

The Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council

Terms of Reference

3. Our Statement of Purpose

² The MNOWC has an inclusive understanding of womanhood. Women experience their lives differently based on their culture, home life, region, age, gender/gender identify, sexual identity, religion, education, and many other factors. The MNOWC values each woman's experience and seeks to create a respectful space that includes Two-Spirited, Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, and Inter-Sexual (2SLGBTWQ) women.

- .1 Advance a democratic, mandated and self-sufficient MNOWC to promote the interests and aspirations of all women citizens of the MNO
- .2 Encourage the full participation of all Métis women.
- .3 Advocate for Métis women, insight, and participation to ensure successful women's programming across the province.
- .4 Promote the history, values, culture, languages and traditions of the Métis Nation
- .5 Promote spiritual, cultural, mental and physical wellness of Métis women
- .6 Ensure Métis women maintain their role in the continuation of our strong Métis Nation.

- .7 The MNOWC will promote and advocate
 - .7.1 Métis women's rights
 - .7.2 Métis women's agendas
 - .7.3 Métis women's health
 - .7.4 Métis women's leadership
 - .7.5 Métis women's education
 - .7.6 Métis culture and heritage
 - .7.7 Children/family/communities

4. Structure of the MNOWC

4.1. Number of Representatives

- .1 The MNOWC will consist of the ³Elected Spokesperson and

¹ Name amended August 17,2017 by MNOWC AGA in Kenora previously read WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO - all notes in this Terms of Reference have been updated to reflect the name change.

² added August 15,2018 Peterborough AGM

³ Amended August 17, 2017 removed MNO Provincial Secretary for Métis Women, and Elected 4 Committee Members.

9 Elected Regional Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council
Representatives.

- .2⁴ if seeking to be a Candidate for Regional Women's Representatives is Ordinarily Resident in the Region for which he or she seeks to be nominated
- .3 If seeking to be a Candidate for Spokesperson is Ordinarily Resident in Ontario for the term of office.
- .4 Only MNO Women's citizens can stand for office in the MNOWC.
- .5 The Council of 10 MNOWC will consist of 1 Spokesperson and 9 Council members and will be elected by the women citizens of the MNO for a term of 4 years. These elections will be held at the MNO Annual General Assembly following the PCMNO elections either by mail-in or electronic voting, whichever is most cost effective.

.5 Vacancy of Committee Positions

As per MNO By-Law 10⁵

.6 Meetings of the MNOWC

- .6.1 The committee members of the MNOWC will meet not less than once per quarter plus one Annual General Meeting, to be held at the same time and place as the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly.
- .6.2 The meeting of the MNOWC will be chaired by the⁶ MNOWC Spokesperson.
- .6.3 All meetings of the MNOWC shall be held in the most financially responsible manner possible. This may be through conference call, internet conferencing or face-to-face.

⁴ Amended August 17, 2017 removed The MNO Provincial Secretary for Métis Women will be a Métis Women appointed as per MNO By-Laws. (By-Law 7.1)The committee of 4 women representatives will be elected by the women citizens of the MNO for a term of 4 years. These ballot box elections will be held at the MNO Annual General Assembly, following the PCMNO elections. The women will strive to have representation from across the Province.

⁵ Amended August 22, 2014 at the WSMNO AGA in Thunder Bay deleted A Committee position will be considered vacated:

- a) if a committee member has resigned the position by delivering a written resignation to the committee;
- b) if she is found by a court to be of unsound mind;
- c) if at a meeting of the annual general assembly, a resolution is passed by a majority of the citizens present at the meeting that she be removed from office;
- d) on death;
- e) on missing three (3) consecutive committee meetings without good reason;
- f) where the PCMNO determines that the committee member holds or takes a position on the another committee and where by reason of holding the two positions the committee member may be placed in a conflict of interest;
- g) where the PCMNO determines that a committee member is not entitled to be registered as a citizen of MNO pursuant to MNO By-Law 2.3;
- h) is convicted of an indictable offence; or
- i) has been found guilty, in connection with an election, of corrupt practice, accepting a bribe, dishonesty or malfeasance.

⁶ Amended August 17, 2017 - deleted MNO Provincial Secretary for Métis Women.

- .6.4 At every Annual General Meeting in addition to any other business that may be transacted the report of the ⁷council members, a financial statement shall be presented. The members may consider and transact any business at any meeting of the members.

.7 Voting

- .7.1 All decisions will strive to be reached by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached the decision will go to a vote, simple majority rules.
- .7.2 Each committee member will have one vote.

.8 MNOWC Signatories

- .8.1 Contracts, documents or any instrument in writing requiring the signature of the MNOWC shall be signed by the ⁸ WSMNO Spokesperson and one other signing officer of the MNO.
- .8.2 All contracts and documents and instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon the MNOWC without any further authorization of formality.

.9 Roles and Responsibilities of Committee Members

- .9.1 The representatives of the MNOWC will work towards the vision, mandate, purpose and objectives of the MNOWC as determined in these Terms of Reference.
- .9.2 The committee members of the MNOWC will work on issues that affect the provincial perspective of women citizens of the MNO.
- 9.3 The ⁹ MNOWC Spokesperson for Métis Women, working in conjunction with the MNOWC Regional Representatives and Community Council Women's Representatives will work with and support the women citizens of the MNO in the Province to carry their voice at all MNOWC Meetings and General Assemblies.

⁷ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted secretariat

⁸ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary for Métis Women,

⁹ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary

.9.4 The role of the ¹⁰MNOWC Spokesperson for Métis Women, will be to oversee and guide the MNOWC towards accomplishing their mandate. It will also be the responsibility of the ¹¹MNOWC Spokesperson to report to the PCMNO when requested.

.9.5 ¹²The ¹³MNOWC Spokesperson for Métis Women shall be the chief spokesperson for the MNOWC and shall represent the MNOWC on the Board of Governors of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak.

.10 Reimbursement of Expenditures

As per MNO Policies.

.11 Changes, Additions or Deletions to the Terms of Reference of the MNOWC

All changes to this document titled Terms of Reference of the MNOWC must be approved at a MNOWC Annual General Meeting by a majority.

.12 Role of the PCMNO within the MNOWC

The ¹⁴MNOWC Spokesperson for Métis Women, will report the progress of the MNOWC to the PCMNO ¹⁵as requested.

.13 Adoption of Terms of Reference

This document was created by a committee appointed at the MNO 12th Annual General Assembly by resolution number AGA05-13 to restructure the WSMNO. Further this document was approved and ratified at the Women's Meeting at the MNO 13th Annual General Assembly in 2006.

¹⁰ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary

¹¹ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary for Métis Women, to represent the WSMNO on the PCMNO and to report to the PCMNO the goings on of the WSMNO

¹² Amended August 22, 2014 added The MNOWC Spokesperson for Métis Women shall be the chief spokesperson for the MNOWC and shall represent the MNOWC on the Board of Governors of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak.

¹³ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary

¹⁴ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary

¹⁵ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted at each of their meetings and

