

Resolutions of the 16th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 23-25, 2009 in the Georgian D & E room of the Holiday Inn Hotel in Sudbury, Ontario.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES09-01
Title:	TREATY COMMISSION OF ONTARIO
Mover:	Senator Wagner-Millington
Seconded:	Senator Bradley

WHEREAS the Ipperwash Inquiry Report recommended the establishment of a Treaty Commission of Ontario to further the reconciliation process between the Crown and Aboriginal peoples in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS Ontario is unique in being the only province where the Métis were included, as a collective, in one of the historic treaties (i.e., the Half-breed Adhesion to Treaty #3);

AND WHEREAS the Crown's exclusion of Ontario Métis from the other historic treaties in the province, even in the face of requests for inclusion by Métis as well as support from First Nations for Métis inclusion in some of these treaties, is an important and often untold part of the treaty making process in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Métis also played important roles in the development, negotiation and signing of some of the historic treaties in Ontario as supporters, interpreters and witnesses to these sacred agreements;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario wants to work collaboratively with Canada, Ontario and First Nations to ensure Ontario Métis are included in the development of the Treaty Commission of Ontario as well as to ensure that the unique history and realities of Ontario Métis with respect to the treaty process in Ontario are included in the ultimate mandate of the Treaty Commission;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the MNO President write to Canada, Ontario and the Chiefs of Ontario outlining the Métis Nation's perspectives and interests in participating in the development of the Treaty Commission of Ontario as well as being included within the ultimate mandate of the Commission;
2. That the MNO attempt to establish a respectful and mutually agreeable process on this issue with the Chiefs of Ontario, as a part of the Métis Nation of Ontario – Chiefs of Ontario Protocol; and
3. That the MNO be directed to attempt to secure funding from Ontario and Canada in order to engage in a research and community consultation process on Métis participation in a Treaty Commission of Ontario.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-01)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES09-02
Title:	RESOURCE BENEFIT SHARING
Mover:	Victor
Seconder:	Senator Bradley

WHEREAS the Ontario Government has announced its' commitment to resource benefit sharing with First Nations and Métis communities;

AND WHEREAS regional rights-bearing Métis communities, which are a part of the Métis Nation, have traditional territories throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS these Métis traditional territories are shared with First Nations throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS according to the 2006 Census Ontario Métis represent approximately 30% of the total Aboriginal population in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation and its communities want to build strong and self-sustaining individuals, families and communities through cultural and economic development;

AND WHEREAS other Métis governments have established Métis-control funds (i.e., Clarence Campeau Development Fund in Saskatchewan, Louis Riel Corporation in Manitoba, etc.) which provide support to Métis individuals, business and communities for cultural and economic development;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Métis do not have any type of fund which they can access in order to support Métis cultural or economic development aspirations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the MNO be mandated to work with Ontario to secure a minimum of 30% of the total Aboriginal allocation of any resource benefit sharing funding provided by Ontario based on the Aboriginal population in Ontario;
2. That the MNO look towards developing a Métis Nation controlled trust fund that would be endowed by any Métis resource benefit sharing allocation as well as other government funding sources in order to support Métis individuals, businesses and communities with respect to cultural and economic development in Ontario;
3. That the MNO consult with Métis citizens and communities on the composition, structure and mandate of such a fund; and
4. That the MNO work with both the provincial and federal government on the establishment of such a fund.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-02)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES09-03
Title:	NEW RELATIONSHIP FUND
Mover:	Senator Wagner-Millington
Seconded:	Senator Bradley

WHEREAS, as a part of its response to the Ipperwash Inquiry Report, the Ontario Government committed to the establishment of a New Relationship Fund to support First Nations and Métis communities in building core consultation capacity;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Métis have developed an inclusive, transparent and predictable consultation framework based on extensive consultations in order to ensure Métis Protocol Regions, communities and all Métis citizens have the opportunity to be engaged and consulted on policies, projects and developments that have the potential to affect Métis rights, interests and way of life;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario was successful in securing funding in 2009/10 from the New Relationship Fund to support the MNO's consultation framework, which includes Regional Consultation Protocols and the MNO's Land, Resources and Consultation Branch;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Government's financial commitment to the New Relationship Fund currently ends as of March 31st, 2010;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Métis overwhelmingly support the New Relationship Fund and want this core consultation capacity funding to continue for future fiscal years as well as hope that this funding can be increased to support the additional required staff outlined in the MNO's multi-year core consultation capacity work plan and any new MNO Community Councils that are formed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the MNO AGA reaffirms its support for the MNO's regional consultation protocols and the MNO's overall consultation model which engages all levels of the MNO's government structure (i.e., local, regional and provincial) and all segments of the MNO's population (i.e., youth, Elders, women, harvesters, etc.);
2. That the MNO be mandated to work with the Ontario Government on behalf of Ontario Métis to turn the New Relationship Fund and the Métis allocation of the Fund into a permanent program or trust fund so the consultation capacity being built is not lost; and
3. That the MNO work with the Ontario Government to secure increased New Relationship Fund funding in future fiscal years in order to support the full implementation of the MNO's multi-year core consultation capacity work plan as well as funding for any new Community Councils created as a part of the MNO's overall governance structure.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-03)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES09-04
Title:	CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
Mover:	Senator Wagner-Millington
Seconded:	Bonnie Cann

WHEREAS the protection and support of the Métis child and family is fundamental to the ongoing existence of Métis communities and the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation and its communities have a right to be engaged in provincial child and family services systems when the Métis child and family are potentially affected;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Government's current child and family services system does not effectively engage the Métis Nation or its communities;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation and its communities have not been engaged and do not currently support the current pan-Aboriginal child and family service agencies that exist in some urban centres;

AND WHEREAS these pan-Aboriginal child and family service agencies do not have the right or jurisdiction to represent the rights and interests of the Métis Nation, Métis communities, the Métis child or Métis families;

AND WHEREAS other Métis governments throughout the Métis Nation are engaged by their respective provincial governments to ensure Métis communities are effectively engaged and participate in the child welfare system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the MNO raise its concerns about the lack of Métis involvement in Ontario's current child and family services system as a part of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement process as well as at the annual meeting with the Ontario Premier;
2. That the MNO President write to the responsible Minister requesting a meeting as well as the development of a collaborative process so Métis can become engaged in Ontario's child and family services system;
3. That the MNO President write to the existing pan-Aboriginal child and family services organizations in Ontario outlining the Métis Nation's interest and concerns and stress that they do not have the right or jurisdiction to represent the rights and interests of the Métis child or Métis families;
4. That the MNO's leadership report back to the next AGA on the progress made on this file with respect to securing a way for the Métis Nation and its communities to become more effectively engaged in Ontario's child and family services system.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-04)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES09-05
Title:	MÉTIS ACT
Mover:	Wayne Trudeau
Seconder:	Vic Willard

WHEREAS over the last 15 years, Ontario Métis have developed their own unique governance structures at the local, regional and provincial levels through the Métis Nation of Ontario with a view to implementing Métis self-government;

AND WHEREAS these Métis-created and mandated governance structures and institutions effectively and democratically represent Métis citizens and communities at the local, regional and provincial levels throughout Ontario;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Métis desire for this unique Métis governance structure to be respected and recognized by other levels of government;

AND WHEREAS other provincial governments have passed legislation recognizing Métis governance structures and institutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the MNO pursue discussions with the Ontario Government for the development and passing of legislation which recognizes the MNO's unique governance structure at the local, regional and provincial levels in the province.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-05)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES09-06
Title:	UMAYC FUNDING
Mover:	Nick Callaghan
Seconded:	Senator Wilson

WHEREAS Department of Canadian Heritage is responsible for the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centers (UMAYC) Program,

AND WHEREAS Métis Nation of Ontario had been receiving funding for youth programs, which supported the programs and services specific to Métis youth in Ontario,

AND WHEREAS Government of Canada suspended the UMACY funding from the MNO and this has severely impacted Métis youth in Ontario by taking away important resources that are used for youth cultural and heritage activities and communications on important youth issues.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 16th AGA of the MNO:

1. Direct President Gary Lipinski to lobby and negotiate with the federal government, in particular Heritage Canada who is responsible for the UMACY program, to reinstate full funding for youth programs for Métis in Ontario.
2. Encourage Métis youth to become more seriously involved in MNO, to ensure youth are involved in all local councils as well as at the PCMNO and the AGA, to take full advantage of the opportunities that are here now and will be in place in the future.
3. Organize a more cohesive Ontario Métis youth network, with a strategic direction, to fulfill the mandate of youth at the MNO, in Ontario, and across Canada.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-06)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES09-07
Title:	COUNCIL PRESIDENTS MEETING
Mover:	Jo Anne Young
Seconded:	Rick Paquette

WHEREAS the Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario is a meeting for all Métis Nation of Ontario citizens;

AND WHEREAS the Annual General Assembly approves, validates and instructs the PCMNO in the administration of the Métis Nation of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Community Council Presidents or their designated representatives are duly elected representatives of the Community Council at the Annual General Assembly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the MNO work to secure a meeting room for the MNO Community Council Presidents or their designates that are in attendance at a MNO Annual General Assembly, as a part of the MNO's overall Annual General Assembly schedule.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-07)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES09-08
Title:	REGISTRATION OF MÉTIS CITIZENS
Mover:	Senator Bradley
Seconders:	Senator Wagner-Millington

Be it resolved that a person who successfully obtains citizenship into the Métis Nation of Ontario receive a letter introducing them to the Métis Nation of Ontario's governance structure which includes the PCMNO, their Regional Councilor and their respective MNO Community Council.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-08)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES09-09
Title:	FUNDING TO KEEP YOUTH AT THE ENTIRE AGA
Mover:	Rick Paquette
Seconders:	Senator Wagner-Millington

WHEREAS the youth of the MNO are our future leaders;

AND WHEREAS the AGA is where they will learn the workings of the MNO and how business is conducted;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO attempt to secure funding to enable youth to be participate the full scheduled MNO Annual General Assembly.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-09)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES09-10
Title:	POST POWLEY FUNDING
Mover:	Pauline Saulnier
Seconders:	Senator Bradley

WHEREAS the Federal Government's five-year Post Powley funding is coming to an end;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario registry requires ongoing funding to continue their important work in registering Ontario Métis;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the MNO be directed to pursue negotiations with the Federal Government to secure ongoing funding for the MNO Registry from the Federal Government.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-10)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES09-11
Title:	Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO)
Mover:	Pauline Saulnier
Seconded:	Lynn Pantouso

WHEREAS, various government agencies have signed Memorandums of Understanding with the Métis Nation of Ontario.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the MNO be directed to pursue the Ontario Women's Directorate to negotiate and sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the MNO.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-11)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES09-12
Title:	INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION
Mover:	Steve
Seconded:	Jo Anne Young

WHEREAS it is important for the MNO to provide timely information to its citizens;

WHEREAS additional time to review documents would enhance MNO Annual General Assemblies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO attempt to provide as much information as possible about upcoming AGAs to Métis citizens, Community Councils and PCMNO one week prior to the holding of an AGA.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-12)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES09-13
Title:	ACCEPT MNO BRANCH REPORTS
Mover:	Senator Bradley
Seconded:	Pauline Saulnier

Move to accept the MNO Branch reports that were provided to the Assembly on Intergovernmental Relations; Health Services; Housing; Corporate Services; Registry; Education and Training; Lands, Resources and Consultation and Culture and Heritage.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES0913)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES09-14
Title:	COMMUNITY COUNCIL SENATORS HONOURARY RECOGNITION
Mover:	Senator Wagner-Millington
Seconded:	Senator Bradley

WHEREAS Senators play an important and respected role within the Métis Nation of Ontario's governance structure;

AND WHEREAS many Senators have provided their wisdom, guidance and support to MNO Community Councils for a significant period of time;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario wants to recognize and respect the contributions of these long-serving MNO Community Council Senators;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. That a Senator who continuously holds the Senator position on a MNO Community Council for over 10 years be entitled to retain the title of Past Senator forever, but this honorary title is to acknowledge and respect the contributions of these Senators only and does not entitle them to participate in or vote in the meetings of the MNO Community Council after they are no longer on the Council.
2. That this honorary recognition for long-serving MNO Community Council Senators does not alter or effect the MNO's existing bylaws with respect to recognition of PCMNO Past Senators and does not alter the existing election processes for PCMNO Senators at MNO Annual General Assemblies nor does it require the MNO to cover any costs associated with the participation of Community Council honorary Past Senators to attend MNO meetings, events or assemblies.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES09-14)