

Draft minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 27 – 29, 2016, at the Best Western North Bay Hotel and Conference Centre, North Bay, Ontario.

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

**DAY 1 – SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016**

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly (AGA). “We Aspire” was played.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Senator Marlene Greenwood, North Bay Métis Council, welcomed the participants to North Bay for the AGA and opened the meeting with a prayer.

**CALL TO ORDER**

MNO Chair France Picotte, called the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario to order at 8:30 a.m.

**1. OPENING REMARKS**

**1.1 MNO Chair**

Chair Picotte welcomed the delegates to the AGA and thanked them for the opportunity to serve as their Chair for another four years. She looked forward to seeing more children involved in their AGAs in the future, as they were the future and needed to be part of their processes.

**1.2 MNO Vice-Chair**

Vice-Chair Cadeau welcomed the delegates to the AGA and mentioned that it was always great to come to the AGA because it was like a family gathering. She thanked the Sudbury Métis Council, the Mattawa Métis Council and the North Bay Métis Council for hosting the Assembly this year.

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

Chair Picotte introduced the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) to the Assembly.

**2. WELCOMING REMARKS**

Chair Picotte mentioned that they were providing a special gift to the speakers this year, which was a print from a photograph series done by Métis Nation of Ontario youth, Kelly Duquette.

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## **2.1 Mayor Al McDonald, City of North Bay**

Mayor McDonald welcomed everyone to the City of North Bay. He stated that they were proud of their community and the citizens wanted to help the MNO in any way they could throughout the duration of the Annual Meeting. The City enjoyed good partnerships with many Indigenous organizations within the province of Ontario and looked forward to working on solutions that would benefit all Ontarians. He encouraged all participants to take the time to enjoy some of what North Bay had to offer. Regional Councilor Dan Boulard, Region #5, provided Mayor McDonald with a gift.

## **2.2 President Marc Laurin, North Bay Métis Council, President Richard Sarrazin, Sudbury Métis Council and President Nelson Montreuil, Mattawa Métis Council**

President Laurin, on behalf of the Presidents in the Region, welcomed the delegates to the Region, to the City of North Bay and to the AGA. He was honoured to host the AGA this year and he made special mention of gratitude to Region #3, who provided a donation for cultural activities that would be taking place over the next few days. He added that Regional Councilor Marcel Lafrance was unwell and their prayers went out to him for a speedy recovery. The PCMNO Senators thanked the Presidents for their hard work and provided them with a gift.

## **2.3 The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister, Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada**

Minister Bennett said that it was an honour to be at the AGA again and commended the MNO on the beauty of their ceremonies. She thanked Senator Greenwood for her opening prayer and for starting their meeting in a good way. She thanked the MNO for giving her the opportunity to be part of the canoe arrival the previous evening and she was happy to participate in the activities at Champlain Park. She welcomed the new PCMNO and mentioned that it was the first time she had witnessed their Swearing In ceremony. She commended them on their leadership and their accomplishments. She was happy to meet the new President, Margaret Froh, and welcomed the opportunity to continue their partnership with the MNO.

In Prime Minister Trudeau's mandate letters to the Departments, he had spoken about the relationship between Canada and the Indigenous peoples and how he viewed this relationship as the most important. The letters referenced the recognition of Indigenous rights and a respectful and cooperative partnership with Canada and with other Métis governments in Canada. There have been hard fought wins, she added, such as the Daniels decision which was beginning to bring clarity to the relationship between Canada and the Métis.

Minister Bennett mentioned that it was good to see the MNO's distinction-based approaches and she encouraged them to continue with that approach because people needed to understand who the Métis were today. She used the example of the Maori in New Zealand who were able to bring back their culture and language over time. It was more difficult in Canada, she admitted, but they needed to work on that and move forward. Canada had included the Métis in the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Inquiry process and had appointed a Métis woman as one of the Commissioners, Ms. Marilyn Poitras. Senior officials from the department had also met with MNO on how to address section 35 rights and they were ready to begin that work. She noted that Tom Isaac's report provided a map on how to move forward and they were in a good place to start that work towards true reconciliation. It will not be an easy process, she admitted, and there were many difficult conversations that needed to take place.

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In talking to President Froh, she mentioned that there was a real focus on youth as they moved forward; the youth were not only the future, they were the present and they had to have a voice in the decisions that would affect them both now and in the future. She said that she was excited to hear that the MNO would be involved in the celebrations for *Canada 150* and she encouraged them to apply for funds to host activities in a number of different areas. She said that in telling their story and eradicating ignorance, the MNO would be in a better position to make the recognition of rights piece understood by their neighbours.

Minister Bennett thanked the MNO leadership for their friendship and collaboration and she stated that they wanted to work with them in a respectful way, listening to all of their voices. She told them a story of a canoe trip she had participated in stating that while there were challenges, they would get to where they wanted to go. She was grateful for their spirit of reconciliation and wished them a productive AGA.

President Froh thanked the Minister and stated that she appreciated her comments around Canada's desire for serious partnership and she assured her that the MNO took partnership seriously as well. She provided Minister Bennett with a print and also a yellow honouring sash (shawl) which was designed to promote respect for Métis women and girls.

The Minister also shared a video with the Assembly, which promoted the celebration of *Canada 150*.

#### **2.4 The Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Province of Ontario**

Minister Zimmer thanked the MNO for the invitation to speak and acknowledged the contributions and the long history of the Métis in Ontario. He thanked them for allowing him to participate in the canoe arrival the previous evening and provided some history of Champlain and the park. He said that it was a wonderful evening of music and dancing. He congratulated President Froh on her new role and stated that he was looking forward to working with her and the MNO. He brought greetings on behalf of Premier Wynne and stated that he and his colleagues were committed to working with their Métis partners to achieve reconciliation and promote the best interests of the Métis Nation.

There was a recognition of the importance of the government's relationship with the Métis and this was outlined within the Isaac Report. Minister Zimmer stated that he understood that real reconciliation was not possible without a recognition of Métis rights. He acknowledged that the passing of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act was a strong example of this relationship. He explained that this Act outlined one way that they would interact and continue to work in partnership to address the issues they were facing. Premier Wynne, he mentioned, was committed to reconciliation and noted that it was a rare opportunity for President Froh to address the Legislature when the Act was passed. The Premier made specific reference to the Métis when talking about entering in a full partnership with Indigenous people and this was outlined in their document, *Journey Together*, which outlined Ontario's commitment to Indigenous people. They had also earmarked significant funding, \$225M, for actions related to reconciliation and they looked forward to talking with the MNO on how to best use those funds. There was a new awareness in Canada and in Ontario on reconciliation and Indigenous people, including the Métis, and that was usually when actions were taken.

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He concluded his remarks stating that the stars were aligning, the MNO's new economic development initiatives and other initiatives were moving forward, the new recognition by the federal and provincial governments of the quality and substance of the Métis governance structures and the level of confidence to move forward in partnership meant a stronger and better future for the Métis in Ontario.

President Froh stated that the MNO had a good relationship with Ontario and acknowledged their support over the years. She specifically thanked them for their support of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act. She provided Minister Zimmer with a print and also a small honouring sash pin artwork recognizing him as a 'Champion of Change'.

## **2.5 Premier Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario – Video Presentation**

Premier Kathleen Wynne thanked the MNO for the opportunity to address the Assembly. She stated that the MNO and Ontario have accomplished a great deal such as the renewal of the Framework Agreement and the passing of the MNO Secretariat Act. They have taken important steps together and it was a time of renewal between the Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people. In May 2016, she mentioned that, on behalf of the government of Ontario she apologized to the former residential school students and it was hoped that they could take important steps in the journey towards reconciliation. She looked forward to working with the MNO to promote long-term prosperity for the Métis people. She also wished them a successful and productive Assembly.

## **2.6 Minister Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Government of Ontario**

Minister Gravelle thanked the MNO for the invitation to speak and also acknowledged his colleagues and other dignitaries. He acknowledged the MNO, the host North Bay Métis Council and the Senators in attendance at the AGA. He congratulated President Froh on her successful election and acknowledged the PCMNO, the Council Presidents and all delegates. He stated that he appreciated the strong working relationship with the MNO and the mutual respect and understanding. He said that over the years, there had been strong support for Indigenous participation in the mining sector and they continued to support Community Council capacity building in order for them to participate in mineral resource development. He spoke about some of the agreements that are currently in place and the fact that Ontario had a renewed Mineral Development Strategy. There were a number of committees that included MNO involvement and the input of the MNO leaders and citizens was invaluable. He mentioned that President Froh stated that she recognized that these were important times for their governments, and he felt that this signalled a new era of Crown and Indigenous relationships in Ontario. He wished the participants an enjoyable and productive AGA. Regional Councilor Burgess, Region #2, provided a gift to Minister Gravelle.

## **2.7 Mr. John Vanthof, Member of Provincial Parliament for Timiskaming-Cochrane**

Mr. Vanthof mentioned that he had the unique perspective of living in northern Ontario and had had some exposure to Indigenous culture, particularly Métis culture. He said that his life was richer because of the influence of Métis culture and noted that many people were not aware of the contributions of the Métis and the impact it has had on their lives. He acknowledged the work and accomplishments of the MNO and wanted to continue to work with them for the common good. He introduced a video greeting from Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New

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Democratic Party of Ontario. Following the video, Regional Councilor Anita Tucker, Region #8, presented Mr. Vanthof with a gift.

### **2.8 Ms. Andrea Horwath, Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario – Video Presentation**

Ms. Horwath sent her greetings and stated that the MNO had achieved some real victories in a number of areas, including the renewed Framework Agreement with Ontario, advances in Métis Health, the development of a unique consultation model for the Métis, agreements to ensure that their citizens benefitted from development and the passing of the MNO Secretariat Act. She stated that the NDP would work with the MNO to build on those achievements and hold the government accountable. The NDP also wanted to work with the MNO to address past injustices. She applauded the MNO for the work they were doing to build a brighter future for the Métis. On behalf the Ontario's NDPs, she extended best wishes for a great AGA.

### **2.9 Mr. Vic Fedeli, Member of Provincial Parliament for Nipissing**

Mr. Fedeli welcomed the delegates to North Bay and mentioned that it was great to see so many youth involved in the activities of the MNO. He stated that he represented a sizable population of Métis in the area and he looked forward to working with the new leaders of the MNO. He was excited for the opportunities to work together now and in the future. He brought greetings from his leader, Patrick Brown, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, who had sent a video greeting. Following the video, Regional Councilor Theresa Stenlund, Region #1, provided Mr. Fedeli with a gift.

### **2.10 Mr. Patrick Brown, Leader, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario – Video Presentation**

Mr. Brown thanked the MNO for the opportunity to provide a greeting to the Assembly and stated that the previous year, he was in attendance at the MNO AGA in Midland. He wanted to thank all of the volunteers in the MNO, as they had made a real contribution to the growth of the MNO. He thanked former President Lipinski and congratulated the new President, Margaret Froh, as the first female President of the MNO. He stated that he had worked with both of them over the last year and looked forward to continuing that work. He wished them the best for their AGA.

### **2.11 Mr. Bruce Stanton, Member of Parliament for Simcoe North and Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committees of the Whole**

Mr. Stanton thanked the MNO for the opportunity to participate in the opening and mentioned that it was an honour to be in attendance with Minister Bennett. He appreciated her remarks this morning and noted that this file was in capable hands. He brought greetings from the leaders of his Party including his leader, Rona Ambrose, Leader of the Opposition. He stated that they stood ready to advance the issues of all Métis across the country. He wished them great success at this AGA and he wished President Froh all the best in her new position as President. Regional Councilor Pauline Richards, Region #7, provided Mr. Stanton with a gift.

### **2.12 Mr. Alexander Bezzina, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Youth Services**

Mr. Bezzina stated that he was honoured to have the opportunity to provide some remarks and he acknowledged the delegates, the dignitaries and the guests. He said that he has had the privilege to work with the officials and leaders on their mutual goal of building strong, healthy families, resilient children and inspiring youth. He spoke of the work they have done together on the Child and Youth Strategy and how they continued to work to complement the Strategy to

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support the unique needs of Métis families. They wanted to address the issues of the Métis in a number of areas including Child and Family Services, where ongoing investments were needed to reduce the number of First Nation, Inuit and Métis children in care. He spoke about a program that the Ministry had invested in and the MNO had established which supported Métis families. He mentioned that they were pleased that they could be a committed partner to MNO and by working together they could ensure that Métis children and youth could enjoy a brighter future. PCMNO Youth Representative Mitchell Case provided a gift to Mr. Bezzina.

### **2.13 President Clément Chartier, Métis National Council**

President Chartier mentioned they might be travelling their own way but they were travelling to their own destinies. He heard Minister Bennett when she said that it was a time of change and they, as a People, have witnessed many successes and also disappointments. They had faced a lot of challenges. Some of their victories have been in the courts such as the Powley Decision and also the Cunningham Decision and now they had the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) case. In the latter, the honour of the Crown was at stake and it was stated by the Court that the Crown had not acted honourably in the treatment of the Métis of the Red River. Finally, there was the Daniels Decision which stated that the Métis were under the jurisdiction of Canada; not to be responsible for them, but to acknowledge that Nation-to-Nation relationship. He continued that with the change of government last year, the Prime Minister promised this new approach and affirmed that they would deal with Indigenous peoples on a Nation-to-Nation basis. He explained that the Daniels decision took this from a political impediment to a legal one.

He spoke about the importance of this time and how the stars were aligning with this new government and the new Minister of INAC. They needed to ensure that the commitments to the Métis were followed up on including in the areas of health, financing of Métis governments and economic development. There was a mention this morning of the Isaac Report and as they looked towards implementation, they were talking about going beyond a policy because it was based in law. He also talked about the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and how this government supported that document; a document which benefited Métis and Indigenous Peoples around the world.

President Chartier stated that he was thankful for the national inquiry on MMIWG and for the hard work that already had gone into setting that up. He also looked forward to the next Aboriginal Women's conference and added that Ontario had contributed significantly to that work. He also commended Ontario, who would Co-Chair with Minister Bennett, the next Federal/Provincial/Territorial Indigenous Forum, where the national organizations would participate. He mentioned that they were Indigenous governments and this was the language that should be used by other Canadian governments, as that respect needed to be there to move forward towards reconciliation.

From a Métis National Council perspective, he noted that they looked forward to more youth engagement and a commitment to work harder at building the national presence of their youth. He stated that they had found themselves with a serious lack of capacity but they would be moving forward. They had had one teleconference with youth leadership and were looking at a second call in the near future. They hoped that they would have a national Métis youth representative on the Prime Minister's Youth Council.

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He concluded his remarks by congratulating President Froh on her recent election and also congratulated all of those who were newly elected or re-elected. He told them that they needed to seize the opportunities before them; he said they were there and they would engage. Regional Councilor Ernie Gatien, Region #5, provided President Chartier with a gift.

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

President Poitras acknowledged the dignitaries and all delegates in the room and thanked President Froh and PCMNO Youth Representative Case for attending the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) AGA. She told them that the MNA could learn from the work that the MNO was doing and how the youth were truly part of the governance structure. She stated that Mr. Case was valuable to discussions that were currently taking place in Alberta and he was able to share the work that they were doing in Ontario. She congratulated the newly and re-elected leaders and she hoped to work closely with them over the coming years. She specifically congratulated President Froh on being the first female MNO President. She commented on the skills and knowledge that they would all bring to their role as leaders. She looked forward to continue their working relationship and building up both the MNO and the MNA. She presented President Froh with a gift and President Froh gifted President Poitras with an honouring sash and a sash pin. President Froh mentioned that she had looked up to President Poitras for many years and acknowledged her leadership and experience. Following the remarks, Regional Councilor Peter Rivers, Region #9, presented President Poitras with a gift on behalf of the MNO.

#### **2.15 President Bruce Dumont, Métis Nation of British Columbia**

President Dumont acknowledged the dignitaries in the room and mentioned that he was honoured to be at this year's AGA. He congratulated President Froh on her election. He stated that it would be one of his last official duties at President of the Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC). He stated that he had always enjoyed attending the MNO Assemblies and acknowledged their focus on culture and good governance. It was always a great pleasure, he said, to be part of the canoe arrival. He added that the MNO and MNBC always had a good working relationship and he commended the MNO on their good governance, their work with government and for their focus on the youth. He stated that the youth needed to be involved and were an integral part of good governance. They were not a society, he mentioned, but rather they were a Nation of people, distinct in many ways and they had a vibrant history. They have and would continue to contribute to Canada as a whole. He told them that, as Métis men, they needed to do their part to address violence against women and girls. He presented the gift of a sash to PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case. He presented a gift to President Froh on behalf of the MNBC. Regional Councilor Tom Thompson Jr., Region #6, presented President Dumont with a gift.

#### **2.16 President Melanie Omeniho, Women of the Métis Nation**

President Omeniho stated that this was her first time to the AGA and she congratulated the new PCMNO. She mentioned that she always stood firm on the point that women and youth had to be at the forefront of the work that they were undertaking as a government. She looked forward to the work that the MNO leadership would undertake in the future and the Women of the Métis Nation looked forward to being part of that. She offered congratulations to the newly elected Women's Council and she looked forward to seeing them in Saskatoon in October 2016. She said that they would be involved with the national inquiry on MMIWG and she was grateful that Canada was moving forward with the Inquiry. It would help them identify what the issues were so they could make some changes in the future and this would hopefully result in more honour

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and respect for women. She concluded her remarks thanking Minister Zimmer for his support at the National Aboriginal Women's Summit. PCMNO Post Secondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix presented a gift to President Omeniho.

### **3. STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS**

President Froh began thanking Senator Greenwood for her prayer, the Colour Guard for supporting the Assembly and for fiddler Alicia Blore for walking them into the Assembly. She stated that she was the first woman and first two-spirited President of the MNO. She welcomed the dignitaries and the delegates to the AGA mentioning that they had such strong Métis leadership at all levels. She acknowledged their Councils, Women's Secretariat, Youth Council, Captains of the Hunt and all citizens. She particularly recognized and appreciated the contributions of their volunteers at all positions within their structure. She acknowledged their friends, their sponsors and their skilled Métis public service. She thanked the people that supported them in their work. She welcomed those people who were listening by webcast and expressed that they were happy to be able to do that this year. She recognized that there were important people who were unable to join them in person like Doug Wilson and Senator Bob McKay and their absence was felt at the AGA. She thanked the host Community Councils of North Bay, Sudbury and Mattawa.

There was a lot of business to attend to but the Assemblies were also about coming home; she welcomed everyone to the 23<sup>rd</sup> MNO AGA. She said that the MNO was doing well and thriving with a strong and healthy growing citizenship. They had a strong governance structure, democratically elected councils and their citizens were more engaged. During the last election, there was a 44% increase in voter turnout. They were a leader in consultation having designed their own process and they had solid financial management and would soon be completely debt-free. They were continually expanding their programs and services and they were making a difference in the lives of their citizens.

They had their Framework Agreement with Ontario and this was something that was also making a difference; this Nation-to-Nation relationship was their approach going forward. She said that she was delighted by the comments from Minister Bennett and the Daniels Decision had finally resolved the issue of jurisdiction. There would be more information coming on the Isaac Report in the Legal Update and she stated that their future was bright. There were many more details about their successes and accomplishments in their Annual Report.

She recognized the past work of former President Lipinski and also former Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson. She said that she was grateful for past leadership, as they came in at a difficult time and were able to ensure a brighter future for all citizens. She also recognized the work of the Councils, the Captains of the Hunt and others as they all had an important voice within their governance structures. She acknowledged the amount of hours that all of their volunteers put in all across the province; this commitment to the ideals of their Statement of Prime Purpose and their hard work was the secret to their success.

She spoke about the MNO song "*We Aspire*" written by Amanda Rheume and based on the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose, citing a number of their accomplishments/activities over the past year including the work of their Métis public service, their prolific involvement at the Pan Am and ParaPan Am Games in Toronto and noted that the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) will take place in Toronto next year.



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Operationally, the MNO public service operated through a province-wide infrastructure based in 21 offices across the province. The MNO public service included 163 employees who provided services to all 29 of the MNO communities. The MNO public service delivered and managed programs for Métis people in Ontario in healing and wellness, education and training, housing, lands, resources and consultations, community relations, intergovernmental relations, finance, communications, human resources and information technology. In 2015-16 these branches operated 142 active projects and held over 150 contributions and transfer agreements between the MNO and its partners. Over the past year, the MNO has seen a number of successes, including raising their profile at one of the biggest international events held over the past year - the PanAm and ParapanAm Games that were held in Toronto last summer. Another significant event was MNO's participation at the Indigenous Health Conference: Towards Health and Reconciliation that took place in May 2016. President Froh provided updates from the MNO Branches and an overview of their accomplishments and activities over the last year.

During 2015-16 the Métis Nation of Ontario continued to make progress towards the goals and objectives of the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose* – the document that set out values and principles as Métis and their aspirations. One of their most significant accomplishments took place on December 9, 2015, when the Ontario legislature passed the historic ***Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act***. This was the first Métis specific legislation ever introduced into the Ontario Legislature and it was passed unanimously with the support of all parties in the legislature. President Froh acknowledged all three parties in Ontario for standing with the MNO in moving this legislation forward. This significant achievement flowed from years of direction from MNO Annual General Assemblies that called for Métis specific legislation recognizing and making space within Ontario law for their unique Métis Nation of Ontario governance structures. Its development and passage represents a significant step forward towards reconciliation between the Crown and the Métis in Ontario.

This year there were many positive developments for MNO in the federal arena. This started with the release of the Eyford Report in April of last year that recommended Canada develop a reconciliation process with regard to Métis section 35 rights. This was followed shortly thereafter with the appointment of Tom Isaac as the Minister's Special Representative to engage with the Métis Nation on section 35 rights. Mr. Isaac's report that was released in July sets the stage for Canada to move forward on reconciliation with the Métis on a nation-to-nation basis. The MNO worked hard to make sure the voices of Ontario Métis were heard during the October 2015 federal election. The Liberals also released the first ever Métis-specific policy platform based on achieving reconciliation on a nation-to-nation basis. Following the election the MNO was pleased to see Dr. Carolyn Bennett appointed Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

One of the most positive developments had been the Supreme Court of Canada decision in April on Daniels v. Canada. This decision suggested they were entering into an increasingly dynamic period of Canada-Métis Nation relations.

On December 15, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its full final report on the history and legacy of Canada's Indian Residential School system. The Commission issued 94 Calls to Action urging all levels of government and society to work together to repair the damage done by residential schools and to move forward with a process of reconciliation. The final report included an entire volume dedicated to the Métis experience within residential schools. The MNO was pleased that one of the first Calls to Action that the federal government took was

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to launch a National Inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women, as this was something MNO had called for by resolution since 2014. On May 30, 2016, President Froh and other members of PCMNO were among the Indigenous leaders and residential school survivors who participated in ceremonies and events coinciding with Ontario's response to the 94 Calls to Action. President Froh addressed the Ontario Legislature and outlined the MNO's commitment to reconciliation.

President Froh spoke about the importance of partnerships and mentioned that, with the Ontario Native Women's Association, the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, the MNO organized the Provincial Urban Aboriginal Forum. The MNO also worked with these partners on the Joint Working Group to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women.

Métis in Ontario continue to benefit from the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement that was renewed in 2014. In December 2015, the MNO and the Ministry of Education signed a new memorandum of understanding that placed increased emphasis on providing programming that will help Métis youth become all they can be. In February 2016, the MNO signed an agreement with Detour Gold, Collège Boréal and Northern College to create a bursary program for Métis students at these institutions. Another agreement was signed with Cambrian College in May bringing the total number of such agreements the MNO has with post-secondary institutions to 15.

The MNO also signed a number of new agreements with industry proponents. These included Glencore, Barrick Gold and KGHM International [pause] as well as a Shared Interest Agreement with Canadian Malartic Corporation.

In October 2015, the MNO reached its first cooperation agreement with a First Nation. The MNO with the Region 1 Consultation Committee signed an agreement with the Mitaanjigamiing First Nation, located north of Fort Frances. The cooperation agreement was seen as an example of excellent Métis-First Nations reconciliatory process.

In terms of economic development, the MNO continued to make strides as they assert self-government and this work has been facilitated by the *MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law* passed at the 2013 Annual General Assembly. This law has facilitated the success of 50 solar projects that generate enough green energy to power 1770 households a day. It is also essential for the operation of Métis Infinity Investments is working for establishing more ventures like their solar energy projects that will eventually give the MNO independent revenue streams so they would no longer depend on funds from other governments and outside agencies.

In addition, since 2008, the MNO had been working tirelessly to eliminate its debt. This has required collective sacrifices over the last eight years but at the end of the 2015-16 fiscal year the MNO debt had been reduced to \$494,000. This is down from 4.6 million in 2008. As a result of this impressive reduction, in June 2016 the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario was able to vote to retire the MNO debt in November 2017.

Advancing the recognition and advancement of their collectively held Métis rights—as Ontario Métis— was one of the fundamental reasons why the MNO was created over 23 years ago. President Froh stated that she was pleased to report that this year has been an extremely

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important and exciting year for making progress on their Métis rights agenda. They had continued their work with the Province of Ontario under their MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement and have made great progress moving forward towards completing the independent review of our harvester card registry. With the new Trudeau government, the consultation policy signed last year, the recent Daniels decision, and the recently released Isaac report, the stars were aligning for the MNO politically and legally and they had to build on that.

On April 14, 2016, the Supreme Court of Canada's once again delivered justice for the Métis Nation with the release of the *Daniels v. Canada* case. They owed a debt of gratitude to Harry Daniels for starting that case over 15 years ago. The *Daniels* case answered the important question of what level of government has constitutional 'jurisdiction' or 'responsibility' to deal with their needs as a distinct Indigenous people. The Supreme Court of Canada unanimously answered that—just like First Nation and the Inuit—it is the federal government to whom they could turn. It was also now clear that Canada that must establish a meaningful “relationship” with the Ontario Métis.

In June 2015, Tom Isaac, a Vancouver-based lawyer with expertise in Aboriginal law, was appointed as Canada's Ministerial Special Representative on Métis Section 35 Rights and the Manitoba Métis Federation Land Claim Case. Mr. Isaac was tasked with mapping out a “way forward” on reconciliation with the Métis Nation. On July 21, 2016, the Isaac report, entitled, “A Matter of National and Constitutional Import” was publicly released and included seventeen (17) specific helpful recommendations on how reconciliation with the Métis Nation can be advanced. Overall, President Froh expressed that she was pleased with Mr. Isaac's report. It would be helpful in their future discussions with Canada and it should also assist in their discussions with the provincial government. In particular, Mr. Isaac made special note of the challenges with Ontario current approach on Métis harvesting rights.

President Froh reported that they were very close to finalizing a renewed MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement. This new Framework Agreement will be for a 10-year period and includes much improved recognition of the Métis Nation and the MNO's mandate to represent their citizens and communities. It also would include enhanced nation-to-nation processes, which they hoped would improve outcomes and results.

Since their last Assembly, the provincial Cabinet authorized the Minister of Indigenous Relations to work with the MNO on the development of a provincial Métis consultation policy. The MNO was pleased that their collective lobby efforts resulted in this long desired opportunity coming to fruition. As noted in Mr. Isaac's report, the issue of Métis harvesting rights remains as an ongoing issue in their relationship with the Ontario Government. Over the last six months, President Froh had met and written to the Minister of the Environment and Parks. She stressed that they needed to see progress on this issue of fundamental importance to Métis culture and way of life across this province.

President Froh stated that, clearly, this was an exciting time in their history as Ontario Métis. The stars have aligned. They must now leverage the opportunities in order to make once in a generation gains on Métis rights. She looked forward to a positive and productive Assembly in order to move their rights agenda forward.

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#### 4. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chair Picotte referred participants to the AGA Agenda provided in the meeting kits and provided an overview of the draft agenda.

**It was MOVED (~~Gary Labramboise~~ Garry Laframboise) and SECONDED (Dale Xilon)**

That the Agenda for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario meeting scheduled August 27-29, 2016, be adopted as presented.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA16-01)**

#### 5. APPOINTMENT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

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

**It was MOVED (Carol Levis) and SECONDED (Joanne Young)**

That the Resolutions Committee for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario scheduled August 27-29, 2016, be comprised of: Senator Ray Bergie; Pauline Richardson; and Mitchell Case; ~~and, Kelly Duquette.~~

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA16-02)**

**RECESS** The Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and resumed at 1:10 p.m.

#### 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUORUM

Vice-Chair Cadeau reported that there were 539 registered delegates and, of these, there were 355 citizens at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario. She advised the Assembly that 178 registered voting 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 237.

#### 7. ADOPTION OF THE 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Secretary-Treasurer Pile reviewed the Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario, which could be found under Tab 4 of the meeting kit.

The following corrections were noted:

- That Midland should be referred to as the “Town of Midland” rather than the “City of Midland”;
- Page 10 of 36, that the agenda should be “adopted” rather than “approved”;
- Page 16, there was a need to remove one “that” from section 11.3;
- Page 17 – the third paragraph, fourth line should read, “if the research *did not show* a historical community...”;
- Page 18 – on the third line, under 13.4, it should read “...an interim measure was still in place.”;
- Page 19 – in the last line of the fourth paragraph, it should read “...hard decisions had to be made in the past...”;
- Page 20 – in the fourth line of the 2<sup>nd</sup> full paragraph, it should read, “...legally recognized as subsidiaries...”;
- Page 21 – in the second sentence of section 14.2, there was an extra “that” to be removed;

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- Page 27/28 – there was need to check the spelling of Ms. Gosselin’s first name; and,
  - Page 35 – in the final paragraph, fifth line, it should read “...leaders could not work *the* way they needed...”.

**It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Dale Xilon)**

That the Minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario be accepted as amended.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA16-03)**

**7.1 Business Arising From the Minutes**

Secretary-Treasurer Pile provided an overview of the 2015 Resolutions and Chair Picotte asked if there was any business arising from the 2015 AGA Minutes and the Resolutions therein and the following comments were provided:

- It was noted that the Resolution numbering within the Minutes and the Resolution numbering within the Resolutions document was different and should be changed to be consistent.
- A comment was raised on the Community Relations Communication Protocol Resolution (AGA-RES2015-016) noting that some MNO citizens did not have access to online communication tools and the other paper-based communication tools (such as the Voyageur) were still used by many people to learn about the ongoing activities of the MNO. It was noted that many times they received the information too late to participate in activities. Chair Picotte noted this and stated that they were making an effort to get the information further ahead of time so it could be placed in the Voyageur earlier. They were also trying to get the information to the Community Councils with more lead time so it could be posted in their offices. It was also noted that the MNO would look at different ways of communicating with those who did not have access to on-line resources. Some members noted that they sometimes used public computers for Internet access and also that some Community Council offices had 1-800 numbers.

**8. FINANCE UPDATE**

As the financial reports were being distributed, Chair Picotte asked Secretary-Treasurer Pile to take the lead on the Finance Update. Secretary-Treasurer Pile welcomed the delegates to the AGA and provided an overview of the positive financial position of the MNO. He explained that this past year was their first year operating in the black. The MNO continued to reduce their debt and would have the debt completely paid by November 2017; this was a 25-30 year debt reduction plan but they have done it in 9-10 years. There had been substantial growth within the MNO and their strong financial position had built trust with their business partners and also all levels of government. He stated that they have all supported the leadership on the path to financial sustainability and this would lead to a brighter future for their youth.

**8.1 Approval of the 2014-15 Audit**

Mr. Randy Tivy, Collins Barrow LLP Ottawa, provided a detailed overview of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2016.

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

That the Métis Nation of Ontario Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2016, be approved by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA16-04)**

**8.2 Appointment of the Auditor**

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

That the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario appoint the accounting firm of Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants as the MNO Auditors for the Year Ended March 31, 2017.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA16-05)**

Secretary-Treasurer Pile thanked the Finance Committee and the Regional Councilors for their assistance in gathering all the necessary documents. He also acknowledged the hard work of the MNO public service, in particular the Finance Branch.

**9. 2015-16 MNO HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO**

A video highlighting the work of the MNO over the past year was shown to the AGA delegates.

**10. SUZANNE ROCHON-BURNETT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Chair Picotte invited President Froh to present the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award. President Froh stated that each year the MNO had an opportunity to recognize a volunteer from their communities and she gave an overview of the origins of the award. Ms. Suzanne Rochon-Burnett was a successful Métis business, winner of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award (2004) and was the first women inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. She was the first recipient of the MNO Volunteer of the Year Award.

President Froh presented the 2016 Suzanne Rochon-Volunteer of the Year Award to Mr. Joe Paquette. She spoke about Mr. Paquette and his hard work over the years, his enthusiasm, his support for everyone with the MNO, particularly the veterans and his openness in sharing traditional knowledge with the youth. He was a strong advocate for the Métis Nation and Métis culture, traditions and history. Mr. Paquette was truly moved and thanked the MNO for the honour of the award. He said that he had faith in all of them and they will succeed if they had faith in themselves; they could make a difference.

**11. DOUG WILSON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE MNO PUBLIC SERVICE**

President Froh stated that this was the first ever Doug Wilson Award for Excellence in MNO Public Service. She provided some background information on Mr. Wilson, who had joined the MNO in 2005 assuming the role of Chief Operating Officer in 2008. When he announced his retirement, former President Lipinski recognized his hard work for the MNO and stated that he was an inspiration to all MNO public servants. The PCMNO recognized his hard work and established this award. As Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Wilson had guided the MNO through challenging times and the MNO was able to gain solid ground on all fronts. This award would be given to that MNO public servant who had shown excellence in public service and commitment to the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose. Mr. Wilson will be the first recipient of this award and there will be a plaque recognizing his achievement and also a \$5K donation made to the charity

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of his choice. As per Mr. Wilson's wishes, the donation will be made to the Ottawa Hospital for leukemia research. She thanked Mr. Wilson for his work and contributions to the MNO.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNMENT**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 27-29, 2016 adjourned on Day 1 – August 27, 2016, at 4:30 p.m. and agreed to reconvene on Day 2 – August 28, 2016, at 8:30 a.m.

<b>DAY 2 – SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2016</b>
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### **ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 27-29, 2016, reconvened on Day 2 – August 28, 2016, at 8:30 a.m.

#### **12. OPENING REMARKS**

Chair Picotte and Vice-Chair Cadeau provided an overview of the previous day's activities and deliberations. Chair Picotte reminded all delegates that resolutions were due by 12:00 p.m. today. President Froh presented a gift of one of the framed prints to Ms. Kelly Duquette and acknowledged her talent. She said that she looked forward to Ms. Duquette's future work.

#### **13. MOVING THE MÉTIS RIGHTS AGENDA FORWARD**

Mr. Jason Madden, Partner, Pape Salter Teillet, provided an overview of his PowerPoint presentation. He mentioned that he would be providing an update on the current Métis rights cases nationally as well as an update on those rights issues that affect the MNO specifically. In terms of the court cases, Mr. Madden explained that this was how Métis had their issues addressed. However, it was not up to the courts to define the rights of Métis but rather, following a court decision, the Crown should be at the negotiation table with the MNO to define the right and how it would be concretely asserted. They had the facts of history on their side and the courts have validated that point. This was a rights-based assertion and all of their rights were claimed by the collective of Métis people; this was not a club and they were not members. Other Indigenous groups exercised their section 35 rights through treaties and this was promised to the Métis as well; that was what they were trying to operationalize through their court cases.

In terms of the Daniels Decision, it was not a case of Aboriginal rights but rather an attempt to clarify which level of government had jurisdiction or responsibility for the Métis. The decision meant that Canada had an obligation to the Métis as they did with First Nations and Inuit.

When Canada became Canada, responsibilities were identified for the various levels of government, including the federal government and the provinces. One of the goals at the time was to build a national railway from coast to coast and in order to accomplish this, they had to negotiate with the Indigenous Peoples living on that land at the time. From the beginning, the understanding was that this included the Métis, but treaties were only negotiated with the First Nations, called Indians at the time. In the Daniels Decision, the courts essentially stated that the Métis should have been included in these negotiations from the beginning, clearing up a question that has plagued the Métis all this time. Ignored by the federal and provincial systems, the Métis were caught in a position where they could not have their issues dealt with because each level of government denied responsibility, however, they were subject to the same rules and experiences as First Nations. The Daniels Decision stated that First Nations, Inuit and Métis

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Peoples were seen as “Indians” according to Section 91(24), which meant that each had the same rights as one of the Indigenous People and were all under the jurisdiction of the federal government. Mr. Madden clarified that jurisdiction did not mean control but rather the federal government had the same obligations to the Métis as they did to First Nations and Inuit. The Powley case, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) case and the Daniels case provided the basis to answer the questions around Métis rights, Métis land claims and outstanding jurisdictional issues.

The Isaac Report identified the need to talk with the Métis about rights from a federal perspective. It was noted that the specific claims and comprehensive claims process set up for First Nations had excluded the Métis so the Isaac Report recommended putting those policies in place for the Métis. As a next step, they needed to get the federal government to the negotiation table to bring these legal decisions to life. It was not just a question of outstanding Métis land claims but also access to programs and services. The Métis also needed support for their governance structures and activities, such as the Registry. The passing of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act, where their unique governance system was recognized, lent credibility to this argument.

The proposed establishment of the Commission on Métis Rights and Self Government was their opportunity to discuss next steps and what came out of the process would inform the negotiation process with Canada/Ontario. The precedent of getting Canada to the negotiation table had been set in Manitoba with the MMF case and this would be an opportunity to discuss land claims and section 35 rights.

#### Questions and Discussion

- There was a question raised around Métis citizenship and how they, as a government, could take citizenship from their citizens in the cases where parents have their citizenship but their children could not get it. Mr. Madden said that this was an important point and this will need to be discussed in the upcoming province-wide engagements. They will be going into self-government negotiations and they need to be able to define who their rights holder were; this was a discussion that had to take place in the communities. They had to have discussions around grandfathering people, mobility of rights, etc. The Commission was being set up to have these challenging discussions.
- There was a question around where or not the MNO had the right to take someone's harvesting card. Mr. Madden noted that the Harvesting Policy did not give them the right; it recognized the people that had that right, based on the documentation and, when MNO was established, Powley had not yet been decided and this documentation was not required. An arrangement was made for a certain number of harvesting cards, which was just supposed to be an interim measure, and now they had a number of people waiting for cards whose files were complete. He clarified that those without harvesting cards still had rights as Métis citizens. The citizen mentioned that he was afraid that in the future, the MNO could decide to change its laws again and they could take someone's harvesting card away again. Mr. Madden stated that if the files were not complete, this would jeopardize the exercising of the harvesting rights for everyone. They needed to talk about how all files could be completed for the Independent Audit and how the MNO could better assist with file completion. He stressed that the factors that had to be met under Powley would not change; the harvester card validated that all those factors have been met.



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- A citizen noted that they felt that when this issue came to the floor for consideration, it should have come in the form of a special resolution rather than a regular resolution. Mr. Madden did not agree, as the resolution contents spoke to what already existed in the Harvesting Policy. There was an attempt to overturn this the following year and the Assembly did not pass it.
  - There was a specific question around a citizen who had completed the necessary paperwork, was accepted by the community, and received a harvester card could not have their children accepted. Mr. Madden stated that the MNO represented historical rights bearing communities and they wanted to make sure that they have all the documentation in place, as this strengthened who they were as a Métis government. The MNO needed to make sure that the individuals met the Powley test or they would undermine the credibility of all.
  - Another citizen mentioned that they had been defended by MNO in the past in a harvesting situation and that had worked well but later he received a letter saying he needed to update his file. This was difficult because his file had gone from office to office and some documents had been lost and he had lost his harvesting card. Mr. Madden stated that they could look at this specific case in more detail but said that they had to complete more research in some areas to support their position. In the meantime, they were looking at getting the cap on harvester cards removed but they were bound by the 2004 agreement, where they had promised to do an Independent Audit of their files. They have also heard that many people needed assistance with updating their files and this was one of the reasons that they wanted to look at setting up a mobile registry, particularly for places such as Mattawa, where there was new research. In the interim, they had to make sure that they did not undermine the credibility of the Registry and those who completed their files and solidified their position with regards to harvesting.
  - There was a question on Métis people with Quebec ancestry. Mr. Madden stated that there was no arbitrary line at the provincial border but they needed more information on the root families in the areas in order to support its identification as a historic community. He stated that additional research needed to be undertaken, as the issue was date of effective control.
  - It was suggested that due to the fact that people received their harvesting cards before MNO was established, they should look at grandfathering people into the new system. Mr. Madden stated that MNO could not take away anyone's rights, if they met the Powley test, but they had to make sure that they had a credible system. They understood that some people might not meet the Powley test and this was a bigger issue. They had to remember that if the files in their system were not complete, they would not be able to increase the 1250 cap.
  - It was noted that it had been difficult for many people to complete their files, due to many historical and contemporary factors; many have fought to get their citizenship and they were discouraged to start the process again to get a harvester card. It was stressed that people need to identify and speak on their history, so they could be accepted by the community and truly be one Nation.
  - When asked for clarification on if the Ministry of National Resources and Forestry (MNR) was asking for some of the harvesting cards back if the files were not complete, Mr. Madden noted that they agreed in the 2004 agreement that they would ensure that all documentation was in place for those who met the Powley test; this was an interim agreement. Following up on that agreement, the MNO found that there were incomplete files in the system and they had begun working on getting that documentation in place before the Independent Audit of the files. However, the MNR could not put a cap on a constitutional right and the MNO

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believed that this was the case now that additional research had been completed. They just had to get all the documentation in place in order to move on that. Ontario was waiting for them to complete that audit. The citizen stated that maybe they should not have agreed to that, noting that many older Métis citizens had lost their harvester card in that process and they have passed on not being able to harvest in their final years.

- A citizen noted that some documentation referred to government research on the Windsor area communities and they asked for more information about that particular research. Mr. Madden stated that he had reviewed that research and found that it did not meet the Powley test but the MNO wanted to do more research in that area to see if it could meet the Powley test. He encouraged this citizen to provide any information he had to the MNO for review.
- Many citizens provided specific details on their situation and Mr. Madden asked them to follow up with Registry because he did not have the information on specific cases.
- When asked about additional research, Mr. Madden stated that there were many areas they needed to look at for additional research and he asked them to follow up with their MPs and MPPs to push for research dollars for the MNO so this work could be undertaken.

**RECESS** - The Meeting recessed for a Health Break at 11:00 a.m. and resumed at 11:15 a.m.

Following the break, Ms. Kelly Duquette gifted Mr. Madden with a copy of her framed print stating that his work had initiated her decision to study law.

President Froh wanted to acknowledge the concerns, which they had heard in the past from many citizens, in certain regions in particular. She said that she also appreciated that this was a personal and important issue. As Mr. Madden had mentioned, she stated that this was not an “us against them” situation, but rather was based on why MNO was formed in the first place with their founding document of the Statement of Prime Purpose. They wanted to stand together as one Nation; they were part of a historic Métis Nation with relatives in the West. The previous day, they had heard Minister Bennett state that the MNO was a responsible and stable partner, able to demonstrate their rights as rights bearing people. There was strong research that had been completed to support their assertions and citizens had benefited from that; the MNO was looking at conducting further research. They would stand on the facts of history; they needed that evidence to develop laws and successful governance. Their strength has been in their united approach and it was important that they did not move ahead of the research and evidence. She committed to getting that research done. She also stated that they were looking for further funding to support the work of their Registry including the potential set up of a mobile registry and increased genealogy training for their staff so they could increase their capacity to assist their citizens. The establishment of the Commission on Métis Rights and Self Government would be a vehicle to have these discussions in the communities. They also needed to keep in mind that the Independent Audit process would begin shortly and they needed a 90% success rate on the existing files in order to push the issue of the 1250 cap and negotiate a long-term agreement. Under these circumstances, the MNO could legitimately support and defend all of those citizens who may have an issue with their harvesting activities.

### **13.1 Presentation on Harvesting Rights**

Mr. Madden continued his presentation stating that they were not going to assert rights where they could not back it up with historical facts. They needed to do this work together to advance their rights; there were a lot of perceptions out there and people needed to know who the MNO was. They would not be able to advance their rights without using the MNO as the vehicle for

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that. The MNO had always been clear they would define their Nation and their communities. He mentioned that, in the interim policy, they indicated that no one would lose their citizenship but they needed to ensure that their files were updated. Since the new policy, adopted by the Assembly, over 7000 citizens have met the criteria but it recognized that there was limited capacity in the Registry office to assist citizens in completing their files. This was an issue of funding, as they could not provide enough staff to do this work. They were just doing assessments right now but it was hoped that they could develop more tools to assist people. They had to maintain that standard for the files in order to do this properly. He also noted that since the Daniels decision, they were getting more applications, which placed even more pressure on the Registry Branch.

In terms of harvesting cards, the MNO harvesting policy stated that the MNO would issue harvesting cards to those who could provide the documentation. Prior to the Powley case, some harvester cards had been issued but they had to ensure that their system was credible; the files had to have the supporting documentation showing that they met the test of Powley. Some people might have an issue with the agreement but Ontario was only one of two provinces that have such an agreement in place. The Powley decision was embraced by the MNO and, in doing that, they needed to abide by its stipulations in order to have a credible system. One of the issues that they needed to discuss in more detail was mobility.

In the 2004 agreement, the MNO stated that they would agree to issuing 1250 harvesting cards and that number would be changed based on mutual agreement. This was supposed to be an interim measure but it had gone on for ten years. The independent audit of the files will use the Powley test as the standard and, if we do not abide by this, they would be in breach of the agreement. As part of that agreement, the MNO told MNR that they could not continue to charge their harvesters because they would need to trust the MNO that they were vetting their own harvesters based on Powley and a review of their files would only be conducted by an independent body once terms of that process were agreed on. He clarified that this was not a rights recognition agreement but rather an accommodation agreement. The independent review was a part of that agreement and, in 12 years, MNO had not been in position to proceed with this review. They have had to defend this agreement in court, as their harvesters in some cases were still being charged.

Since 2011, they have come to an understanding with Ontario on harvesting rights and the MNO needed to begin the process to ensure that all their files were complete. Letters were forwarded to those whose files were not complete to ask them for additional documentation. During this time, additional research was undertaken and, while in some cases this came out supporting their claims, other areas needed additional research completed. The MNO was able to go from 1250 cards to 1450 cards but they still needed to proceed with the independent review. They were hoping to get the review done by March 31, 2017.

He explained that people have been meeting the requirements and there was a waiting list for harvester cards. He added that no harvester cards have been grandfathered in; all had to meet the same stipulations around Powley.

The fact was that no one could put a cap on a constitutional right and MNO needed to move ahead to strengthen their position in this regard. They needed to look at the mobility and sheltering rights and there were no enforcement mechanisms right now and this also needed to

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be addressed. He reiterated that the negotiation and signing of a longer-term agreement would not be possible with this independent review of the files.

### Questions and Discussion

- A question was raised around the process for setting up the independent review and Mr. Madden noted that the decisions around this were based on negotiations between MNO and MNR. This will be done by an independent body and a Request for Proposals will be publicly released once they agreed on a terms of reference. MNO will be part of the selection process. They will do some kind of process to randomly select from the 1250 files so all the files will need to be in order.
- There was clarification that any reference to membership should say citizenship.
- A question was raised around harvesting in the Mattawa area where it bordered with Quebec. Mr. Madden noted that he was not sure how Quebec would respond, as they do not recognize the Ontario-based harvesting agreement. He added that they could show that the harvesting right extends into Quebec based on the research but it would be limited to that geographic area near the Ottawa River. He stated that the MNO would not be able to defend some one charged in Quebec because of the limitation of the harvesting agreement but they hoped, in the future, to work on this issue.
- When asked about the timeframes around control, Mr. Madden stated that they were looking at the 1880-1890 and once the MOU was completed they would make specific dates available. He explained that it was not a precise science and it may need to be updated from time to time. They would be interested in hearing feedback once the dates are published.

### 14. 2016 SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Chair Picotte asked that all movers/seconders approach the microphones to read the Special Business Resolutions into the record. She noted that the mover and seconder would have an opportunity to speak to the Resolution. Mr. Madden provided an overview of the Special Business Resolutions and referenced that there was additional detailed information in the meeting kit.

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-SPECRES2016-001</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>MNO SECRETARIAT BYLAW CHANGES – AGA VOTING</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Jerry Clarke</b>
<b>Secunder:</b>	<b>Donna Grayer</b>

**WHEREAS** the MNO promised to ensure active engagement of Métis Youth;

**AND WHEREAS** there is a need to engage our youth at an earlier age;

**AND WHEREAS** the presence of Métis children and youth at the MNO's AGA has fallen over the years;

**AND WHEREAS** the current MNO Electoral Code Part A reads:

- 5.2 An Elector who is sixteen (16) years of age or older is entitled to cast one (1) vote for the each of the following officers;
- (a) President;

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- (b) Chair;
  - (c) Vice Chair;
  - (d) Secretary Treasurer;
  - (e) Regional Councilor in his or her Region; and
  - (f) Post-secondary representative.

5.3 Only Electors who are between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty-nine (29) years of age may vote for the youth representatives on the PCMNO or for the regional youth representatives on the MNOYC.

**AND WHEREAS** providing Métis youth, that may be interested, with an opportunity to cast their first official vote as part of the Métis Nation would be engaging, provide a lifelong memory of validation, and encourage interest and participation at future MNO events;

**AND WHEREAS** the Federal and Provincial Parties both have youth voting members at their annual conventions, voting on not only policy but also for their leadership starting at the age of fourteen (14) years old;

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED** that in keeping with the MNO's commitment to engage Métis youth and providing them a voice, and encouraging participation, the MNO Electoral Code Part A Article 5.2 and Article 5.3 be amended age from sixteen (16) years old to read as fourteen (14) years old as follows:

- 5.2 An Elector who is fourteen (14) years of age or older is entitled to cast one (1) vote for the each of the following officers;
- (a) President;
  - (b) Chair;
  - (c) Vice Chair;
  - (d) Secretary Treasurer;
  - (e) Regional Councilor in his or her Region; and
  - (f) Post-secondary representative.
- 5.3 Only Electors who are between the ages of fourteen (14) and twenty-nine (29) years of age may vote for the youth representatives on the PCMNO or for the regional youth representatives on the MNOYC.

**DEFEATED (AGA-SPECRES2016-001)**

62 – IN FAVOUR  
238 – AGAINST

#### Questions and Discussion

- President Froh spoke to the good intentions behind this motion, as she was a strong advocate for youth engagement within their governance process. She encouraged youth to comment from the floor on the proposed resolution. She also added that the MNO was undergoing a review of their electoral process and encouraged all citizens to provide their comments to the MNO.
- PCMNO Youth Representative Case stated that they could not support this resolution at this time but they did support any attempts to further engage their youth in the MNO processes. He suggested that this might be an issue they wanted to continue to explore for the future.

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It was noted by other youth that additional groundwork would need to take place first before making this change.

- It was noted by another youth that he could not support this resolution at this time, as he felt that they needed to do more work around engaging youth, particularly younger youth, within the local communities so they would better understand the implications of their participation in the decision making.
- It was noted that the MNO had to look at how to engage youth, particularly younger youth and children, so they were able to grow up in the MNO, participate more in MNO activities and this was why they should have the ability to vote at a younger age.
- President Froh noted that they were looking at different ways to have more youth and children involvement in their meetings and suggested that one way to do this was to reformat how they held their AGAs.

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-SPECRES2016-002</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>AMEND ARTICLE 4 FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (“AGA”) PROCESS IN THE MNO, PROCESS FOR CONDUCTING ORDINARY AND SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UPDATED VERSION APPROVED BY 21<sup>ST</sup> MNO AGA ON AUGUST 23, 2014)</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Daniel Boulard</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Jessica Boulard</b>

**WHEREAS** as special resolution amend or repeal the MNO’s foundation principals, by-laws or policies which can have a significant impact on MNO citizens;

**AND WHEREAS** it is a democratic right to freely express the right to vote without influence or prejudice or without any discrimination and re-precautions on your vote;

**AND WHEREAS** MNO citizens need to express their democratic rights;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** to add the following “The validated special resolutions will be voted on at the annual general assembly by secret ballot voting” to article 4 of the Annual General Assembly (“AGA”) Process in the MNO #2011-022, Process for Conducting Ordinary and Special Resolutions at a General Assembly (updated Version approved by 21st MNO AGA on August 23, 2014) and be changed to read as follows:

*“At the beginning of the general assembly, a resolutions committee shall be established. The resolutions committee shall include three (3) MNO citizens selected by the general assembly, along with the MNO’s legal counsel. The resolutions committee shall also be supported by the MNO administration, as required. The resolutions committee has the authority to review the proposed special resolutions to ensure they are in a form that is consistent with this policy. Only those resolutions that are in compliance with this policy will be brought to the assembly floor by the resolutions committee to be voted on by the assembly. At least one of the identified movers and seconders for each special resolution must be in attendance at the general assembly to act as the mover and seconders when the special resolution is brought to the floor. The resolutions committee cannot amend special resolutions in order to make them compliant with the policy. If a special resolution does not refer to a specific clause and propose specific wording, it will*

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*not be put forward to the annual general assembly for consideration. The validated special resolution will be voted on at the annual general assembly by secret ballot voting.”*

**DEFEATED (AGA-SPECRES2016-002)**

106 - IN FAVOUR  
160 - AGAINST  
13 – ABSTENTIONS

**Questions and Discussion**

- It was noted that there was an issue around the time it would take to conduct a secret ballot process for resolutions.
- As time was an issue during the AGA, it was suggested that they could look at an electronic voting process. However, there was an accountability issue inherent in that, as they were there representing the interests of their citizens and they needed to be able to manage that accountability. Perhaps, it was further suggested, that they could look at options for MNO voting citizens who were also staff.
- President Froh stated that they would look at new technologies but there was the issue, as stated, around accountability. She suggested that they could have their Commission look at how this could work in future AGAs.

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-SPECRES2016-003</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>AMEND SECTION 60, SUBSECTION (a) OF THE MNO SECRETARIAT BY-LAWS</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Juliette S. Denis</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Daniel Boulard</b>

**WHEREAS** “The MNO’s 2010 Annual General Assembly directed the MNO to put in place a process that would ensure that MNO citizens have an opportunity to review, discuss and consider any proposed resolutions that would make changes to the MNO’s by-laws or significant changes to the MNO’s governance structures prior to their consideration by the general assembly” (AGA-RES10-02);

**AND WHEREAS** “the MNO by-laws have been amended to required that MNO citizens receive thirty (30) days notice of any special resolutions to be proposed at the general assembly” (MNO Policy #2011-002);

**AND WHEREAS** MNO Policy #2011-002 Process for Conducting Ordinary and Special Resolutions at a General Assembly applies strictly to “MNO’s foundational principles, by-laws or policies that have been previously adopted by the General Assembly” (MNO Policy #2011-002);

**AND WHEREAS** section 60, subsection “a” of the MNO Secretariat By-laws applies strictly to policies previously adopted by the General Assembly;

**AND WHEREAS** there is no by-law for the addition, repeal or amendment of MNO policies which relates to foundational principles, citizenship, rights or established boundaries which have not been previously adopted by the General Assembly;

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**AND WHEREAS** MNO policies which relates to foundational principles, citizenship, rights or established boundaries are not subject to the MNO policy #2011-002 Process for Conducting Ordinary and Special Resolution at a General Assembly and do not require MNO citizens to receive thirty (30) days notice of special resolutions to be proposed at a General Assembly for their adoption or ratification;

**AND WHEREAS** the PCMNO may adopt, repeal or amend MNO policies which relates to foundational principles, citizenship, rights or established boundaries which have not been previously adopted by the General Assembly;

**AND WHEREAS** the PCMNO is not required to bring to the General Assembly, for adoption or ratification, MNO policies which relate to foundational principles, citizenship, rights or established boundaries which have not been previously adopted by the General Assembly;

**AND WHEREAS** there is no required timeframe for PCMNO to bring to the General Assembly, for adoption or ratification, new, repealed or amended MNO policies which relates to foundational principles, citizenship, rights or established boundaries which have not been previously adopted by the General Assembly;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** to remove “For greater certainty, a Special Resolution is not required to repeal or amend MNO policies that are not previously adopted by the General Assembly” in s. 60, subsection (a) of the MNO Secretariat By-Law and replace with “New policies which related to the MNO’s foundational principles, citizenship, rights or established boundaries adopted by PCMNO shall be subsequently approved or ratified by a Special Resolution at the next General Assembly.”

**DEFEATED (AGA-SPECRES2016-003)**

52 - IN FAVOUR

151- AGAINST

20 - ABSTENTIONS

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-SPECRES2016-004</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>AMEND SECTION 4 OF THE MNO SECRETARIAT BY-LAWS</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Daniel Boulard</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Jessica Boulard</b>

**WHEREAS** the Métis National Council can change or amend the Métis definition without full agreement of the Métis Nation of Ontario citizens;

**AND WHEREAS** the Métis National Council does not give equal seats for voting to the Métis Nation of Ontario;

**AND WHEREAS** it is the democratic right for Métis Nation of Ontario citizens to have a voice on whom the Métis people are in their community;



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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** to remove ‘in accordance with the Métis National Council’ in section 4 of the MNO Secretariat Bylaws and to read as follows; “Citizenship in the MNO shall be limited to individuals interested in furthering the objects of the MNO and who are Métis within the definition adopted by the MNO, which is as follows:”

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPECRES2016-004)**

Questions and Discussion

- Clarification was provided by MNO Legal Counsel that if the MNC definition for Métis were to change, it would not bind the Regional Governments, such as the MNO. This resolution clarified that, if the MNC definition were to change, the MNO would have to ratify that change, as far it affected this government.

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-SPECRES2016-005</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>MNO HARVESTING CARD FEES FOR SENIORS 65 AND OVER</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Yvonne Jensen</b>
<b>Seconder:</b>	<b>Guy Mike Laderoute</b>

**WHEREAS** the MNO Harvesting Policy came into effect on the 27th day of June in the year 2011;

**AND WHEREAS** the MNO Harvesting Policy has been amended from time to time;

**AND WHEREAS** article 4.3 of the MNO Harvesting Policy refers to “Applicable Fees as set out in Schedule “A” which is attached to and forms part of this MNO Harvesting Policy”;

**AND WHEREAS** the government of Ontario has waived the fees for Outdoors Cards or Fishing Licence for citizens 65 years and older;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that any MNO citizen 65 years and older who possesses a Valid Harvesting Card or is eligible to possess a MNO Harvesting Card have all fees associated with obtaining or renewing their Harvesting Card waived.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPECRES2016-005)**

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-SPECRES2016-006</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>AGA RULES OF ORDER</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Joseph Poitras</b>
<b>Seconder:</b>	<b>Ernest Gatien</b>

**WHEREAS** Metis Rules of Order are silent and do not provide adequate guidance in conducting PCMNO business.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the appropriate provision in Robert Rules of Order will apply to the question being discussed or decided.

**WITHDRAWN**

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The Resolutions Committee, with input from MNO legal counsel, has deemed the following proposed Special Resolutions non-compliant with the MNO Policy on special resolutions:

Amendment to Section 2.1 of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Harvesting Policy:

**WHEREAS** harvesting is recognized and affirmed as a community right and a collective right and the community has the sole responsibility regarding the eligibility for harvesting rights within the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Harvesting Policy;

**AND WHEREAS** the effective control dates of a community is to be proven by the community and not by the individual;

**AND WHEREAS** since the *Powley decision* came into effect on September 19, 2003, there have been additional cases dealing with aboriginal rights such as the *Daniels* case and the *Laurin & Lemieux* court case;

**AND WHEREAS** the *Laurin & Lemieux* court case decision on June 12, 2007 declared the harvesting agreement between the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources on July 7, 2004 to be legally binding;

**AND WHEREAS** the Mattawa Nipissing Historical Research Project has proven historic Métis in Mattawa and due to funding resources, the study has not been completed and other studied areas in the province of Ontario have not yet begun;

**AND WHEREAS** the MNO citizens who fought for the right for justice prior to the *R.V.Powley* court case, prior to the harvesting interim agreement and prior to the *Laurin Lemieux* court case should be honoured for their dedication.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** to amend s.2.1 of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Harvesting Policy to remove “in accordance with the Métis National Council” and to read as follows:

“d) “MNO citizen” means a person who is interested in furthering the objects of the MNO and who is Métis within the definition adopted by the MNO, and.”

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** to add subsection “h” to s.2.1 of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Harvesting Policy and to read as follows:

“h) “Harvesting Founding Members” means a person who is an MNO citizen who is in possession of a harvesting card or has been in possession of a harvesting card prior to the *Powley* case decision, prior to the harvesting interim agreement and prior to the *Laurin Lemieux* court case decision on June 12, 2107 will be honoured as “Harvesting Founding Members” and will be considered as “MNO citizens” within the definition in the “Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Harvesting Policy” and will hold a harvesting card and respect the “Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Harvesting Policy”.

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Chair Picotte thanked Ms. Kelly Duquette for her service on the Resolutions Committee, as she would not be in attendance at the AGA the following day. She also noted that there was an extension of Non-Special Business Resolution to 3:30 p.m. today (August 28, 2016). It was also noted for future reference, the Special Business Resolutions should be numbered for clarity.

**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNMENT**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 27-29, 2016 adjourned on Day 2 – August 28, 2016, at 12:45 p.m. and agreed to reconvene on Day 3 – August 29, 2016, at 8:30 a.m.

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<b>DAY 3 – MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2016</b>
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**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 27-29, 2016, reconvened on Day 3 – August 29, 2016, at 8:30 a.m.

**15. OPENING REMARKS**

Chair Picotte provided an overview of the previous day's discussions and activities from the previous day. She also noted they had wanted to revise the day's agenda and begin with the Non-Special Business Resolutions and then proceed with the Updates, however, quorum was not recognized at this time.

**16. UPDATES****16.1 MNO Senators**

PCMNO Executive Senator, Joseph Poitras, thanked the Assembly for the honour of updating them today, as he was only elected a few days prior. It was difficult for him to report, as he was newly elected, but he did introduce the other PCMNO Senators: Verna Porter-Brunelle, Rene Gravelle and Ray Burgie. He acknowledged the hard work and dedication of past PCMNO Executive Senator Reta Gordon.

**16.2 Women's Secretariat of the MNO**

Vice-Chair Cadeau noted that the WSMNO had recently had an election and she thanked everyone who participated in that election process. She introduced the members of the WSMNO including their first youth representative Katelyn LaCroix. She stated that they have worked hard to ensure that they had more youth involvement at their meetings and in the activities of the WSMNO. She added that they had to make sure that the women citizens knew that they could be involved in all WSMNO meetings, including the meeting held the previous day. She thanked the Senators for delaying their meeting yesterday so that the women could first participate in the WSMNO meeting. She said that they looked forward to improving their communications around meetings so that as many women as possible could participate.

**16.3 MNO Youth Council**

PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case thanked everyone for the opportunity to update the Assembly on the activities of the MNO Youth Council (MNOYC). He introduced the new and existing members of the MNOYC. He mentioned that they had recently held an election for the Region #4 Youth Representative, and Taylor McNally from Blind River was elected. He noted that an online system had been used and the election results were known as soon as the online poll closed. He added that these recent elections have shown the highest level voter turnout in MNO history and the youth wanted to challenge the Assembly to increase their voter turnout as well. There were 63 youth at this AGA and, for the first time, the MNO was able to pay for a youth representative from each Community Council. He acknowledged all of the youth delegates that were in attendance. He commended the MNO on their work on family well-being and also their work on the Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy and the WSMNO on having more youth engagement. He spoke about the ongoing work on the Vimy Ridge project and thanked Joe Paquette for the knowledge he had shared with the youth and the work encouraging those interactions between the youth and the Veterans. Mr. Paquette, Mr. Case

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explained, had a huge impact on the lives of their youth. He reminded the delegates that once again this year the youth had a craft table at this AGA where they were selling their artwork.

Earlier this year, the MNO youth were successful in making the changes they wanted to the proposed MNO Secretariat Act, which had now passed into legislation. The MNC had re-established their Youth Advisory Council and he had also attended the MNA AGA to talk with their youth about setting up a provincial youth council. He wanted to recognize the support of the Ottawa Métis Council for their fundraising efforts on behalf of the Youth Council and thanked everyone who donated for the youth to get a trappers tent to host the youth activities for the AGA next year. Mr. Case also thanked the Thunder Bay Métis Council that designated 25% from their Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) toward youth initiatives; with 15% going to youth activities in Thunder Bay and 10% going to the MNOYC. He expressed their excitement at participating in further work on Métis rights and self-government.

#### **16.4 MNO Veterans Council**

Mr. Paquette acknowledged the new members and returning members of the PCMNO and the youth. He mentioned that the Veterans Council also had elections this year and he introduced the new Veterans Council. They were excited and anxious to move forward with their planned activities and wanted to report that there were more Veterans each year. He stated that he saw the growth of the MNO and they were maturing in their nationhood; this made the Veterans proud.

#### Questions and Discussion

- It was noted that anyone that was running for one of the Councils should go to their home community and make their local council aware of this, as in some cases, they did not know who was running.

#### **17. MINUTE OF SILENCE**

Chair Picotte stated that the previous year they had started a tradition where they took a minute of silence for all their citizens, family, friends, who had passed away the previous year since the last AGA. The Assembly took a minute of silence at this time.

#### **18. NON-SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS**

Chair Picotte announced that there was now quorum in the meeting room. She invited the Resolutions Committee to the stage and began the Non-Special Resolutions process.

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2016-01</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO MÉTIS PROSPERITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY LAW</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>David Dusome</b>
<b>Seconder:</b>	<b>Peter Couture</b>

**WHEREAS** one of the foundational objectives of the MNO, as set out in its Statement of Prime Purpose, is to develop prosperity and economic self sufficiency for the Métis Citizens, Métis Communities and the Métis Nation – as a whole – within Ontario;

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**AND WHEREAS** the *Métis Prosperity and Economic Self-Sufficiency* was adopted by the MNO Annual General Assembly and the PCMNO may make changes to the Law to be subsequently ratified the next MNO AGA;

**AND WHEREAS** there is a need to inform Métis communities about when economic opportunities are being explored or pursued in a given region;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That the PCMNO consider making the following changes to the Law:
  - a. That Section 40 be amended to read as "This Law may be amended by the Board of Directors of Infinity Investments GP and only implemented by resolution at the Current Year Annual General by way of resolution and in compliance with the MNO policy number 2011-002
  - b. That 'Appendix A page 10 ' the word "Governance" be changed to read MNO Chartered Community Councils Capacity Fund;
  - c. That the term "Day to Day Operations" be defined by explicit language to ensure there is clear direction on the boundaries and duties allowable to the Board of Director under the Prosperity and Self Sufficiency Law to conduct the affairs of Infinity Investments GP.

**RESOLVED (AGA-RES2016-01)**

166 - IN FAVOUR

1- AGAINST

1- ABSTENTION

**Questions and Discussion**

- Some issues were raised around building capacity for local Métis businesses and ensuring they did not undermine this work with the new economic development initiatives at Infinity. Mr. Madden noted that they were still working out some kinks with Infinity Investments and this resolution provided more clarity around the issues and provided the PCMNO with some direction.
- There was a statement from a citizen that they had no issue with the resolution but with the process. It was felt that this resolution dealt with the law itself, which had already been adopted by the Assembly. It was felt that the law should be changed rather than using a policy to address the existing issue. Mr. Madden noted that all amendments needed to come back to the Assembly and this resolution provided the direction necessary to make the changes.

On a related note, it was recognized that Region #3 donated to the AGA expenses each year and President Laurin, North Bay Métis Council, thanked the Region for their donation this year, as this facilitated many of the activities that were taking place this year.

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2016-02</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>ADVANCING MÉTIS HARVESTING RIGHTS</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Margaret Froh</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Victor Brunelle</b>

**WHEREAS** harvesting and the continuing Métis relationship to the land is fundamental to the protection of Métis culture and identity;

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**AND WHEREAS** the MNO has established a Harvesters Policy to protect Métis rights and manage the Métis harvest in Ontario in order to ensure Métis values of conservation and safety are respected;

**AND WHEREAS** the 2004 MNO-MNR Harvester Agreement requires that an independent review of the MNO Harvester Card system be completed in order to remove the cap and also includes a commitment that Ontario would pursue collaborative historic research on the MNO's identified traditional territories where it did not agree with the MNO's assertions;

**AND WHEREAS** the MNO and Ontario are in the process of finalizing a MOU on the conduct of the needed independent review;

**AND WHEREAS** there are still some areas where additional historic research is needed, including the West of Lake Nipissing region;

**AND WHEREAS** many Métis citizens need assistance in completing their Harvester Cards files and the MNO Registry currently does not have capacity to assist citizens in this work;

**AND WHEREAS** the MNO have established a Commission on Métis Rights & Self-Government to advance these issues;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That the MNO be directed to move forward as quickly as possible on the independent review so the cap on Harvester Cards is removed once and for all;
2. That the MNO be directed to press for additional historical research to be undertaken in areas like West of Lake Nipissing, including developing template letters so MNO citizens can send these letters to their respective MPs and MPPs for funding support;
3. That the MNO be directed to lobby to secure funding from Canada or Ontario to establish a mobile MNO Registry unit that can assist both citizens and harvester applicants in completing their files;
4. That while the independent review is ongoing the PCMNO and Captains of the Hunt consider issuing additional Harvester Cards over the current negotiated cap (even though it is recognized that those Cards will not be recognized by the MNR for the interim period) for harvesters' with completed files in order to encourage citizens to complete the process.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2016-02)**

Questions and Discussion

- It was critically important that the MNO undertake additional research as soon as possible to support the rights assertion of the Métis in all parts of Ontario and it was noted that the Youth Council would take an active role in writing to their MPs and MPPs to ensure that this research takes place.
- From the Captain of the Hunt perspective, this work was important, as they dealt with the issues around harvesting cards on a regular basis. The need for more support in terms of assisting citizens with completing their files could not be overstated.
- It was noted that while this spoke to the area west of Lake Nipissing, there were many areas of the province that required more research to be done.

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- There was a concern raised around issuing more cards and how they would make sure that existing cardholders were protected. Mr. Madden noted that they would be speaking to MNR and telling them that more cards would be issued in preparation for the lifting of the 1250 cap; they wanted to get ready to proceed with this.
  - It was suggested that they needed to inform all citizens who could not be at the AGA today about this resolution and the plan to move forward. They would appreciate seeing some movement on this issue.
  - It was noted that if they would be issuing more harvester cards, they needed to make sure that they had a resource management plan in place to ensure they were not over harvesting.

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2016-03</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>MÉTIS REPRESENTATION IN MAINSTREAM MEDIA</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Mitchell Case</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Benny Michaud</b>

**WHEREAS** the mainstream media plays a role in shaping public opinion on issues in Canadian society;

**AND WHEREAS** public opinion plays a role in shaping public policy;

**AND WHEREAS** Currently the Métis Nation is underrepresented in mainstream media;

**AND WHEREAS** all too often when "Métis" issues are covered they are covered in a way that misrepresents the Métis Nation, our history and our stories;

**AND WHEREAS** the CBC; as a crown corporation has a mandate which includes, but is not limited to: reflect Canada and its regions to national and regional audiences, while serving the special needs of those regions, actively contribute to the flow and exchange of cultural expression, contribute to shared national consciousness and identity, and reflect the multicultural and multiracial nature of Canada;

**AND WHEREAS** local media plays a role in raising the profile of groups and events in communities across the country;

**AND WHEREAS** the MNO currently has an outstanding communications infrastructure for internal communication, including but not limited to the Voyageur, E-voyageur, Website, Facebook and now Twitter;

**AND WHEREAS** while MNO is currently limited in the amount of support that can be provided to the community councils in the area of communications and outreach;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the MNO President write a letter to the head of the CBC/Radio Canada, expressing our concern with underrepresentation of the Métis Nation in Media and specifically in the coverage by the CBC.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a second letter be sent to CTV;



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**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the MNO Communications branch work to develop a strategy to better engage mainstream media with the Métis Nation, our issues, rights etc,;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in order to better promote, and advance the agenda of the Métis Nation in Ontario through the community councils, as well as the other MNO councils (WSMNO/MNOYC/MNOVC); the 2016 AGA direct the PCMNO to seek resources to create a training module on media relations for the councils, specifically in the area of local outreach and event promotion; and that the PCMNO review and approve the training module before it is delivered.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2016-03)**

Questions and Discussion

- It was suggested that along with CBC, CTV, Radio Canada and APTN be added. The mover/seconded agreed to these friendly amendments and it was added to the final wording of this resolution.
- President Froh supported the motion stating that they wanted to raise the profile of the MNO and increase the opportunities to tell their stories on a provincial basis and in local communities through various media.
- It was noted that this was important also to address misinformation or ignorance around the Métis history in Ontario.

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2016-04</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>AMENDMENT TO THE SENATORS ELECTION PROCESS</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Verna Porter-Brunelle</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Cecile Coutu</b>

**WHEREAS** we state in the Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose that its guiding principles are to:

- Establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self government;
- Encourage the full participation of all Métis Nation Senators;
- To promote fairness to election process and consistency of democratic policies;

**AND WHEREAS**, Senators are elected among the active Senators to sit on the Provisional Council of Métis Nation of Ontario;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the MNO Senators should develop and establish a specific electoral code for PCMNO Senators and election of the Executive Senator.

**RESOLVED (AGA-RES2016-04)**

147 – IN FAVOUR

1 – AGAINST

1 - ABSTENTION

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Questions and Discussion

- President Froh noted that there was a need for the Senators to discuss amongst themselves what they wanted their election process to look like. She invited them to provide input in this regard and she would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with them in more detail.
- People spoke at length about the wisdom and knowledge that the Senators bring to their governance structures and how important they were to the MNO.
- There were some concern raised around the idea of “alternates” and this was struck from the final resolution with the agreement of the mover/seconded.

<b>Resolution #:</b>	<b>AGA-RES2016-05</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>PROVINCIAL TWO-SPIRITED/LGTBQ WORKING GROUP</b>
<b>Mover:</b>	<b>Benny Michaud</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Tera Beaulieu</b>

**WHEREAS** Two-Spirited and LGTBQ Métis people contribute greatly to our Métis Nation;

**AND WHEREAS** Two-Spirited and LGTBQ Métis people were traditionally valued for their distinctive responsibilities and roles within our communities and have had these roles devalued and diminished through the process of colonization;

**AND WHEREAS** Two-Spirited and LGTBQ people have unique cultural, health, and social needs;

**AND WHEREAS** Two-Spirited and LGTBQ people continue to face discrimination and prejudice and remain at higher risk of serious mental health challenges and suicide;

**AND WHEREAS** various levels of government in Canada have identified Two-Spirited and LGTBQ rights as a high priority;

**AND WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario’s Statement of Prime Purpose states that the MNO will commit to “improved health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community”;

**AND WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario has other representative special interest groups such as the Women’s Secretariat, Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council and the Métis Nation of Ontario Veteran’s Council;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Métis Nation of Ontario establish a provincial Two-Spirited/LGTBQ working group comprised of Métis citizens, with the support of the MNO public service, to assist in developing Two-Spirited and LGTBQ cultural and wellness programming, the identification and advocacy of Two-Spirited and LGTBQ rights, and consider the establishment of an MNO provincial representative body.

**RESOLVED (AGA-RES2016-05)**  
155 – IN FAVOUR  
0 – AGAINST  
1 - ABSTENTION

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### Questions and Discussion

- People were universally supportive and proud of this resolution and commended the mover/seconded for putting this forward. There were many two-spirited members and their families were thankful that the MNO was leading the way in tolerance and acceptance.

A final resolution was presented entitled, “*Resolution to Provide Financial Support to Métis Graduate, Post-Graduate and Professional Students*” (LaCroix/Robitaille) but quorum was not present in the room at this time. President Froh stated that while they could not entertain this motion at this time, she committed to taking this forward to the PCMNO. The MNO strongly supported youth and education. There was concern that this was an important issue but due to circumstances, they could not discuss or entertain this resolution and it was suggested that they had to look at the format of the AGA to ensure that all of these important resolutions reached the floor for discussion. Chair Picotte stated that they would rework future AGA agendas to ensure that they were able to complete the work that needed to be done.

Chair Picotte stated that they would close the MNO AGA and open the AGA for the Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission (MNOCC) and the Métis Nation of Ontario Development Corporation (MNODC) (minutes could be found attached as a separate document). Following that, the President would close the AGA. The MNOCC and MNODC AGAs were convened.

### **19. CLOSING REMARKS – PRESIDENT MARGARET FROH**

President Froh asked to have the tribute slide up on the screen and referenced what had been accomplished. She said that this was an exciting time for their Nation and she was proud to be a member of the MNO and their President. She acknowledged the contributions of the past Executive Senator Reta Gordon, as she was one of the people that set the foundation of the MNO with her long years of dedicated service. She thanked the Chair and the Vice-Chair, the organizers of the AGA and the MNO public service that have worked so hard. They had the dates in place for AGA 2017 but she asked that anyone who might want to host the AGA to keep an eye on the website for the request for submissions to host. They were looking at setting up a large tent for the meeting and looking for ways to further involve whole families in the AGA. They wanted to be able to plan the AGA locations for two years ahead so they were looking for hosts for the 2017 and 2018 AGAs. She acknowledged and thanked the North Bay Métis Council for hosting this AGA and the other Regions who also contributed to support AGA 2016. She said that it was a great idea to build in support to host the AGA in agreements with proponents. The future was bright for the MNO and they were up to the challenges that they would face.

Chair Picotte closed the AGA, thanked all delegates for participating and wished all safe travels.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 27 – 29, 2016, concluded on Day 3 – August 29, 2016 at 12:10 p.m. Senator Marlene Greenwood closed the AGA with a prayer.