

Resolutions of the 17th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 21-23, 2010, at Fort William Historical Park, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-01
Title:	MÉTIS IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRY CONSULTATION PROCESS
Mover:	Joanne Young
Seconder:	Allan Vallee

WHEREAS in 1993, the MNO was founded on the collective will of Ontario Métis wanting to: (1) support Métis culturally, socially and economically, (2) ensure the aboriginal and treaty rights of Ontario Métis were recognized and respected in the province, and, (3) advance Métis self-determination and self-government in Ontario.

AND WHEREAS the MNO's rights-based aspirations and goals are reflected in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose which includes establishing a credible system for the identification of Métis citizens in Ontario through a centralized registry:

AND WHEREAS the MNO Registry is key to the MNO being a Métis government – not just a pan-aboriginal, membership-based association.

AND WHEREAS the MNO Registry has been fundamental to the MNO's credibility and rights-based victories over the last 17 years;

AND WHEREAS in *R. v. Powley*, the Supreme Court of Canada recognized that objectively verifiable Métis identification systems are essential to future Métis rights assertions and claims;

AND WHEREAS over the last 17 years within the MNO, there have been many changes that have affected the MNO Registry (i.e., directions from MNO Annual General Assemblies, changes in MNO membership requirements, legal developments, etc.);

AND WHEREAS there are many current and upcoming issues with respect to Métis identification and registration that need to be discussed within the MNO, including: the MNO definition of Métis; the MNO Interim Registry Policy, the potential impacts of the McIvor Case/Bill C-3 on the MNO Registry; dealing with incomplete registry files; etc.

AND WHEREAS over the years, the MNO has never had the funding or opportunity to thoroughly engage and consult Métis citizens and communities on these Métis identification and registration issues, as they arose and this lack of consultation has sometimes caused confusion or misunderstandings with respect to the MNO Registry.

AND WHEREAS the MNO's current leadership, including, the PCMNO and MNO Chartered Community Councils as well as this Annual General Assembly have identified a province- wide, multi-phased consultation process on Métis identification and registration issues as a priority;

AND WHEREAS through these consultations, MNO citizens will be able to be informed and discuss how the MNO Registry has evolved over the last 17 years and they will also allow MNO citizens to discuss current and emerging issues that may have impacts on the MNO Registry in the future;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO initiate a province-wide, multi-phased consultation process on Métis identification and registration issues (as generally outlined on the attached chart) in order to develop consensus-based solutions to move the MNO forward based on its *Statement of Prime Purpose* and ultimate goals of advancing Métis rights and self-government in Ontario;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that based on the initial consultations to be conducted in the Fall/Winter of 2010/2011 a 'What We Heard' report will be tabled with the 2011 MNO Annual General Assembly for its consideration and review.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this Annual General Assembly affirms that no existing MNO citizen will be removed from the MNO Registry other than for the removal provisions that are set out in the MNO bylaws (i.e., on another Aboriginal registry, etc.);

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that while these consultations are ongoing the longstanding MNO Registry verification processes for existing MNO citizens to run and hold office will be maintained.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-01)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-02
Title:	PROCESS FOR THE BYLAWS
Mover:	Wendy Landry
Seconder:	Joanne Young

WHEREAS the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) is the avenue to give direction to the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the presentations of resolutions at the AGA is an integral part of this decision making process;

AND WHEREAS the ability to review, discuss and investigate resolutions prior to the AGA will aid in the understanding of resolutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO bylaws be amended to create a process, that will be set out in the MNO bylaws, whereby all future changes to the MNO bylaws or significant changes to the MNO's governance structures that are going to be proposed at an Annual General Assembly be provided to MNO citizens 30 days in advance;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that any future changes to the MNO policies and procedures that are being proposed by the MNO's Administration that require the approval of a MNO Annual General Assembly be provided to MNO citizens within 30 days;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this MNO Annual General Assembly re-affirms its commitment to allowing all MNO citizens to have their voices heard at MNO Annual General Assemblies by being able to bring forward resolutions that provide policy and political direction to their elected leadership and the MNO.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-02)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-03
Title:	MÉTIS ACT
Mover:	Jean McIsaac-Wiitala
Seconders:	Louise Goulding

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario is the representative body of the Métis people of Ontario and;

WHEREAS the Métis people are one of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada whose treaty & Aboriginal Rights are recognized by the Constitution Act of 1982 and;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario declared through its Statement of Prime Purpose that: “We the Métis Nation, have the inherent right of self-determination and self-government;” and;

WHEREAS that one of the aims and objectives declared by the Statement of Prime Purpose is “to establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government;” and;

WHEREAS consistent with a mutual desire to enter into a new relationship, the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Government of Ontario have entered into an MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement Process and;

WHEREAS the Legislature of Ontario has proclaimed the year 2010, “The Year of the Métis” and;

WHEREAS at the MNO AGA 2009 consistent with the goal to implement the Métis right of self-government the MNO passed a Resolution #AGA-RES 09-05 as follows:
“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,”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO pursue a strategy that an appropriate Métis Act be tabled in the Legislature of Ontario in its fall session in 2010 either by the Government of Ontario or through a Private Member’s Bill.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-03)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-04
Title:	REINSTATEMENT OF THE STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS LONG FORM
Mover:	Ralph Brown
Seconders:	Marlene Davidson

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2010 MNO Annual General Assembly direct the PCMNO and Community Councils to raise opposition to the changes in the Long Form Census documents pending in the fall of 2010, and lobby the Federal Government to reinstate mandatory compliance with the Long Form Census document.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-04)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-05
Title:	SENATOR REPLACEMENT
Mover:	Senator Rob McKay
Seconded:	Senator Ruth Wagner

WHEREAS the community council Senators from time to time are unable to attend a function where and when invited and;

BE IT RESOLVED the community council draft and approve a list of potential Senator alternates comprised of past MNO Senators and Elders who are MNO citizens within the community council geographic boundaries based on the MNO governance structure,

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a Métis Elder in the community may be chosen by the current elected Senator if able, otherwise by the community council from the approved council list to replace him or her at any function that the Senator may not be able to attend based on available funding.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-05)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-06
Title:	ABOLISHMENT OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO (MNO) INTERIM REGISTRY POLICY
Mover:	Robert Pilon
Seconded:	Andre Bosse

WHEREAS in May 2009 the PCMNO adopted the Interim Registry Policy currently being used in the processing and verification of MNO citizenship applications.

AND WHEREAS based on the Supreme Court decision on Powley the Métis Nation of Ontario is empowered to define who is a Métis citizen.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the existing MNO Interim Registry Policy be abolished.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new Registry Policy be drafted by the MNO with input from Métis Community Council Presidents (MCCP), and that MCCP be involved in the drafting of said policy prior to the next AGA.

DEFEATED (AGA-RES10-06)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-07
Title:	MNO Election Verification
Mover:	Senator Cecil Wagar

Seconder:	Senator Alis Kennedy
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WHEREAS: an MNO citizen's ancestry has been verified prior to receiving his/her citizenship card and.

WHEREAS: verification at Community Council elections creates/adds to the backlog at the MNO registry office, and,

WHEREAS: the uncertainty of the Registry and the Métis definition will dissuade individuals from running for a position on a Community Council,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that once a MNO citizen has already been verified, he/she no longer need to be verified when running for an elected position on the Community Council and be re-verified at subsequent elections.

WITHDRAWN (AGA-RES10-07)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-08
Title:	NEXT GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA
Mover:	Senator Earl Schofield
Seconder:	Wilford Rochon

WHEREAS; James Bartleman was the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and a friend to the Métis Nation of Ontario,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO 2010 Annual General Assembly direct the MNO leadership to lobby the Federal Government to appoint the Honorable James Bartleman as the next Governor General of Canada

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-08)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-09
Title:	HARVEST CARD CRITERIA
Mover:	Richard Meilleur
Seconder:	Bucky Gravelle

WHEREAS the Supreme Court has recognized that Métis have the constitutional rights to harvest that is based on their special relationship to the land;

WHEREAS the MNO entered in a Four Point Harvesting Agreement with the MNR that recognizes the MNO Harvesting Policy and its Harvesters Card system, which facilitates the Métis harvest in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the MNO-MNR agreement included a 1250 cap for MNO Harvesters Card for the first year of the agreement only;

AND WHEREAS it is imperative that Métis be able to practice their right to harvest and share their customs, practices and traditions with Métis youth and the next generation;

AND WHEREAS no agreement can limit Métis constitutional rights;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO Annual General Assembly direct the MNO's leadership to continue to push forward on ensuring the MNR respects the Métis right to harvest in Ontario;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO be directed to put in place an action plan to ensure the Métis right to harvest in Ontario is recognized, if a political solution with the MNR and the Ontario Government cannot be reached

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-09)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES10-10
Title:	MNO PRESIDENT'S MEETING
Mover:	Barbara Rusk
Seconder:	Rob Pilon

BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO secure a meeting room for the MNO Council Presidents or their designates that are in attendance at every MNO Annual General Assembly as part of the MNO's overall Annual General Assembly schedule.

Moved by: Barbara Rusk
Seconded by: Rob Pilon

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES10-10)