

## MNO Secretariat Bylaws

1. These are the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat (the “MNO”) that represents the Métis in Ontario. The MNO is composed of nine geographic regions and has established several institutions to better serve its citizens. Those institutions include the Provisional Council of the MNO, the Registry, Community Councils, the Captains of the Hunt, the Veterans Council, the Women’s Council of the MNO and the Youth Council.<sup>1</sup>

### Conditions and Classes of Membership

#### One Class of Membership

2. There shall be one class of membership in the MNO – individual members. Individual membership is a voting membership. Individual members of the MNO shall be known as citizens. Individual membership shall be known as citizenship.<sup>2</sup>
3. It is a condition of citizenship that individual members commit to uphold and advance the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose, which is attached to and forms part of these Bylaws as Appendix A, as the foundational and guiding objects, principles and aspirations of the MNO.<sup>3</sup>

#### Individual Citizens

4. 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,<sup>4</sup> which is as follows:

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#### Footnotes are for information purposes only.

<sup>1</sup> 2014 amendment added this clause. The 2019 MNO AGA replaced “Women’s Secretariat” with “Women’s Council”.

<sup>2</sup> 2014 amendment removed community councils as “members”, and established one class of membership in MNO; previously read, “There shall be two classes of membership in the MNO. Those classes shall consist of individual memberships and MNO charter memberships.” April 7, 1995 amendment included MNO community council memberships as non-voting members.

<sup>3</sup> 2014 amendment added the phrase “It is a condition of citizenship that ...” and the word “objects”. The phrase “objects” is added here in light of the requirement in clause 4. Also added the phrase “and forms part of”. August 23-25, 2013 amended to add the Statement of Prime Purpose as an Appendix and add the sentence “Both classes of membership commit to uphold and advance the Statement of Prime Purpose ... of the MNO.” June 7-8, 2001 amended to change “MNO community council memberships” to “MNO charter memberships”. April 7, 1995 amendment to include MNO community council memberships as non-voting members

<sup>4</sup> 2016 amendment removed “in accordance with Métis National Council.”

<b>Métis Definition</b>	(a) Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation. <sup>5</sup>
<b>Registration</b>	<p>5. A person is entitled to be registered as a citizen of MNO who:</p> <p>(a) provides sufficient documentation that he or she is Métis within the meaning of 4(a);<sup>6</sup></p> <p>(b) is not enrolled on any other Aboriginal registry; and</p> <p>(c) applied for admission as a citizen and has been approved through the Registry process of the MNO as amended from time to time.<sup>7</sup></p>
<b>Children &amp; Youth</b>	<p>6. A parent or legal guardian of a child under the age of sixteen (16) may apply to register that child as a youth citizen.<sup>8</sup></p> <p>7. Deleted.<sup>9</sup></p>
<b>Fees</b>	<p>8. Fees or dues, if any, shall be at the direction of the PCMNO.<sup>10</sup></p>
<b>Withdrawal</b>	<p>9. Any individual may withdraw as a citizen of the MNO by delivering a written resignation to the Registrar of the MNO.<sup>11</sup></p>
<b>Rights May be Limited</b>	<p>10. Citizenship may be granted on a conditional basis and the rights and privileges of a citizen to participate in the affairs of the MNO may be limited by the MNO pursuant to the MNO Policy –</p>

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<sup>5</sup> July 2004 amended by consensus to adopt the Métis National Council’s definition. October 23, 2003 amendment replaced “is distinct from Indian or Inuit” with “is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples”. March 1999 amendment added the phrase “... as distinct from Indian and Inuit”. Previous definition read, “... anyone of Aboriginal ancestry who self-identifies as Métis; has at least one grandparent who is Aboriginal; and whose application for admission as a citizen is accepted by the MNO.” May 5–7, 1994, November 12, 1994 and June 17, 1997 amendments.

<sup>6</sup> Amended pursuant to PCMNO Motion #2, June 17, 1997.

<sup>7</sup> The phrase “as amended from time to time” added Nov. 5, 1997 to allow MNO to improve its registry process without the requirement of amending the Bylaws. Added by the PCMNO by motion #2, September 27, 1994.

<sup>8</sup> 2014 amendment deleted the sentence “Such registrations expire automatically when the child reaches the age of 16. After reaching the age of 16, in order to continue to be registered as a citizen, such youths must reapply in their own right.” June 2001 amendment to state that after the age of 16 it is the responsibility of that youth to register in their own right. Also MNO registers citizens, there is no provision for a “youth citizenship.” Previously read “An individual may obtain a youth citizenship from 16 to the age of 29 years.” Previously children under 16 were not registered as citizens. Amended by MNO Special Assembly, Toronto, Nov. 14/98. March 17, 1996 amendment changed age from 17 years to 24 years. Amended at MNO Delegates Assembly, May 5–6, 1994 by motion #16.

<sup>9</sup> 2014 amendment moved Charter Community provisions out of the citizenship section.

<sup>10</sup> 2014 amendment added “if any”, deleted the phrase “upon obtaining individual citizenship” and moved community council fees to Charter Community section. PCMNO motion #1, June 19, 1996. Amended so that the words “Executive Council” are replaced by “PCMNO.”

<sup>11</sup> 2014 amendment replaced “secretary” with “Registrar.”

*Conditions or Limitations That May Apply to Citizenship*, these Bylaws, or the *MNO Electoral Code*, all as amended from time to time.<sup>12</sup>

(a) The fair processes for setting out conditions or limitations on citizenship, removal or reinstatement of limitations, requests for reconsideration and appeals of MNO decisions with respect to citizenship shall be according to the rules of natural justice and as set out in the MNO Policy – *Conditions or Limitations That May Apply to Citizenship*, as amended from time to time.<sup>13</sup>

**Head Office** 11. The head office of the MNO shall be in the City of Ottawa, Ontario.<sup>14</sup>

**MNO Charter Communities<sup>15</sup>**

**Charter Membership** 12. MNO Charter Communities shall be limited to those entities that have been granted an MNO Community Charter. MNO Charter Communities are not members of the MNO.<sup>16</sup>

**No Incorporation** (a) MNO Charter Communities may not incorporate under the laws of Ontario or Canada.<sup>17</sup>

**Fees** 13. Fees or dues, if any, with respect to a MNO Community Charter shall be at the direction of the PCMNO.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> July 2007 amendment added “Citizenship may be granted on a conditional basis and ... MNO Citizenship Policy...” and “...all as amended from time to time.” June 7 - 8, 2001 amendment, previously read “The rights of any citizen to participate in the affairs of the MNO may be limited by the PCMNO.”

<sup>13</sup> 2014 amendment corrected grammar by adding “and” after “natural justice”. July 2007 amendment deleted the previous clause 5: “5.1 A citizen whose privileges have been so limited may ask the PCMNO, in writing, seven days in advance of its next meeting, to remove the limitation. 5.2 In the event that the PCMNO upholds its decision to limit that citizen’s rights, the citizen may appeal the PCMNO’s decision, at the next meeting of the General Assembly.” The phrase “...may ask the PCMNO, in writing, to remove the limitation. A citizen whose rights have been so limited may ask the PCMNO, in writing, seven days in advance of its next meeting, to remove the limitation.” was added by the General Assembly in July 2005. The words “subject to the discretion of a process to be established by the PCMNO and ratified at the first annual meeting” were deleted from the first sentence by PCMNO motion #2, June 19, 1996.

<sup>14</sup> Head Office was moved from Ottawa to Toronto by PCMNO motion #19, December 6 - 8, 1996. Head Office was again relocated to Ottawa by PCMNO June 8, 2002 and approved by the General Assembly in Kenora, July 10, 2002.

<sup>15</sup> 2014 amendment, created this MNO Charter Communities section.

<sup>16</sup> 2014 amendment clarified that Charter Communities are not “members” and have no vote, previously read, “MNO charter membership shall be limited to those entities that have been granted an MNO charter. MNO charter membership is a non-voting membership.” Amended by PCMNO June 7-8, 2001. Previously read, “MNO community council membership shall be limited to those communities who have been granted an MNO Community Charter. MNO community council membership is a non-voting membership.”

<sup>17</sup> 2014 amendment deleted the sentence “MNO charter members may incorporate only through the charters of the MNO.” The no incorporation rule was originally added at MNO Delegates Assembly, May 5 - 7, 1994 motion #27. Confirmed by PCMNO motion #6, December 17 - 18, 1995.

**Provisional Council of the MNO (“PCMNO”)****Purpose and  
Composition of  
PCMNO**

14. The PCMNO shall make decisions and act in a manner consistent with upholding and advancing the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose* and shall take its direction from and shall report to the General Assembly. The property and business of the MNO shall be managed by a council of nineteen (19) elected citizens who shall be called councilors and shall sit on the Provisional Council of the MNO (“PCMNO”). The PCMNO shall consist of: president, chair, vice-chair, secretary-treasurer, four (4) senators, one [1] representative from each of the nine [9] regions, one (1) post secondary representative and one (1) youth.<sup>19</sup>

(a) Regional Councilors shall be Ordinarily Resident in the region in which they are elected for the duration of their term of office.<sup>20</sup>

(b) Only MNO citizens may be councilors of the MNO.<sup>21</sup>

(c) With the exception of appointments made to fill vacancies pursuant to section 23, the councilors may not appoint additional councilors to the PCMNO.<sup>22</sup>

**Provincial  
Secretaries**

15. Provisional secretaries may be appointed from the PCMNO and for each appointment the term of office, responsibilities and removal shall be determined by the president and ratified by the PCMNO. Provincial secretaries shall report to the president. Provincial secretaries shall support the management of the MNO by providing leadership in the area of their portfolio responsibility and shall advocate, advise and represent their respective portfolios to MNO management, MNO citizens and outside agencies.<sup>23</sup>

**Senators**

16. Each community council may elect a senator. Those senators elected by their community councils together with the senators currently serving on the PCMNO, and any senators who have

<sup>18</sup> 2014 amendment added this clause. Previously included in clause 8 with respect to fees for members.

<sup>19</sup> 2014 amendment replaced “post secondary education student” with “post secondary representative”. August 23–25, 2013 amendment, adding “make decisions and act in a manner consistent with upholding and advancing the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and shall”. July 2007 amendment again made PCMNO a council of 19 elected citizens when the women’s representative was removed. Nov. 5, 1997 amendment added the phrase “shall be called councilors and shall sit on” to clarify that all elected persons are councilors. July 19–20, 1997 amendment added, “The PCMNO shall take its direction from and shall report to the General Assembly.” December 17–18, 1995 amendment replaced “Director” and “Board” with “Council” and “councilor.” May 5–7, 1994 amendment added another region, previously 8 regions. .

<sup>20</sup> 2014 amendment added this clause.

<sup>21</sup> 2014 amendment added this clause.

<sup>22</sup> 2014 amendment added this clause clarifying that councilors may not appoint additional councilors other than to fill vacancies under s. 23.

<sup>23</sup> Added July 10, 2002.

served in the past on the PCMNO, who are in attendance at a General Assembly, shall, by means of a process which shall be determined by themselves, choose from among themselves four (4) senators to sit on the PCMNO, and from among those four (4), shall also choose one (1) Executive Senator who shall sit on the executive committee.<sup>24</sup>

(a) For greater certainty an Executive Senator or a senator who holds office on the PCMNO is a councilor with all the rights and privileges attached to that position.<sup>25</sup>

(b) Senators selected to sit on the PCMNO and on the executive committee shall hold those positions for a four (4) year term.<sup>26</sup>

(c) Senators shall be at least fifty-five (55) years of age.<sup>27</sup>

(d) Senators, after holding office on the PCMNO or the executive committee, are entitled to retain the title of Senator forever after and that honorary title does not entitle them to participate or vote at PCMNO or executive committee meetings after their term of office has expired.<sup>28</sup>

17. Deleted.<sup>29</sup>

18. The elected youth representative on the PCMNO may only vote at PCMNO meetings if over the age of eighteen (18) years. The Youth Representative shall be Ordinarily Resident in Ontario throughout the term of office. The Youth Representative may request permission from the PCMNO to retain his or her office if attending an educational institution out of Province during the term of office.<sup>30</sup>

Youth  
Representative

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<sup>24</sup> 2014 amendment added the term "Executive Senator" as a title to distinguish the Senator that sits on the Executive Committee from the Senators sitting on PCMNO, changed "select" to "elect" and added the phrase "by means of a process which shall be determined by themselves." Added by PCMNO motion #15, December 17 - 18, 1995. July 10, 2002 amendment, previously read, "At an annual meeting of the General Assembly those Senators chosen by their communities shall choose from among themselves four (4) Senators to sit on the PCMNO including the Senator who shall sit on the executive committee."

<sup>25</sup> 2014 amendment added the term "Executive Senator" as a title to distinguish the Senator that sits on the Executive Committee from the Senators sitting on PCMNO. Added by General Assembly, July 10, 2002.

<sup>26</sup> In July of 2007 the term was changed from three years to four years. Originally added July 20, 1996.

<sup>27</sup> Age requirement changed from 60 to 55 by Motion #7, annual General Assembly, July 20, 1996. Originally added at MNO Delegates Assembly May 5-7, 1994.

<sup>28</sup> Added by General Assembly, July 10, 2002.

<sup>29</sup> July of 2007 amendment, deleted this clause, previously read "The president of the Métis Women of Ontario will sit on the PCMNO as the women's representative." Added by PCMNO motion #24, March 17, 1996.

<sup>30</sup> 2014 amendment added the requirement to be Ordinarily Resident in Ontario throughout term of office at the discretion of the PCMNO.

- Post Secondary Representative**
19. The Post Secondary Representative on the PCMNO may only vote at PCMNO meetings if over the age of eighteen (18) years. The Post Secondary Representative shall be Ordinarily Resident in Ontario throughout the term of office. The Post Secondary Representative may request permission from the PCMNO to retain his or her office if attending an educational institution out of Province during the term of office.<sup>31</sup>
- Voting Councilors**
20. Voting councilors must be individuals who are bondable, at least eighteen (18) years of age and with power under law to contract.<sup>32</sup>
21. deleted<sup>33</sup>
- Term of Office**
22. Councilors shall be elected for a term of four (4) years by the citizens through a process established by the *MNO Electoral Code*, as amended from time to time.<sup>34</sup>
23. If any vacancy occurs the PCMNO may appoint as a replacement, a citizen of the MNO who would be eligible for that office and that person shall hold office until the next election. The office of councilor may be deemed vacated:<sup>35</sup>
- (a) if a councilor has resigned the office by delivering a written resignation to the PCMNO;<sup>36</sup>
  - (b) if he or she is found by a court to be of unsound mind;
  - (c) if at a meeting of the General Assembly, a resolution is passed by a majority of the citizens present at the meeting that he or she be removed from office;
  - (d) on death;
  - (e) on missing three (3) consecutive council meetings without good reason;<sup>37</sup>
- Vacancies**

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<sup>31</sup> 2014 amendment added this clause.

<sup>32</sup> The word "bondable" was added July 20, 1996.

<sup>33</sup> 2014 amendment deleted this clause, which previously read, "The applicants for incorporation shall become the first officers of the MNO whose term of office shall continue until their successors are elected. At the first meeting of citizens, the PCMNO then elected shall replace the applicants named in the letters patent of the MNO."

<sup>34</sup> July of 2007 amendment changed the term from a three-year term to a four year term. June 19, 1996 amendment deleted the words "an annual meeting of citizens until this process is replaced by a ballot box process". December 17-18, 1995 amendment changed the term from two years to three years. May 5-7, 1994 amendment changed the term from one year to two years.

<sup>35</sup> 2014 amendment added the phrase "who would be eligible for that office". March 30, 2004 amendment deleted "pursuant to this paragraph". Nov. 5, 1997 amendment changed the word "shall" to "may", to allow PCMNO flexibility in this decision.

<sup>36</sup> Amended by PCMNO February 13, 1997 by replacing "...to the secretary of the MNO" with "...to the PCMNO".

<sup>37</sup> Added December 17 - 18, 1995.

- (f) where PCMNO determines that a regional councilor is no longer Ordinarily Resident in the region in which he or she was elected;<sup>38</sup>
- (g) where the PCMNO determines that a member of the executive is no longer Ordinarily Resident in Ontario;<sup>39</sup>
- (h) where the PCMNO determines that a councilor holds or takes a position on the board of directors of another provincial aboriginal organization and where by reason of holding the two positions the councilor may be placed in a conflict of interest;<sup>40</sup>
- (i) where the PCMNO determines that a councilor is not entitled to be registered as a citizen of MNO pursuant to 4(a);<sup>41</sup>
- (j) where the PCMNO determines that a councilor, by an ongoing and serious action of omission or commission, is in direct contravention of an express direction from the General Assembly;<sup>42</sup>
- (k) is convicted of an indictable offence;<sup>43</sup> or
- (l) has been found guilty, in connection with an election, of corrupt practice, accepting a bribe, dishonesty or malfeasance.<sup>44</sup>

**Meetings of PCMNO**

24. There shall be at least one (1) meeting per year of the PCMNO. Each voting councilor present and participating in the meeting is authorized to exercise one (1) vote.<sup>45</sup>

**PCMNO Quorum**

(a) Ten (10) councilors shall constitute a quorum of the PCMNO.<sup>46</sup>

**Notice of PCMNO Meetings**

25. Meetings of the PCMNO may be held at any time and place to be determined by the president or executive provided that forty-eight (48) hours written notice of such meeting shall be given, other than my mail, to each councilor. Notice by mail or other means shall be sent at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. There shall be at least one (1) meeting per year of the PCMNO. Notice by mail shall be sent at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. No error or omission in giving notice of any meeting of the PCMNO or any adjourned meeting of the PCMNO shall invalidate such meeting or make void any proceedings

<sup>38</sup> 2014 amendment added this clause.

<sup>39</sup> 2014 amendment added this clause.

<sup>40</sup> Added December 17 - 18, 1995.

<sup>41</sup> Added June 17, 1997.

<sup>42</sup> Added July 19 - 20, 1997.

<sup>43</sup> Added July 2001.

<sup>44</sup> Added July 2001.

<sup>45</sup> Nov. 5, 1997 amendment replaced the phrase "determined by the councilors" with "by the president or executive"; "meeting per year of the MNO" with "meeting per year of the PCMNO" and added the phrase "present and participating in the meeting".

<sup>46</sup> Amended from a quorum of 8 December 17 - 18, 1995. Quorum amended from eleven (11) to ten (10) in July of 2007.

taken thereat and any councilor may at any time waive notice of any such meeting and may ratify, approve and confirm any or all proceedings taken or had thereat.

**Electronic Participation at PCMNO meetings**

26. A councilor may participate in a meeting of the council or of a committee of the council by communication facilities that permit all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other, and a councilor participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting.<sup>47</sup>

**Resolutions in Writing**

27. A quorum of the PCMNO may pass a resolution in writing and such resolution is as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting of the PCMNO. Such resolution must be signed by each member of the quorum and in order to pass, must have the approval of the requisite number of PCMNO councilors whose approval would be required to pass that resolution at a meeting of the PCMNO.<sup>48</sup>

**Compensation for Councilors**

28. A councilor may be remunerated or paid reasonable expenses incurred by him or her in the performance of his or her duties. <sup>49</sup>

**PCMNO Councilors not MNO Employees or Community Councilors**

(a) A councilor may not, during his or her term of office as councilor, concurrently receive compensation from the MNO in excess of (i) the compensation payable by MNO to the councilor on account of his or her position as councilor and (ii) such additional compensation as is reported to the PCMNO by the councilor for other duties performed or services provided by such a councilor. <sup>50</sup>

(b) A councilor may not, during his or her term of office as councilor, concurrently serve as an elected community council member.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> 2014 amendment deleted the sentence "If all the councilors of the MNO consent thereto generally or in respect of a particular meeting," and deleted "by means of such conference telephone of other ..."

<sup>48</sup> Amended April 2, 2000, previously read, "A resolution in writing, signed by all the councilors entitled to vote on that resolution at a meeting of councilors or committee of councilors, is as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting of councilors or committee of councilors."

<sup>49</sup> The following sentence was deleted December 17 - 18, 1995, "The councilors shall serve as such without remuneration and no councilor shall directly or indirectly receive any profit from his or her position as such; provided that a ..." June 7 - 8, 2001 amendment deleted "Nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any councilor from serving the MNO as an officer or in any other capacity and receiving compensation therefore." The 2019 MNO AGA replaced this clause in its entirety, which previously read: "A councilor may be remunerated or paid reasonable expenses incurred by him or her in the performance of his or her duties. A councilor may, provide services to MNO under a term contract for services."

<sup>50</sup> Added June 7 - 8, 2001. The 2019 MNO AGA replaced this clause in its entirety, which previously read: "A councilor may not, during his or her term of office as councilor, concurrently be an employee of MNO."

<sup>51</sup> Added June 7 - 8, 2001.



**Appointment of Agents & Employees**

29. The PCMNO may appoint such agents and engage such employees as it shall deem necessary from time to time and such persons shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed by the PCMNO at the time of such appointment.

**Remuneration for Officers, Agents & Employees**

30. A reasonable remuneration for all officers, agents and employees and committees of citizens shall be fixed by the PCMNO by resolution.

**Indemnity**

31. Every councilor or officer of the MNO or other person who has undertaken or is about to undertake any liability on behalf of the MNO or any company controlled by it and their heirs, executors and administrators, and estate and effects, respectively, shall from time to time and at all times, be identified and saved harmless out of the funds of the MNO, from and against;

(a) all costs, charges and expenses which such councilor, officer or other person sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit or proceedings which is brought, commenced or prosecuted against him or her, or in respect of any act, deed, matter of thing whatsoever, made, done or permitted by him, in or about the execution of the duties of his office in respect of any such liability;

(b) all other costs, charges and expenses which he or she sustains or incurs in or about or in relation to the affairs thereof, except such costs, charges or expenses as are occasioned by his own willful neglect or default.

**Legal Powers of PCMNO**

32. The PCMNO and councilors duly authorized by the PCMNO shall have the power to enter into contracts which the MNO may lawfully enter into and may exercise all such other powers and do all such other acts and things as the MNO is, by its charter or otherwise by law, authorized to exercise and do.<sup>52</sup>

(a) From time to time the PCMNO may release, for research purposes, the MNO's registration list to government authorities. PCMNO shall only release the registration list when it has reliable assurances that no individual information will be accessed.<sup>53</sup>

33. The councilors shall have power to authorize expenditures on behalf of the MNO from time to time and may delegate by resolution to an officer or officers of the MNO the right to employ

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<sup>52</sup> Amended October 31, 1997 to clarify that the PCMNO and authorized councilors have the power to legally contract or bind the MNO by their actions.

<sup>53</sup> July 2004 amendment added this clause.

and pay salaries to employees. The councilors shall have the power to enter into a trust arrangement with a trust company for the purpose of creating a trust fund in which the capital and interest may be made available for the benefit of promoting the interest of the MNO in accordance with such terms as the PCMNO may prescribe.

34. Subject to any limitations set out in grants, or contributions agreements, PCMNO may invest its funds at its discretion. No part of MNO’s profits or property may be distributed directly or indirectly to a citizen, councilor or officer of MNO except in furtherance of its activities.<sup>54</sup>

35. The PCMNO shall take such steps as they may deem requisite to enable the MNO to acquire, accept, solicit or receive legacies, gifts, grants, settlements, bequests, endowments, donations of any kind whatsoever for the purpose of furthering the objects of the MNO.

**Executive Committee (Officers)**

**Composition of Executive**

36. The executive committee of the MNO shall consist of the president, chair, vice-chair, secretary-treasurer, a senator and any such other officers as the PCMNO may by its Bylaws determine.<sup>55</sup>

(a) No citizen may hold more than one executive committee office at a time.<sup>56</sup>

**Duties of Executive**

37. The executive committee will make decisions and act in a manner consistent with upholding and advancing the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and shall have the day-to-day management and administration of the MNO and shall ensure that resolutions and motions passed by the General Assembly and the PCMNO are carried out. The executive committee shall report to, advise and take direction from the PCMNO and the General Assembly and may not override express directions from the PCMNO or the General Assembly. Ongoing and serious actions of omission or commission by members of the executive committee, which directly contravene express direction from the PCMNO or the General Assembly, may be grounds for removal from office.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>54</sup> 2014 amendment added this clause.

<sup>55</sup> February 13, 1997.amendment deleted “no two offices may be held by the same person.”

<sup>56</sup> 2014 amendment added this clause.

<sup>57</sup> August 23-25, 2013 amendment added “will make decisions and act in a manner consistent with upholding and advancing the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose”. July 19-20, 1997 amendment added reporting to PCMNO and General Assembly. December 17-18,

(a) Executive committee officers shall be Ordinarily Resident in Ontario for the duration of their term of office.<sup>58</sup>

**Meetings of Executive**

38. Meetings of the executive committee shall be held at any time and place to be determined by the members of such committee provided that forty-eight (48) hours written notice of such meeting shall be given, other than by mail, to each member of the committee. Notice by mail shall be sent at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. Three members of such committee shall constitute a quorum. No error or omission in giving notice of any meeting of the executive committee of the PCMNO or any adjourned meeting shall invalidate such meeting or make void any proceedings taken thereat and any councilor may at any time waive notice of any such meeting and may ratify, approve and confirm any or all proceedings taken or had thereat.<sup>59</sup>

**Executive Quorum**

**Notice of Executive Meetings**

39. Repealed.<sup>60</sup>

40. Repealed.<sup>61</sup>

**Duties of President**

41. The president shall be the chief executive officer of the MNO. The president shall be the chief spokesperson for the MNO and shall represent the MNO on the Board of Governors of the Métis National Council. The president shall have the general and active management of the affairs of the MNO.

**Duties of Chair**

42. The chair shall preside at meetings of the MNO and of the PCMNO and when acting as chair shall not vote unless required to cast a tie-breaking vote. The chair shall see that all orders and resolutions of the General Assembly and the PCMNO are carried into effect. The chair shall, in the absence or disability of the president, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the president and shall perform such other duties as shall from time

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1995 amendment removed "There shall be an executive committee composed of five (5) citizens of the PCMNO who shall be appointed by the PCMNO. The executive committee shall exercise such powers as are authorized by the PCMNO. Any executive committee citizen may be removed by a majority vote of the PCMNO."

<sup>58</sup> 2014 amendment added this clause.

<sup>59</sup> December 17 – 18, 1995 amendment changed the quorum from two to three.

<sup>60</sup> June 19, 1996 amendment repealed "The executive committee shall be elected at an annual meeting of citizens."

<sup>61</sup> June 19, 1996 amendment repealed "The Executive Committee of the MNO shall hold office for three (3) years from the date of election or until their successors are elected in their stead". December 17-18, 1995 amendment deleted "Officers shall be subject to removal by resolution of the PCMNO at any time." May 5-7, 1994 amendment changed the term to 3 years. Originally read – "The executive committee of the MNO shall hold office for one (1) year from the date of election or until their successors are elected in their stead"

to time be imposed upon him or her by the executive committee or the PCMNO.<sup>62</sup>

**Duties of Vice-Chair**

43. The vice-chair shall assist the chair in the conduct of all meetings of the MNO. The vice-chair shall represent the MNO as required or as assigned from time to time by the executive committee or the PCMNO. The vice-chair may vote only when not acting as chair.

**Duties of Secretary-Treasurer**

44. The secretary-treasurer shall have the responsibility to ensure the custody of the funds and securities of the MNO and is responsible to ensure that full and accurate accounts are kept of all assets, liabilities, receipts and disbursements of the MNO in the books belonging to the MNO. The secretary-treasurer shall have the responsibility to ensure the proper deposit of the moneys, securities and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the MNO in such chartered bank or trust company, or, in the case of securities, in such registered dealer in securities as may be designated by the PCMNO from time to time. He or she is empowered to authorize the disbursement of the funds of the MNO following established MNO financial policies as amended from time to time. He or she shall also perform such other duties as may from time to time be directed by the president, the chair and the PCMNO.

The secretary-treasurer shall carry out the affairs of the MNO under the supervision of the president and shall attend all meetings and ensure that all votes and minutes of all proceedings are responsibly kept in the books of the MNO. He or she shall give or cause to be given notice of all meetings of the citizens and of the PCMNO, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the PCMNO or the president.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> March 8, 1999 amendment added “the General Assembly”. February 21, 1999 amendment deleting the following: “The chair shall be the executive director of the MNO. The chair shall be responsible to the PCMNO for the finances of the MNO and in that capacity shall render to the president and councilors at the regular meetings of the PCMNO, or whenever they may require it, an accounting of all the transactions and a statement of the financial position of the MNO. To ensure sound financial management, the chair shall supervise and may assume or delegate all or some of the duties and responsibilities of the secretary-treasurer.”

<sup>63</sup> Amended February 1999 to current wording. Duties and responsibilities of secretary-treasurer were previously amended February 13, 1997 and from Feb/97 – Feb/99 was as follows: “The secretary-treasurer may be empowered by the PCMNO, upon resolution of the PCMNO, to carry out the affairs of the MNO under the supervision of the Chair and executive director of the MNO. The secretary-treasurer if so empowered, may have custody of the funds and securities of the MNO and may be responsible to ensure that full and accurate accounts of all assets, liabilities, receipts and disbursements of the MNO in the books belonging to the MNO and may have the responsibility to deposit the moneys, securities and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the MNO in such

**Execution of Documents**

45. The duties of all other officers of the MNO shall be such as the terms of their engagement call for or the PCMNO requires of them.
46. Contracts, documents, or any instruments in writing requiring the signature of the MNO, shall be signed by two (2) officers who are duly authorized as signatories by PCMNO, and all contracts, documents, and instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon the MNO without any further authorization or formality. The councilors shall have power from time to time by resolution to appoint an officer or officers on behalf of the MNO to sign specific contracts, documents and instruments in writing. The councilors may give the MNO power of attorney to any registered dealer in securities for the purposes of transferring of and dealing with any stocks, bonds, and other securities of the MNO. The seal of the MNO when required may be affixed to contracts, documents and instruments in writing signed as aforesaid or by any officer or officers appointed by resolution of the PCMNO.<sup>64</sup>

**Meetings of the General Assembly**

- Meetings of the General Assembly**<sup>65</sup>
47. The General Assembly is a duly called meeting of MNO citizens. The annual or any other meeting of the General Assembly shall be held at any place in Ontario as the PCMNO may determine and on such days as the PCMNO shall appoint. Pursuant to the notice provisions in clause 49, the citizens may consider and transact any business at any meeting of the General Assembly.<sup>66</sup>
- (a) For greater certainty PCMNO meetings are not meetings of the General Assembly.<sup>67</sup>

**AGA**

48. There shall be an annual meeting of the General Assembly (the "AGA") each year. At every AGA, in addition to any other

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chartered bank or trust company, or, in the case of securities, in such registered dealer in securities as may be designated by the PCMNO from time to time. He or she may be empowered to disburse the funds of the MNO as may be directed by proper authority taking proper vouchers for such disbursements. He or she shall also perform such other duties as may from time to time be directed by the president, the chair and the PCMNO. The secretary-treasurer may be empowered by the PCMNO, upon resolution of the PCMNO, to carry out the affairs of the MNO under the supervision of the Chair and if so empowered shall attend all meetings and act as clerk thereof and record all votes and minutes of all proceedings in the books to be kept for that purpose. If so empowered by the Chair, he or she shall give or cause to be given notice of all meetings of the Citizens and of the PCMNO, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the PCMNO or Chair.

<sup>64</sup> 2014 amendment deleted "any" from the phrase "signed by any two" and added "who are duly authorized as signatories by PCMNO".

<sup>65</sup> This entire section amended for clarity, Nov. 5, 1997.

<sup>66</sup> 2014 amendment added the phrase "pursuant to the notice provisions in clause 49".

<sup>67</sup> 2014 amendment moved what is now 47(a) from s. 50 and deleted "and notwithstanding clause 22". Added by PCMNO motion #6, June 19, 1996.

business that may be transacted, the report of the councilors, the financial statements and the report of the auditors shall be presented and auditors shall be appointed for the ensuing year.<sup>68</sup>

**Notice**

49. At least fourteen (14) days and not more than fifty (50) days written notice shall be given to each citizen of any annual or other meeting of the General Assembly. Notice of any meeting of the General Assembly where Special Resolutions will be proposed shall be at least thirty (30) days and not more than 50 days and shall contain the text of the Special Resolutions to be submitted at the General Assembly.<sup>69</sup>

50. No error or omission in giving notice of any annual or other meeting of the General Assembly or any adjourned meeting, whether annual or otherwise of the General Assembly shall invalidate such meeting or make void any proceedings taken thereat and any citizen may at any time waive notice of any such meeting and may ratify, approve and confirm any or all proceedings taken or had thereat. For the purpose of sending notice to any citizen, councilor or officer for any meeting or otherwise, the address of the citizen, councilor or officer shall be his or her last address recorded in the records of the MNO.

**Decision Making**

51. At all meetings of General Assembly, citizens shall make decisions consistent with upholding and advancing the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and shall strive to make decisions by consensus.<sup>70</sup> In the event that consensus cannot be achieved, questions shall be determined by a simple majority of votes unless otherwise specifically provided by statute or by these Bylaws.

**Eligible Voters**

(a) Subject to any limitations on a citizens rights and privileges that have been imposed pursuant to clause 10, each citizen who is at least sixteen (16) years old and is present at a

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<sup>68</sup> Modified to clarify that these are required at the annual meeting of the General Assembly, Nov. 5, 1997.

<sup>69</sup> 2014 amendment added "at least ... and not more than 50 days notice", replaced the phrase "where special business will be transacted" with "where Special Resolutions will be proposed", replaced "judgment on the Special Business under consideration" with "judgment on the Special Resolutions under consideration", replaced "sufficient information to permit each citizen to form a reasoned judgment on the special Business under consideration" with "the text of the Special Resolutions to be submitted at the General Assembly" and moved two subclauses to 67 and 69 in the Amendments section which was also created in 2014. The phrase "...shall be thirty (30) days and..." was added by the PCMNO, in September 2010.

<sup>70</sup> August 23-25, 2013 amendment added "make decisions consistent with upholding and advancing the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and shall ..."

meeting of the General Assembly shall have the right to exercise one vote.<sup>71</sup>

**Quorum for  
General Assembly**

(b) The quorum for each General Assembly shall be fifty percent (50%) of the citizens who are eligible to vote and who are registered as in attendance at the General Assembly at noon on the first business day of that General Assembly.<sup>72</sup>

**Finances<sup>73</sup>**

**Financial Year  
and  
Accountability**

52. Unless otherwise ordered by the PCMNO, the fiscal year end of the MNO shall be March 31<sup>st</sup>. The MNO shall operate on a balanced budget basis and shall provide quarterly financial statements and quarterly budget projections.<sup>74</sup>

**Finance  
Committee**

53. The PCMNO shall establish a finance committee, which shall be composed of four (4) appointed members of the PCMNO, one of whom shall be the secretary-treasurer who shall assume the position of chair of the finance committee.<sup>75</sup>

(a) The president shall sit on the finance committee in an ex-officio capacity and shall be a non-voting member.<sup>76</sup>

(b) The finance committee will meet quarterly and shall be responsible to oversee and monitor the finances of the MNO.

(c) The finance committee shall be responsible to prepare quarterly financial statements and quarterly budget projections.<sup>77</sup>

54. The PCMNO shall approve annual financial statements that relate to the period that began immediately after the end of the last completed financial year and ended not more than six (6) months before the AGA.<sup>78</sup>

55. The finance committee shall be responsible to present a financial update at each meeting of the PCMNO and at each Annual General Assembly shall place before the citizens, the financial

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<sup>71</sup> The age limit was amended April 7, 1995.

<sup>72</sup> Added June 7-8, 2001.

<sup>73</sup> 2014 amendment creates this Finances section by consolidating finances clauses from all parts of the Bylaws.

<sup>74</sup> Amended by the MNO Delegates Assembly May 5 - 7, 1994 motion #18.

<sup>75</sup> July 11, 1999 amendment, previously read "... (a) four (4) appointed members of the PCMNO; (b) the secretary-treasurer; and (c) the president." July 20, 1996 amendment established a finance committee.

<sup>76</sup> Amended by PCMNO June 7, 2001. Previously included the secretary treasurer as an ex-officio member of the finance committee.

<sup>77</sup> 2014 amendment deleted the phrase "pursuant to paragraph 37".

<sup>78</sup> 2014 amendment added this clause.

statements approved by the PCMNO and the report of the auditor.<sup>79</sup>

#### Auditors

56. The citizens shall, by ordinary resolution, at each annual meeting of the General Assembly, appoint an auditor to audit the accounts of the MNO for report to the citizens at the next annual meeting of the General Assembly. The auditor shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the General Assembly provided that the councilors may fill any casual vacancy in the office of the auditor. The remuneration of the auditor shall be fixed by the PCMNO. If an auditor is not appointed at a General Assembly or if no resolution is passed to appoint a new auditor, the incumbent auditor continues in office until a successor is appointed.<sup>80</sup>

#### Repeals or Amendments<sup>81</sup>

#### Amendments

57. The MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose may be repealed or amended by Special Resolution.<sup>82</sup>
58. The Bylaws of the MNO may be repealed or amended by resolutions passed by a majority of the councilors at a meeting of the PCMNO, or by a resolution in writing pursuant to clause 27 of these Bylaws, and subsequently confirmed by a Special Resolution at the next General Assembly.<sup>83</sup>
59. The Bylaws of the MNO may be repealed or amended by Special Resolution.<sup>84</sup>

<sup>79</sup> 2014 amendment added "shall place before the citizens, the financial statements approved by the PCMNO and the report of the auditor."

<sup>80</sup> 2014 amendment created the new finances section, moved this clause from the General Provisions section, added "by ordinary resolution" and the sentence "If an auditor is not appointed at a General Assembly or if no resolution is passed to appoint a new auditor, the incumbent auditor continues in office until a successor is appointed."

<sup>81</sup> 2014 amendment created the new amendments section and combined former amendment provisions.

<sup>82</sup> 2014 amendment moved and replaced previous first sentence of s. 34.1 "Amendments to the MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose, Bylaws or policies previously adopted by the general assembly are special business."

<sup>83</sup> 2014 amendment incorporated previous clause 39.1 into this clause, previously read, "In the event that the Bylaws of the MNO have been amended by the PCMNO, the amended Bylaws shall be approved at the next annual meeting of the general assembly", added "Special Resolution" and "next" and deleted "requiring an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the eligible voters registered at noon on the first business day of the General Assembly" which is now part of the definition of "Special Resolution." July 2007 amendment added "at noon". June 7 - 8, 2001 amendment, previously read "...by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the eligible voters at a meeting of the General Assembly." March 30 - April 2, 2000 amendment added "... by a resolution in writing pursuant to clause 13 of these Bylaws...".

<sup>84</sup> 2014 amendment replaced previous version "The Bylaws of the MNO may be repealed or amended by resolutions passed by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the eligible voters registered at noon on the 1st business day of a general assembly." July 2007 amendment added "at noon". June 7 - 8, 2001 amendment, previously read "...by an



**Amendments  
Require  
Special Resolutions**

60. MNO policies previously adopted by the General Assembly may only be repealed or amended by Special Resolution.<sup>85</sup>

(a) For greater certainty, a Special Resolution is not required to repeal or amend MNO policies that were not previously adopted by the General Assembly.<sup>86</sup>

**Fundamental  
Changes**

61. Fundamental changes that create a new class of citizens, change a condition required for becoming a citizen, add, change or remove any rights or conditions of a new class, require approval by Special Resolution.<sup>87</sup>

62. Special Resolutions and Ordinary Resolutions must comply with the notice provisions in clause 49 and the *MNO Policy – Process for Conducting Ordinary and Special Resolutions at a General Assembly* as amended from time to time.<sup>88</sup>

63. These Bylaws, as amended, were approved by the AGA on **August 24, 2019**.<sup>89</sup>

**Conflict of Interest**<sup>90</sup>

**Conflict of Interest**

64. A conflict of interest arises when the private interests of a councilor or citizen supersede or compete with the interests of the MNO or its related entities. Such conflicts of interest, whether real, potential or apparent shall be dealt with according

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affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the eligible voters at a meeting of the General Assembly". Previously amended June 19, 1996.

<sup>85</sup> 2014 amendment replaced previous version "Amendments to the MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose, Bylaws or policies previously adopted by the general assembly are special business. For greater certainty, resolutions to amend MNO policies that have not been previously adopted by the general assembly are not special business." Previously this was clause 34.1. Previous s. 39.2 has been incorporated into this clause, which read "Amendments to the Bylaws of the MNO by the general assembly are special business and are subject to ..." This clause was originally added by the PCMNO in September 2010.

<sup>86</sup> 2014 amendment moved and replaced second sentence of previous 34.1, "For greater certainty, resolutions to amend MNO policies that have not been previously adopted by the general assembly are not special business."

<sup>87</sup> 2014 amendment added this clause.

<sup>88</sup> 2014 amendment added "the notice provisions in clause 49 and", replaced "or Special or non-Special Business" with "Special Resolutions or Ordinary Resolutions" and the MNO Policy is renamed from "Process for Conducting Special Business at a General Assembly" to "Process for Conducting Ordinary and Special Resolutions at a General Assembly". This clause (previously 34.2) was added on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2011 at the direction of the 2010 AGA (AGA-RES-10-02). The Statement of Prime Purpose was added because it contains MNO's foundational principles. On August 23-25, 2013, the AGA amended it to read "Any special or non-Special Business resolutions..." Previously read "Any Special Business to be dealt with..." This clause was originally added August 23-25, 2013.

<sup>89</sup> Added by legal counsel in July 2002, so that the Bylaws include the date of approval by the PCMNO and the AGA.

<sup>90</sup> 2014 amendment added this section.

to the *MNO Conflict of Interest Policy* as amended from time to time.

65. Whenever a councilor has a real, potential or apparent conflict of interest in any matter coming before the PCMNO, that councilor shall fully disclose the nature of the interest and shall withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter. Whenever an MNO citizen has a real, potential or apparent conflict of interest in any matter coming before the General Assembly, the affected citizen shall fully disclose the nature of the interest and withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter.
66. The obligation to disclose a conflict of interest is a continuing obligation.

### General Provisions

67. In these Bylaws the following definitions apply:<sup>91</sup>

- (a) **“Bylaws”** means these bylaws of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat as amended from time to time;
- (b) **“Community Charter”** means the agreement that affiliates a Community Council with the MNO and by means of which the Community Council agrees to uphold and advance the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose as the foundational and guiding objects, principles and aspirations of the MNO.
- (c) **“Community Council”** means a body of MNO citizens elected to manage the affairs of a Métis community that is recognized by and affiliated with the MNO by means of a Community Charter;
- (d) **“General Assembly”** means a meeting of the citizens and includes the Annual General Assembly;
- (e) **“Ordinarily Resident”** means a person who actually lives and has lived continuously in Ontario for at least one (1) full year prior to the date of the Election. In making such determination, temporary absences from Ontario for reasons such as travel, education, medical treatment, military service or incarceration shall be considered periods of residence provided the person was ordinarily resident prior to such temporary absences. A person can have only one place of ordinary residence;
- (f) **“PCMNO”** means the Provisional Council of the MNO;
- (g) **“Region”** means one of the nine (9) Regions of the MNO;
- (h) **“Regional Councilor”** means a person who is elected as a councilor of one of the nine (9) MNO Regions;

### Definitions

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<sup>91</sup> 2014 amendment adding entire definitions clause.

- (i) **“Registrar”** means the person with the primary responsibility to manage and administer the MNO Registry;
- (j) **“Registry”** means the site where applications and records of MNO citizens and harvester certificate holders are held; and
- (k) **“Special Resolution”** means a resolution passed at a General Assembly, the subject of which is considered a fundamental change and which requires the approval of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the eligible voters registered at noon on the first business day of that General Assembly.

**Committees**

68. The PCMNO may appoint committees whose members will hold their offices at the will of the PCMNO. The councilors shall determine the duties of such committees and may fix any remuneration to be paid.

**Registration of Bylaws**

69. The Bylaws of the MNO shall be registered with legal counsel for the MNO. Once a resolution has been passed to amend or repeal a by-law, the secretary-treasurer shall forward the amending or repealing resolutions to counsel within thirty (30) days. Upon receipt of written resolutions, counsel shall register the Bylaws by making the amendments, annotating the changes, dating the Bylaws and affixing the MNO seal on the first page. Registration of the Bylaws in this manner renders all previous versions of the Bylaws invalid. In the event of any dispute, the registered Bylaws bearing the latest date shall be considered valid. Legal counsel for the MNO shall register the Bylaws and shall return a sealed copy of the newly amended, registered Bylaws to the PCMNO within fifteen (15) days of receiving written resolutions from the PCMNO.<sup>92</sup>

(a) These Bylaws, as amended, were registered by legal counsel on the **26<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019**.<sup>93</sup>

**Books and Records**

70. The PCMNO shall ensure that the written consent of each individual elected to the PCMNO and community councils, and all necessary books and records of the MNO required by the Bylaws of the MNO or any applicable statute or law are regularly and property kept.<sup>94</sup>

**Rules and Regulations Confirmed at AGA**

71. The PCMNO may prescribe such rules and regulations not inconsistent with these Bylaws relating to the management and

<sup>92</sup> Added by PCMNO motion #8, June 19, 1996.

<sup>93</sup> Added by legal counsel, July 2002, so that the Bylaws include a record of the date of registration.

<sup>94</sup> 2014 amendment added the phrase “the written consents of each individual elected to the PCMNO and community councils.”

operation of the MNO as they deem expedient, provided that such rules and regulations shall have force and effect only until the next annual meeting of the General Assembly when they shall be confirmed, and failing such confirmation at such annual meeting of the General Assembly, shall at and from that time cease to have any force and effect.

72. If MNO gives notice or other document to a citizen at the latest address of that citizen in the MNO’s records and the notice or document is returned on three consecutive occasions because the citizen cannot be found, the MNO is not required to give any further notices or other documents to that citizen until the citizen provides MNO with a document setting out the citizen’s address.<sup>95</sup>

**Interpretation**

73. In these Bylaws and in all other Bylaws of the MNO hereafter passed unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular number shall include the plural number, and vice versa, and references to persons shall include firms and corporations and the use of either the masculine or the feminine form does not preclude application to a person of either sex.<sup>96</sup>

74. Deleted<sup>97</sup>

**Corporate Seal**

75. The seal, a computer impression whereof is stamped in the margin hereof, shall indicate the seal of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat (“MNO”). Legal counsel shall be custodian of the seal of the MNO, which he or she shall deliver only when authorized by a resolution of the PCMNO to do so and such person or persons as may be named in the resolution.<sup>98</sup>



<sup>95</sup> 2014 amendment added this clause.

<sup>96</sup> Amended at MNO Delegates Assembly, May 5 - 7, 1995, motion #21.

<sup>97</sup> 2014 amendment moved in its entirety to clause 2.

<sup>98</sup> 2014 amendment moved the first sentence, which was previously s. 2 and combined with the last sentence, which was previously s. 45. No change in content. Last sentence was originally added by PCMNO February 13, 1997.

## Appendix A

### Statement of Prime Purpose

#### Where We Got Our Name

“The paternal ancestors of the Métis were the former employees of the Hudson Bay Northwest Fur Companies, and their maternal ancestors were Indian women of the various tribes. The French word *Métis* is derived from the Latin participle *mixtus*, which means “mixed”; in French *mêlé*; it expresses well the idea that is sought to be conveyed. However appropriate the corresponding English expression ‘Halfbreed’ might have been for the first generation of the mixture of blood, now that European blood and Indian blood are mixed in every degree, it is no longer general enough.

The French word *Métis* expressed the idea of this mixture in the most satisfactory manner possible, and thus becomes a proper race name ... why should we care to what degree exactly of mixture we possess European blood and Indian blood? If we feel ever so little gratitude and filial love toward one or the other, do they not constrain us to say: We are Métis!”

- Louis Riel, 1885<sup>99</sup>

#### Who We Are As a People

We, the Métis are a people of the lands, which gave rise to our history and tradition and culture.

We call those lands the Métis Homelands. The Homelands stretch from the lakes and rivers of Ontario; cross the wide prairies, traverse the mountains into British Columbia and into the northern reaches of the Northwest Territories. They include the hills and valleys of the north-central American States.

These are our lands. They are Métis lands. They are the lands of our past which nurture us today and which we value as the precious foundation of our future.

As Métis who live in the Homelands, we hold it to be a fundamental truth that we are one of the Aboriginal peoples of the Americas.

The Métis Nation continues today to be the embodiment of our past, the source of sustenance for our present while giving rise to our hopes and aspirations for the future.

We are a Nation, born of independence, and self-sufficiency whose teachings are founded on the values of honesty and truth. We are proud of our rich heritage. We

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<sup>99</sup> For the French version of this quote see: *The Collected Writings of Louis Riel/Les écrits complets de Louis Riel*, (University of Alberta Press, Edmonton, 1985), Vol. 3; 3-156. *Les Métis du nord-ouest* [Regina]. [85/10-11], at p. 278-279. For the English version see *Hold High Your Heads*, which is an English translation of *l'Histoire de la nation métisse dans l'ouest*, by A.H. de Tremaudan (Pemmican Publications: Winnipeg, 1936) at p. 200.

are inspired by the values and traditions of our ancestors. The strength of our society is based on democracy, freedom, fairness, equality, generosity, justice and the customary and written law of our people. Above all, we cherish harmony and peace.

As Aboriginal people we hold sacred the rights of the individual and of the collective. We have respect for each other, for the land and for the animal and plant life that surrounds us. We are people who honour and respect the family, our elders who hold the key to the past, and our children, who are our future.

Guided by our spiritual values we aspire to attain our highest potential.

**Now Therefore We Declare as Follows:**

We, the Métis Nation, are a distinct Nation among the Aboriginal peoples in Canada and as such our Aboriginal and treaty rights are recognized and affirmed under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

We, the Métis Nation, have the inherent right of self-determination and self-government;

We, the Métis who live within the Métis Homelands of Ontario, desiring to bind our people together to collectively promote our common cultural, social, political, and economic well-being, have founded the Métis Nation of Ontario, to be our representative body with the following aims and objectives:

- to research, publish and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and to establish and maintain a registry of the Métis Citizens of Ontario;
- to establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government;
- to encourage the full participation of all Métis in the Métis Nation;
- to promote and foster community development;
- to re-establish land and resource bases;
- to protect and preserve the land and waters within our homelands for future generations;<sup>100</sup>
- to develop prosperity and economic self-sufficiency within the Métis Nation;

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<sup>100</sup> Amended by 2015 MNO AGA in Midland (AGA-SPECRES2015-003) by adding this additional objective.

- to provide care and support necessary to meet the fundamental needs of the citizens of the Métis Nation;
- to promote the improved health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community;
- to establish effective means of communication for the Métis Nation;
- to encourage academic and skills development and to enable citizens of the Métis Nation to attain their educational aspirations;
- to promote the history, values, culture, languages and traditions of the Métis Nation and to create an awareness of our proud heritage;
- to promote Métis artistic and cultural achievement;
- to ensure that Métis can exercise their Aboriginal and Treaty rights and freedoms and in so doing, act in a spirit of cooperation with other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people;
- to establish good relations and maintain our historic alliances with all Aboriginal peoples for the pursuit of our common interests and goals;<sup>101</sup>
- to continue our affiliation with the Métis National Council for the representation of the interest of the Métis Nation in Ontario at the National and International levels; and
- to gain the recognition and respect of the Métis as a Nation and a people.

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<sup>101</sup> Amended by 2015 MNO AGA in Midland (AGA-SPECRES2015-003) by adding “and maintain our historic alliances”.