

**24th ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS
AUGUST 19 – 21, 2017**

Resolutions of the 24th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 19 – 21, 2017 in Kenora, Ontario.

Ordinary Resolutions

Resolution No.:	AGA17-01
Title:	Appointment of the Resolutions Committee
Mover:	Joseph Poitras
Seconder:	Cecile Wagar

That the Resolutions Committee for the 2017 Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario be comprised of Ray Bergie, Alexandra Dusome and Pauline Richardson.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-01)

Resolution No.:	AGA17-02
Title:	Review and Adoption of the Agenda
Mover:	Dale Xilon
Seconder:	Giselle Legiehn

That the Agenda for the 24th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario, scheduled August 19 – 21, 2017, be adopted as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-02)

Resolution No.:	AGA17-03
Title:	Adoption of Draft 2016 Annual General Assembly Minutes
Mover:	Joanne Young
Seconder:	Yvonne Jensen

That the Minutes of the 23rd Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario, held August 27 – 29, 2016, be approved, as amended.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-03)

Resolution No.:	AGA17-04
Title:	Approval of 2016/17 Audited Financial Statements
Mover:	Joanne Young
Seconder:	Cecile Wagar

That the Métis Nation of Ontario Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2017, be approved, as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-04)

Resolution No.:	AGA17-05
Title:	Appointment of the Auditor
Mover:	Joanne Young
Seconded:	Cecile Wagar

That Collins Barrow Chartered Professional Accountants be appointed as the Métis Nation of Ontario's auditors for the 2017/18 fiscal year.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-05)

Resolution No.:	AGA17-06
Title:	Financial Support for MNO Women's, Veterans' and Youth Councils
Mover:	Joseph Paquette
Seconded:	Mitchell Case

WHEREAS the MNO Veterans' Council (MNOVC), MNO Women's Council (MNOWC) and MNO Youth Council (MNOYC) do incredible work for their constituents and for the entire provincial Métis community, yet currently receive no funding from the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat;

WHEREAS the MNOVC, MNOWC and MNOYC are provincial in scope and mandate; and

WHEREAS the MNOVC, MNOWC and MNOYC play a vital role in promoting Métis community, culture and values—including the Statement of Prime Purpose—and support many of our community members in their personal journeys as Métis people.

THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) hold a preliminary meeting, at the soonest possible date, with representatives from the MNOVC, MNOWC and MNOYC to review annual budgets and determine a base funding for the MNOYC, MNOWC and the MNOVC, pending the attainment of necessary funding and resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNO seek to secure funding and resources for both the preliminary meeting as well as the budgets and work plans developed thereat.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-06)

Resolution No.:	AGA17-07
Title:	Canoe Expedition
Mover:	Alexander Young
Seconded:	Courtney Vaughan

WHEREAS the 2017 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Canoe Expedition has officially come to a close at the MNO Annual General Assembly in Kenora;

WHEREAS the MNO Canoe Expedition has in recent years become a semi-annual tradition for Métis citizens and communities across Ontario;

WHEREAS the Canoe Expedition serves as an incredible way to connect our Métis communities across Ontario, and educate both Métis and non-Métis individuals about the rich traditions, culture, and historical significance of the Métis in Ontario and Canada;

WHEREAS the Canoe Expedition additionally provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Métis youth to reconnect with their culture and history, and retrace the footsteps and paddle strokes of their ancestors;

WHEREAS the alignment of the 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition with the celebration of Canada 150 and Ontario 150 allowed the MNO to purchase a large amount of Expedition equipment, including but not limited to: two voyageur canoes, a canoe trailer, a number of tents, outdoor stoves and cooking appliances, sleeping bags, paddles, boat safety equipment and technology, dry bags and storage equipment, and a cargo trailer for storage;

WHEREAS this equipment can be better utilized by the MNO each year, in order to provide the cultural experience facilitated by the Canoe Expedition to a greater number of Métis youth; and

WHEREAS each recent Canoe Expedition run by the MNO has had issues in communicating with Community Councils, planning the logistics surrounding Community Arrivals, and communicating between the Expedition staff, Head Office, and the MNO Executive.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO:

1. Seeks funding to run and implement a Canoe Expedition in 2020, affording Métis youth in Ontario a new opportunity to retrace the historic route of their ancestors; and
2. Pursues additional funding to implement a program similar in form, function, and length to the Infinite Reach March Break Camp (termed the Canoe Expedition Summer Camp from here on). This summer camp will make use of the large stock of equipment the MNO currently has, allow young Métis secondary school students to gain traditional knowledge and practical outdoor and leadership experience, and prepare youth for longer and more intense Expeditions run on a triennial basis.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-07)

Resolution No.:	AGA17-08
Title:	Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario Minutes
Mover:	Yvonne Jensen
Seconded:	Kim Powley

WHEREAS Community Councils have requested for some time to have access to Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) minutes; and

WHEREAS it is not feasible to expect everyone to be able to travel to Ottawa to view the minutes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the PCMNO consider the manner in which the minutes are maintained, distributed and made available to Community Councils.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS/ (AGA17-08)

Resolution No.:	AGA17-09
Title:	Métis Nation of Ontario License Plates
Mover:	Mitchell Case
Seconders:	Dalton Latondress

WHEREAS car owners in Ontario, through the Ministry of Transportation, have the ability to personalize their license plates;

WHEREAS there are currently over 60 graphics available, including service clubs, sports teams, charities and other Indigenous Governments;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has always worked to promote Métis in Ontario; and

WHEREAS the license plate graphic program is seen by millions of Ontarians everyday and the program is open to create new graphics through an application process.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2017 Annual General Assembly mandate the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and Senior Administration to consider completing the application process and create a “Métis Nation”, “Métis Nation of Ontario” and/or “Métis Veterans” license plate graphic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this work be completed before the 25th Annual General Assembly of the MNO.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-09)

Resolution No.:	AGA17-10
Title:	Mental Health for Métis Youth
Mover:	Katelyn LaCroix
Seconders:	Mitchell Case

WHEREAS it is vital that we give our youth the tools they need in order to be successful;

WHEREAS holistic wellness, including mental, physical, spiritual and emotional health, is central to our identity as Indigenous people;

WHEREAS we are currently experiencing a mental health crisis among Indigenous youth today; and

WHEREAS the youth involved in programs such as Infinite Reach, Summer Youth Council Program (SYCP), as well as our youth representatives from our community and provincial councils are our greatest resource for connecting to our youth.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) be directed to seek funding to train our Métis youth in mental health first aid, and/or other mental health programs and two-spirited awareness such as Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) or SafeTalk, in order to end stigma and ensure the health and safety of our growing youth population.

RESOLVED (AGA17-10)

(149 in favour, 1 opposed; 1 abstention)

Resolution No.:	AGA17-11
Title:	Louis Riel Day Ceremonies and Monument
Mover:	Benny Michaud
Seconded:	Iain Best

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) currently organizes and participates in Louis Riel Day ceremonies at a memorial to soldiers of the Wolseley Expedition;

WHEREAS soldiers of the Wolseley Expedition had the express intent of enforcing the removal of Métis from our traditional territories and homesteads;

WHEREAS the removal of Métis from our traditional territories has led to the fracturing of Métis families and communities;

WHEREAS the result of this was that Métis people across the Homeland were labeled as traitors and for generations felt the need to hide their Métis culture and heritage;

WHEREAS our ancestors fought and died to preserve and maintain our distinct Métis culture, traditions and way of life;

WHEREAS the Statement of Prime Purpose reads that, “we are inspired by the values and traditions of our ancestors”;

WHEREAS by celebrating Louis Riel Day at a monument to the Canadian soldiers who fought against the Métis, and which explicitly ignores the struggle of our Métis ancestors, is disrespectful of their legacy; and

WHEREAS the government of Ontario has made repeated commitments to establish a monument in recognition of Louis Riel.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT future Louis Riel Day ceremonies no longer be held at the Northwest Rebellion monument at Queen’s Park or any monuments commemorating those who were committed to oppressing Métis communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNO continue to press the Federal and Provincial Governments for the establishment of monuments in Ontario which recognizes the legacy of Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont and all those who fought, as well as the contributions of all Métis people in Ontario, in both Queen’s Park in Toronto and Ottawa; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO continue to press the Provincial Government to correct, repurpose or remove the Northwest Rebellion monument at Queen's Park.

RESOLVED (AGA17-11)
(151 in favour, 3 opposed)

Resolution No.:	AGA17-12
Title:	Review MNO Youth-Focused Programming
Mover:	Paul Robitaille
Seconded:	Katelyn LaCroix

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) currently develops and administers many programs and initiatives that are specifically directed toward Métis youth, including Infinite Reach, Summer Youth Cultural Program, Canoe Expeditions, and Métis Family Wellbeing Program;

WHEREAS these programs often represent the initial avenue of exposure to the MNO for many Métis youth and shape their perception of the MNO, the Métis Nation and their personal identity as Métis people;

WHEREAS these programs must remain responsive to the diverse and evolving needs of youth, including their need to feel safe and supported their journeys toward discovering their Métis identity, heritage and culture; and

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) is the democratically elected representative of youth within Ontario.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO seek out funding and resources to conduct a review of the MNO's youth focused programs and initiatives, including Infinite Reach, Summer Youth Cultural Program, Canoe Expeditions, and Métis Family Wellbeing Program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNOYC be meaningfully involved within the planning and implementation of that program review;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNOYC play an ongoing role within the planning and implementation of youth-focused programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNO Secretariat provides a status update on this resolution to the MNOYC by December 31, 2017.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-12)

Resolution No.:	AGA17-13
Title:	Social Media Policy
Mover:	Alexander Young
Seconded:	Mitchell Case

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose encourages the full participation of all Métis in the Métis Nation and aims to establish effective means of communication for the Métis Nation;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has been using both Facebook and Twitter actively and effectively over the past year;

WHEREAS the past six months has seen a significant online Métis community formed in Ontario through the creation of the MNOYC Instagram account, the MNO Instagram account, the #beadworkrevolution hashtag and the MNO Canoe Expedition 2017;

WHEREAS this online community and effective use of social media has been noticed nationwide, and emulated by other groups including the Métis Nation of Alberta on Instagram; and

WHEREAS the MNO continues to take positive steps in order to better engage and communicate with Métis youth and Community Councils.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO:

1. Works towards the creation and implementation of a comprehensive social media strategy and policy within the next six months;
2. Ensures this policy is informed by organizational standards across Canada, including the tactics and social media platforms used by similar Métis, First Nations, and Inuit government bodies;
3. Ensures this strategy builds off of the current social media platforms utilized by the MNO and it's governing bodies; and
4. Ensures this policy includes comprehensive guidelines for MNO Community Councils in order to work towards consistent, professional, and effective communication at all levels of the MNO.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-13)

Resolution No.:	AGA17-14
Title:	Establishment of a Métis Nation Educational Institute in Ontario
Mover:	Mitchell Case
Seconded:	Katelyn LaCroix

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has, since its creation, always worked to advocate for, and meet the educational needs of Métis people in Ontario;

WHEREAS there is a lack of Ontario based, Métis educational materials available to Ontario Schools; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Métis Nation of Alberta already have educational institutions of their own.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2017 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) mandates the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and MNO Senior Administration, to explore the possibility of creating a Métis controlled, educational and publishing institute, with goals including, but not limited to; renewal and development of Métis culture through research; materials development, and distribution; and the design, development, and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services in French, English and Michif, potentially including the development of a Métis post-secondary institute and professional development for teachers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the PCMNO and administration be mandated to seek out funds to support the exploration of this concept, and that a report on this work be presented to the 2018 MNO AGA; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT when the educational and publishing institute is created, it is named the “Powley Institute”.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-14)

Resolution No.:	AGA17-15
Title:	Provision of Financial Support to Métis Graduate, Post-Graduate and Professional Students
Mover:	Katelyn LaCroix
Seconded:	Paul Robitaille

WHEREAS the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) has very narrow funding criteria that exclude many—if not all—graduate, post-graduate, and professional school students;

WHEREAS graduate, post-graduate and professional studies are often inaccessible to Métis students who already carry substantial debt accrued during their undergraduate studies;

WHEREAS many career paths require graduate, post-graduate or professional designations; and

WHEREAS many Métis students seek to find ways to give back to the Nation through their future careers.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) be directed to investigate funding opportunities for graduate, post-graduate and professional students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNO be directed to engage with potential funding agencies to formally express the MNO’s need for graduate, post-graduate and professional funding opportunities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT update reports on this Resolution be provided to the PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative on a quarterly basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNO provide an update on progress related to this Resolution to the 2018 Annual General Assembly.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-15)