closed the AGA with a prayer.

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of The 21st Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 23-25, 2015 and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption.

Tim Pile, Secretary/Treasurer

France Picotte, Chair