

Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 22 – 24, 2015, at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre, Midland, Ontario.

PREPARATION OF MINUTES Carolyn Hunter, Hunter-Courchene Consulting Group

DAY 1 – SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2015

OPENING CEREMONIES

PROCESSION AND FLAG RAISING

The flags of the Métis Nation Hunting Colours; Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); and, Province of Ontario were marched into the 22nd Annual General Assembly (AGA).

OPENING PRAYER

PCMNO Senator Verna Porter Brunelle welcomed the participants to Midland for the AGA and opened the meeting with a prayer.

CALL TO ORDER

MNO Chair France Picotte, called the 22nd Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario to order at 8:31 a.m.

1. OPENING REMARKS

1.1 MNO Chair

Chair Picotte welcomed the delegates to the AGA in Michif. She also provided an explanation of the song written and sang by Amanda Rheaume. She looked forward to sharing the many success stories of their citizens this past year with assistance from the MNO programs and services. They looked forward to promoting these stories in different ways over the next year. These are stories that they needed to share with other Ontarians. She looked forward to the AGA each year as it was a homecoming of sorts, where they were able to see everyone again.

1.2 MNO Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair McBride welcomed the delegates to this year's AGA and mentioned that this was a real homecoming for her, as her family came from this area. She thanked them all for the work that they had undertaken this past in their own communities and thanked Region #7 for hosting this AGA.

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

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

2. WELCOMING REMARKS

2.1 Mayor Gord McKay, City of Midland

Mayor McKay welcomed the MNO AGA delegates to Midland and thanked them for coming to Midland for this meeting; it was good to have them there in the city. He recognized the Senators, President Lipinski, Chair Picotte, special guests and dignitaries and all the delegates. Midland was a family town and it was a great place for them to come together as a Nation to meet old friends and conduct the business of the Nation. They had an opportunity here to dream and plan for their future and also to showcase the strength of the Métis Nation. He wished them the best of luck with their deliberations and their activities. Regional Councilor Lafrance, Region #3, presented a gift to Mayor McKay.

2.2 President David Dusome, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council, President Peter Couture, MNO Great Lakes Métis Council and President Tony Muscat, MNO Moon River Métis Council

President Dusome, on behalf of the Presidents in the region, thanked all the delegates to the region and welcomed them to the city and the AGA. Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle provided gifts to all three Presidents.

2.3 The Honourable David Zimmer, Minister, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Minister Zimmer thanked the MNO for the invitation to attend this year's AGA; this was his 3rd AGA. Over the years he had been able to get to know the Métis Nation and, while he was not Métis himself, he was proud to wear the sash. It was a great pleasure to join them here in Midland. He recognized his colleagues from the Legislature and added that the AGA was a good time to look back and see what they had accomplished together and identify upcoming challenges. He said that they had come a long way from when the Framework agreement was first signed in 2008 and it has now been renewed in 2014. They had a well-established relationship supported by their mutual commitment to work together to better the lives of Métis children, families and the whole Nation. The New Relationship Fund had strengthened this relationship, as it had provided extensive capacity building support. There has been extensive engagement with government and industry in a number of areas and has lead to the signing of the MNO's second Impact Benefit Agreement. There was going work in a number of areas including memorandums of understanding with proponents and a shared interest agreement in Atikokan. He mentioned that Ontario had contributed \$30M over ten years to the Métis Voyageur Development Fund and this fund support economic development in Métis communities. He stated that success and growth in the Métis communities meant success for Ontario and Canada. In terms of other advances, he mentioned the ongoing work on the *Métis Nation of Ontario Act* and how there was strong support in government for moving ahead.

The MNO had seen remarkable success and Ontario was proud of the role they have played in MNO's successes. There was a real commitment to their relationship and supporting the MNO and their communities were part of the government's plan to ensure that everyone had access to the opportunities in the province. Premier Wynne had asked him to bring her personal regards to the MNO leadership and all the delegates. President Lipinski presented Minister Zimmer with a gift.

2.4 Premier Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario – Video Presentation

Premier Kathleen Wynne welcomed all the delegates and thanked the MNO for their many remarkable contributions to the province of Ontario. She mentioned the involvement of the MNO in the Pan Am games that had just taken place in the Toronto area and the fact that a Métis citizen, Kristi Belcourt, had designed the medals for the Games. Since the Framework agreement was signed in 2008, renewed in 2014, they had accomplished a lot together. The establishment of the New Relationship Fund and the Métis Voyageur Development Fund had been important in building their future together. As Premier, she has worked with the MNO to promote the successes of the Métis in Ontario and, on behalf of the government of Ontario, she wished them the best for their meeting.

2.5 Mr. Patrick Brown, Leader, Ontario Progressive Conservative Party

Mr. Brown thanked them and mentioned that it was an honour to be there. He thanked the MNO for the invitation. He stated that it was great to hear about the proposed new legislation and he assured them that there would be support from his party, as the official opposition, on that. He stated that his party supported the economic development and cultural goals of the MNO. He mentioned that his grandfather was born in St. Boniface, Manitoba, and his first language was French. He grew up in a Métis neighbourhood and felt a real connection to Métis culture. With over 18,000 Métis citizens and 29 community councils across the province, the Métis were an integral part of the voice of Ontario and the relationship between the Métis and other Ontario should be strengthened for the betterment of all. He stated that he looked forward to working with the MNO in the coming years and his door was always open at Queen's Park. He believed in an Ontario, which included all voices because working together, they could build a stronger future for all.

Regional Councilor Pauline Richardson, Region #7, mentioned that they had a high Métis population here in the area and she was happy to hear that his door was always open. She provided Mr. Brown with a gift.

2.6 Mr. Bruce Stanton, Conservative Member of Parliament, Simcoe North

Mr. Stanton thanked Chair Picotte and recognized President Lipinski, the Senators and Veterans, Council Presidents and distinguished guests. He welcomed them to his home here on Georgian Bay and mentioned that Midland was proud to host this AGA. He also mentioned that it was wonderful to have the local Community Council here in Midland. He added that he saw a lot of colleagues in the room and, as the Member of Parliament for this area since 2006, he knew they had a close relationship with the Métis in the area. The Métis were the root of their province and were an integral part of the history of Ontario, particularly this area. He particularly recognized the veterans in the meeting; their service to their country would never be forgotten. He commended the MNO leadership for their accomplishments in the province and recognized the dedication and hard work of the Georgian Bay Métis Council. Their work was widely respected in the area, as was the case with Community Councils across Ontario. From all of them in Parliament and their candidates across the country, he wished them an enjoyable and beneficial time here in the region for the AGA. He encouraged them to celebrate their culture; they were a part of Canada's history and future. Regional Councilor Tom Thompson, Region #6, presented Mr. Stanton with a gift.

2.7 Ms. France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament (Nickel Belt), New Democratic Party of Ontario

Ms. Gélinas explained that has brought a video message from Ms. Andrea Horwath, Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario. In her video message, Ms. Horwath welcomed the delegates to Midland on behalf of the New Democratic Party of Ontario and wished them the best for their AGA discussions. She thanked Region #7 for hosting the event. They had a rich history in Ontario, she said, and they have worked hard over the years to build a strong organization and voice within the province. The Métis have achieved real victories over the years and mentioned their effective consultation model as an example. She said that they could count on the support of the NDP as they continued to work for their good of their citizens. The foundation of an even stronger relationship would be built on respect and on real results; meaningful results to address past injustices. This was how challenges of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) recommendations and the issues of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women would be addressed. She said that they also needed to address the inadequate health resources in rural and remote communities. She added that their journey was a lesson in strength and resilience. The Ontario government, she said, must live up their stated objective of reconciliation. Together they could delivery results for all of Ontario. She wished them the best for their deliberations at this AGA.

Ms. Gélinas stated that Ms. Horwath would have liked to attend but she had a scheduling conflict. She was proud to have Ms. Horwath as her leader and mentioned that women were in the majority in her party. She said that their commitment was to have MNO as a real partner and, as an opposition member, she would address the issues that derailed and took too long. Her door was always open and mentioned that she was the Aboriginal critic for her party. It was a great pleasure to be with them in Midland and she thanked them for inviting her. Regional Councilor Juliette Denis, Region #5, provide Ms. Gélinas with a gift.

2.8 Mr. Alexander Bezzina, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Youth Services

Mr. Bezzina thanked them for the invitation to speak and mentioned the many interaction that his Ministry and others have regularly with the MNO. He was pleased and honoured to be given the opportunity to speak. He brought greetings form his Minister, the Honourable Tracy MacCharles. Previous speakers had already mentioned the Framework Agreement and, in line with this agreement, they were working with MNO on the Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy. He thanked President Lipinski for his leadership in the development of this strategy with the Ministry and others. He acknowledge the work of Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson, PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case and the MNO technicians who were dedicated to their goals while achieving significant progress on this strategy. The Strategy was designed to better meet the needs of Aboriginal children and youth with actions driven by the community in a culturally appropriate way. The issues that needed to be addressed included mental health, youth suicide prevention, child welfare, youth justice among others. There were calls for action with regard to the recommendations of the TRC and there were changes to the Child and Family Services Act. They wanted to take a co-development strategy approach and these changes would explore policy changes, legislative changes and it was hoped that this would lead to better outcomes for their children, families and communities. Continued engagement with MNO on a variety of fronts was a priority for the Ministry; the government was listening carefully to them and they were pleased to work with them on these important issues.

Regional Councilor Theresa Stenlund, Region #1, mentioned that the MNO was happy to be working with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, as their children and youth were vital to their communities and wanted to encourage them to aspire to be the best they could be. She thanked Mr. Bezzina for his remarks and presented him with a gift.

2.9 The Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett, PC, MD, MP, St. Paul's, Critic for Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada

Dr. Bennett stated that it was pleasure to be with them on Georgian Bay and she mentioned that she was also there with them in Parry Sound a few years ago. She stated that they all had a spiritual centre and for her and her family, it was the Georgian Bay area. It was an exciting time and Canada had come to understand that there was a huge need for reconciliation. It went beyond the TRC, as there were many issues that were not within the mandate of the Commission such as a response to the Daniels decision, day schools etc. They needed to engage Canada to learn more about this.

She mentioned that traditional activities that the delegates were able to participate in, as it was important for everyone to have the opportunity to learn and experience Métis culture. They knew that having a secure personal cultural identity was very important in the ability to make healthy choices and that made stronger communities, which led to a stronger country. They wanted to work with the MNO on that common goal and she stressed that there were an understanding that they could not take a pan-aboriginal approach. It was important for Canadians to know the differences between First Nations, Inuit and the Métis. There were sometimes different priorities, different approaches were needed and one size did not fit all. She said that she was excited as they embarked on this next chapter as allies and there was a lot of work to do. She looked forward to continuing that relationship building. Regional Councilor Anita Tucker, Region #8, thanked Dr. Bennett for her remarks and presented her with a gift.

2.10 Mr. Serge Imbrogno, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy

Mr. Imbrogno stated that he was pleased to be there on behalf of Minister Chiarelli, he thanked the Senator for the prayer and thanked the MNO for the invitation to speak. He said that they continued to promote opportunities in the energy sector and mentioned the Feed-In-Tariff (FIT) program, of which MNO was very familiar. They were also looking at large renewable energy procurement and also ongoing support for Métis engagement. There have been many successes in the area of solar energy and hydro-electric projects. They were also working in partnership with Métis communities to make electricity more affordable. He said that his ministry looked forward to continuing to support Métis involvement in the energy sector. Regional Councilor Cameron Burgess, Region #2, thanked Mr. Rafferty for his remarks and presented him with a gift.

2.11 Mr. George Zegarac, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education

Mr. Zegarac thanked the MNO for the invitation to speak; he was honoured to be there. He recognized the Senators, President Lipinski, the PCMNO, the Veterans, the Community Councils and all the citizens of the Métis Nation. He particularly recognized the members of the Youth Council and he said that they needed to support, as they were the future. He wanted to acknowledge that the MOE had a long-standing partnership with the MNO supporting Métis students and also educating all students about Métis culture and contributions. He also spoke about the Minister's Advisory Council on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education.

He brought greetings from his Minister, the Honourable Liz Sandals. Minister Sandals welcomed the delegates to the AGA and sent her regrets that she was unable to attend. She mentioned that important of their culture making that part of each of their many successful AGAs. The MOE had a strong relationship with the MNO and worked together to make a better future for Métis children and youth. The Minister acknowledged President Lipinski and the MNOET for the vital role they have played on the Minister's Advisory Council on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education. She said that they all believed that all students, Métis and non-Métis, were enriched by learning more about First Nations, Métis and Inuit in Canada.

PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case thanked Deputy Minister Zegarac for his remarks and presented him with a gift.

2.12 Mr. Garfield Dunlop, former Member of Provincial Parliament for Simcoe North

Mr. Dunlop stated that Mr. Brown would take his seat in this riding as he would not be running again but he would be working with Mr. Brown in an advisory role. He hoped to be able to work on youth apprenticeships. He stated that, over the years, he had a very positive relationship with the Métis and he recalled being at the AGA in 1999 held in Penetanguishene. He had met President Lipinski, former President Belcourt and added that Senator Helen Bradley had become a good friend. They had accomplished many things and he wished them all the best in the future. He was thankful for the opportunity to share a few words and he thanked them for the memories. PCMNO Vice-Chair, Sharon McBride, thanked Mr. Dunlop for his remarks and presented him with a gift.

2.13 Mr. Clément Chartier, President, Métis National Council

President Chartier began his remarks with a recognition of the Veterans, Senators, his fellow Métis leaders, citizens and guests. He mentioned that when they discussed milestones, he stated that he had the pleasure of being a part of Métis movement in Ontario. In the past, there had been discussions about the need for the Métis in Ontario to join the Métis Nation homeland. He recalled how Ms. Jean Teillet had described the difference between the First Nation and the Métis as two canoes that had gone separate ways. He has only missed the MNO AGA a few times, he stated, and he has seen the accomplishments of the MNO over the past years. Next year, it would be the 200th anniversary of the Métis flag, which had flown over many important battles in the past. The song that was shared at this meeting, *Aspire*, was very appropriate as they aspired to many things. He also mentioned a victory song that was sung after the battle of seven oaks and how Paul Chartrand had written a book on that song. He stated that they could not forget that victory song. He stressed that they needed to be proud of who they were.

He mentioned that the Daniels case would be argued in October and it dealt with which jurisdiction had the responsibility to deal with the Métis. He explained that this did not give them authority over the Métis but rather it would identify which level of government would work with them on a nation-to-nation basis. He also discussed the Manitoba Métis Federation decision and how they were looking at a framework for that. He also mentioned that Premier Wynne and Minister Zimmer (Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs) were very supportive of Métis issues and he mentioned that this level of support from the province was not the case in other regions of the country. He mentioned, as an example, how Ontario was willing to move on the issue of MMIW and not just with words but with actions.

He said that he has seen some fundamental changes in Canada mentioned the new support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and reconciliation. He mentioned that reconciliation was important but many people did not understand Métis issues and how a distinction based approach was necessary. The Métis had also gone to residential schools and not only to day schools. They had come a long way but there was still more work to do. Executive Senator Reta Gordon thanked President Chartier for his remarks and presented him with a gift.

2.14 Mr. David Chartrand, President, Manitoba Métis Federation

President Chartrand acknowledged the Elders, Senators, Veterans and the leaders. He said it was great to see so many people at the AGA; it was a good opportunity to meet up with colleagues and friends. He had not been to Ontario very often. He mentioned that using the word “government” was very important; they were not an organization and that was a dangerous word. He said that accepting the term organization lessened who they were. He would encourage them to use the word government from now on. It was important that, as a government, they got together to talk about issues and do the work of a government. It takes a lot of work and it was good to see how they have grown.

He stated that he was envious of a lot of things that were happening in Ontario particularly around the duty to consult work. No one in Canada had accomplished what they had in this area and also in the area of economic development. In order to achieve these accomplishments, the right political climate was necessary. He said that he had never met with his province's Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. To achieve these results, they also needed strong leadership and he commended President Lipinski. President Lipinski, he said, fought hard for the Métis citizens in Ontario.

President Chartrand mentioned that, with the Daniels decision, there was a need to recognize the fact that their people had always been left out and he gave the example of funding from AANDC for them compared to the other groups. He stated that the Métis paid taxes across the country but not much came back to them. They need to ask pointed questions about where their tax dollars were going and why the Métis were not be dealt with. He mentioned an example and it was land claims; he said that, for their case, they had to raise all the funds. Many of the other groups of people that had past wrong perpetrated by government of the time had been dealt with, with the exception of the Métis.

He mentioned that they had been working on a campaign to raise funds for national Métis museum and the federal government had committed \$996K. This museum was being planned for Manitoba but it would include Ontario. He said that the debate about the homeland would be challenging but it had to happen.

He added that, federally, ASETS had been extended for two years and they had to lobby hard for that. There were 84 ASETS holders and their five were in the top in the country. He also mentioned the issue of child welfare, which was under their control in Manitoba; they had the power to organize themselves and keep their families together.

President Chartrand thanked them for this opportunity. Regional Councilor Ernie Gatien, Region #4, thanked President Chartrand for his remarks and presented him with a gift.

2.15 Ms. Audrey Poitras, Métis Nation of Alberta

President Poitras greeted the Senators, Veterans, President Lipinski and the PCMNO and all the citizens. She said that it was an honour to be at this meeting and added that she made a real effort every year to make sure she was there. She explained that she knew how much work went into this and she always learned something when she attended this AGA. It was important to share with and learn from each other. She thanked them for that. She said congratulations for all that has been accomplished by the MNO through the years and she thanked the representatives from the Province of Ontario for supporting that work. She encouraged them to keep moving forward in strength. She said that it was great to watch their youth and it was important to focus on their needs as the current leadership will eventually move on and someone will need to take their place. There was always a need for fresh ideas and new energy. When she watched their youth, she said, she felt that the future of the Nation was in good hands. She also thanked them for always welcoming them to their province. Regional Councilor Peter Rivers, Region #9, thanked President Poitras for her remarks and presented her with a gift.

3. STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

President Lipinski thanked all of those who had spoken this morning and he welcomed them all to the AGA. He mentioned in recognition their friends in government who had supported them all these years including Chris Bennett, who had introduced the idea of the Year of the Metis in 2010 and for the support from Mr. Garfield Dunlop over the years. He was also thankful for those from the Opposition parties who had supported them over the years. It was wonderful, he said, to be back in this part of the province; there was a strong and rich Métis history in this area. He mentioned that most Ontarians and Canadian were not aware of the contributions of the Métis in their history and gave the War of 1812 as an example.

He stated that he wanted to recognize the contributions of the leadership at all levels who worked tirelessly in their communities. They continued to deal with challenging issues and they always worked for what was best for their citizens. It was a honour to work with a strong women's and youth council. Their future did look bright. He also mentioned the important work of the Veterans Council as well.

Working on both the Métis rights issues and while also working to address the social issues in their communities was always their goal. The MNO was established to form a government here in Ontario to work on behalf of their people and over the years they have achieved some accomplishments. These accomplishments included the Powley decision and the harvesting agreement, which was the first anywhere in the homeland. That agreement was still in place today and while there was the contentious issue of the 1250 cap, the province was committed to addressing that issue. Ontario was a leader on the duty to consult and they had developed that through a province wide process to gather the feedback of their citizens. They had been able to put together a MNO-specific model and supported that through the NRF. It was not just about providing for the legal requirement but also building the relationships that made that process effective. Because of that consultation model, they were able to engage with proponents leading to the development of IBAs and other agreements, which had positive impacts on their communities. These accomplishments were made possible because of their advances on Métis rights.

He mentioned the reports commissioned by the federal government to look at different aspect of their relationship with First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Douglas Eyford's report on the comprehensive claims process, Benoit Pelletier's report on the specific claims process and the appointment of Tom Isaac to look at issues related to their section 35 rights. They had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Eyford and Mr. Pelletier to provide the MNO perspectives. Mr. Eyford's report was available in April 2015 but things were stalled now because of the election. It was hoped that whoever formed the next government would pick up on that work. The Métis were the only Aboriginal people whose historical grievances were not dealt with. He gave an update on claims in the NWT, where the process was different, explained that the Métis there had signed an agreement with the federal government on how to negotiate a land claim and this was challenged by a First Nation. Their claim was that they had a treaty in the area so the Métis should not be allowed to go ahead with a land claim process. President Lipinski stated that First Nations rights had to be respected but also should Métis right and he suggested that they might intervene in that case.

The Manitoba Métis Federation had also been instrumental in advancing Métis rights through their land claim. The MNO had intervened in that case and also wanted to intervene in the Daniels case, but were rejected as an intervenor but the MNC was an intevenor in that case. They were working with MNC on that intervention and it was important to have the Métis voice there. In terms land claims, it was expected that Manitoba would move forward first based on the court decision and they would be right behind them; he gave the example of the treaty #3 adhesion. That commitment could not be ignored. In many areas, the First Nations were dealt with through treaty and the government was supposed to come back and deal with the Métis claims.

On another note, President Lipinski said that they would be presenting their audited financial statements later on the agenda but he provided some highlights. In 2008, it was very difficult, they were \$4.5M in debt but they worked together effectively as a Council and staff, with good partner in Ontario, he was happy to say that they had generated surpluses each year and were able to pay down their debt considerably. Last year, they presented an unqualified audit for the first time and their debt was now approximately \$700K. For the first time, they had a net surplus to record of \$600K and are in the black, and, in a few years, their debt would be gone.

They have made considerable progress in the area of economic development. They have passed their own law and now have the structures set up. They would be moving the FIT projects under this new structure and have decided on a formula for the funds – education scholarships and bursaries, Métis rights, governance, culture and debt repayment. The Métis Voyageur Fund (MVDF) had acquired an additional \$2.5M which was not restricted to the resource sector. One issue that they wanted to address was the fact that this MVDF had only provincial funding and they would be working on the federal government to match those funds.

They continued their work on the Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy and the issue of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women. The MNO and their citizens were extensively involved in the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games this summer in the Toronto area. They enjoyed working with their First Nation colleagues and coming together to showcase the culture of their First Nations and Métis in the area. He thanked Joanne Meyer for her hard work on that.

In term of the federal discussion, President Lipinski stated that they needed a collaborative relationship to accomplish what they needed, no matter who was in power. In terms of federal funding, the ASETS program was a great program but they needed to update the funds based on demographics because the population had gone up but the funding had not kept up. They did receive some Powley funding from the federal government and this was done on a proposal basis each year for their Registry. This was challenging because this was a basic function of government and they had to apply for funding each year; it should be core funded.

They were in federal election phase at the moment and the Métis population was known to participate in high numbers in any election process. He asked them to pay close attention to the platforms of all the parties and try to identify if they would work with the Métis. The MNO would be putting information on all party platforms in the Voyageur. He wished all the candidates good luck in the campaign and he looked forward to working with the elected party.

One key issue they were working on was identifying how any development project would impact on their way of life. There would be resolution this year in that regard. Pipelines versus trains was an issue and this was complex. They needed to learn more and participate in those discussions. The sale of Hydro One was another key issue that they needed to be consulted on.

He met with the Presidents the previous day about Métis culture and a generous opportunity being offered by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. It was suggested that the goal of maintaining and sharing Métis culture would be to pool the funding and provide for provincial initiatives. All councils could benefit from this and there were going to look at different initiatives that could work. Maybe they could develop local, regional, provincial and eventually national competitions showcasing the talents of their citizens.

He mentioned that there was a lot going on and they would show a video later that highlighted the many programs and services they provide. He was proud of their dedicated and competent staff. He also thanked all the volunteers within all their structures for all they did.

The Veterans Council made a presentation to President Lipinski. The MNOVC had worked hard on getting this book on Métis Veterans published and the first copy was presented to the MNO President. President Lipinski thanked Mr. Joe Paquette, MNOVC President, and commended them for their work and also their service to their country. Chair Picotte agreed and thanked them again for fighting for her freedom, now and in the past.

4. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chair Picotte referred participants to the AGA Agenda under Tab 2 of the meeting kits, she provided an overview of the draft agenda and asked for a motion for approval.

It was MOVED (Rene Gravelle) and SECONDED (David Dusome)

That the Agenda for the 22nd Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario meeting scheduled August 22-24, 2015, be approved as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA15-01)

5. OVERVIEW OF THE RESOLUTIONS PROCESS

Chair Picotte introduced Jason Madden, MNO Legal Counsel, who provided a brief overview of the resolutions process. The deadline for regular resolutions was 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 23, 2015. A copy of the resolution had to be provided with the mover and seconder with citizenship cards. Following that, he requested nominations for the Resolutions Committee.

5.1 Appointment of Resolutions Committee

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

It was MOVED (Tim Pile) and SECONDED (Joanne Young)

That the Resolutions Committee for the 22nd Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario scheduled August 22-24, 2015 be comprised of: Senator Gary Laframboise; Pauline Richardson; and, Mitchell Case.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA15-02)

RECESS The Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and resumed at 1:22 p.m.

6. UNION GAS RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT

Mr. Michael Shannon, Union Gas, thanked the MNO for taking the time out of a busy agenda to mark this important milestone. They were proud of the work they were doing with the MNO building that long-term relationship based on mutual respect and mutual benefits. He stated that they believed strongly in this agreement and it had been five years since they signed the first agreement and they worked closely with the LRC. It was a win-win relationship and they were able to support a stronger quality of life in the communities they served.

President Lipinski stated that it was wonderful and rare to engage with a partner on different levels – he was consumer of Union Gas and he also had the opportunity to watch them work when they were working on a new project in Fort Frances. There was employment, business opportunities and an ongoing relationship; a demonstration of their sincerity. Union Gas was engaged with their communities in different areas. He was happy to be re-signing the agreement on behalf of the MNO. They proceeded to sign the agreement.

7. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUORUM

Vice-Chair McBride reported that there were 373 registered delegates and, of these, there were 225 citizens at the 22nd Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario. She advised that 113 registered delegates were required to form quorum. She also noted that motions to amend the by-laws required approval by 2/3rds of the registered delegates, which was 150.

8. ADOPTION OF THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Secretary-Treasurer Pile reviewed the resolutions from the Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Regional Councilor Juliette Denis stated that paragraph 3 on page 16, second sentence should read “It was stated that this was a *direct quote from* the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose...”.

It was MOVED (Tom Thompson Jr.) and SECONDED (Rene Gravelle)

That the Minutes of the 21st Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario be accepted as corrected.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA15-03)

8.1 Business Arising From the Minutes

Chair Picotte asked if there was any business arising from those minutes and the following comments were provided.

- Regional Councilor Denis stated that she believe there was following to the comment on special resolutions on page 14 and Chair Picotte was noted that it was believed that there was follow up at the PCMNO meeting but maybe MNO Legal Counsel could add to that.
- With regards to the Resolution AGA-RES2014-06 regarding the Métis National Council, a question was raised about the stipulation for annual progress report. President Lipinski noted that there were a number of concerns raised last year but he and the MNO staff have been more involved with the MNC. Recent financial statements showed that they were heading in the right direction and he made regular reports to the PCMNO about this.
- With regards to Resolution AGA-RES2014-03 regarding communications with Métis youth, Alex Young asked if there was update on this, as he followed their social media sites and he has not seen new information. It was mentioned that there would be an update on this during the Youth Council report on the agenda.
- There was a brief discussion on the complexities around using the word “Aboriginal” and it was noted that it was sometimes not their wording but rather it was government’s. It was suggested that, where possible, the MNO not use the word “Aboriginal”.

9. 2014-15 MNO HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO

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

10. 2015 Special Business Resolutions

Chair Picotte stated that, as she was the seconder on the special resolutions, she would turn the chair over to Vice-Chair McBride. Jason Madden noted that there was only one special resolution that could not go forward, as it proposed a change to the MNO Electoral Code, which could not happen at this time due to the upcoming election this year. He read out the special resolutions, which were in the meeting kit under Tab #6.

Mr. Madden explained that this resolution separated the MNO secretariat from the business arm of the MNO because this gave their business arm more authenticity, as they had to be seen as operating at arms length from the MNO.

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES2015-01
Title:	TO AMEND MNO PROSPERITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY LAW
Mover:	Gary Lipinski
Seconder:	France Picotte

WHEREAS the PCMNO met on June 25-26, 2015 and approved proposed changes to the *MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law* based on the recommendation of MNO Legal Counsel:

AND WHEREAS the exact wording of the proposed changes to sections 2 (definition of “Infinity Investment Structures”, “MNO Infinity Investments GP Inc.” and “MNO Infinity Investments LP”, 7, 12, 16-18, 21-22, 25-29, 35-36, and 42 of the *MNO Prosperity and Self Sufficiency Law* are attached:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2015 MNO AGA adopts the changes to the *MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law*, which are attached to this resolution.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPECRES2015-001)

Questions and Discussion

- There was some discussion on how the funding would be allocated (the pie chart) and there were some concerns that the allocation reference for “culture” was too vague and should be more clearly articulated that this was funding for the Community Councils. It was noted that they could not change a special resolution on the floor and the PCMNO would decide how that 20% was allocated to the Community Councils.
- In terms of board members, it was noted that these had been appointed at this time but it would eventually go to a public call.
- Clarification was provided that an odd number of directors will alleviate the need for “tie breaking”. This was a well-tested model that has proven effective.
- It was noted that there might be some development that they would not want to be involved and it was asked how this could be ensured. Mr. Madden noted that general direction could be provided by it could not be controlled by MNO. The Law could be amended over the years to reflect any change in direction.
- When concerns were raised about the trustee responsibility, Joanne Young provided some information on the strength of trustee relationships. She explained that this model had been used for years and she supported that.

Mr. Madden explained that this next special resolution gave them the ability to share aggregate information for different activities such as lobbying government for programs and services. President Lipinski stated that this was important so they were able to use Métis-specific data.

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES2015-002
Title:	AMEND MNO REGISTRY POLICY
Mover:	Gary Lipinski
Seconded:	France Picotte

WHEREAS the MNO has been engaged in collaborative research on Métis health with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), which has brought attention to Métis health priorities and has been used to secure resources to address Métis health needs and improve MNO service delivery and program development;

AND WHEREAS amendments to the MNO’s *Registry Policy* are required in order to address both ICES’ and the MNO’s privacy obligations and ensure that the research collaboration can continue;

AND WHEREAS the current *MNO Registry Policy* does not include a mechanism for appeal of the MNO Registrar’s reconsideration decision in relation to a Harvester’s Card;

AND WHEREAS the current *MNO Registry Policy* is no longer consistent with the *Policy on Conditions for Limitations that May Apply to MNO Citizens*, effective February 21, 2015;

AND WHEREAS the exact wording of the proposed changes to page 3 of the *MNO Registry Policy* ("*Independent and Confidential Registry*"), sections 3, 5, 39, and 41 of the *Registry Policy Guidelines*, and the proposed Appendix C are attached;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2015 MNO AGA adopts the changes to the *MNO Registry Policy* that are attached to this resolution.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPECRES2015-002)

Mr. O'Connor noted that this was a change to the Statement of Prime Purpose to recognize the historic alliances that have always existed. It is a reflection of the relationship building that needed to happen in fairness and partnership.

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES2015-003
Title:	AMEND THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO (MNO) STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE
Mover:	Lawrence O'Connor
Seconded:	Jennifer Henry

WHEREAS we state in the Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose that: *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;*

AND WHEREAS, consistent with this statement we declare as one of our aims and objectives: *to establish good relations with all Aboriginal peoples for the pursuit of our common interests and goals;*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this objective be amended to read: *to establish good relations and maintain our historic alliances with all Aboriginal peoples for the pursuit of our common interests and goals.*

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPECRES2015-003)

Questions and Discussion

- Youth Representative Case stated that the Youth Council had discussed this resolution and they were very supportive. The relationships have not always been positive but they should move to a stronger relationship respecting those historic alliances. It created a safer place for young Métis people in the communities.

Mr. O'Connor stated that he wanted to ensure that the effects on Mother Earth were discussed within the duty to consult process. This would strengthen their negotiation process.

Resolution #:	AGA-SPECRES2015-004
Title:	AMEND THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO (MNO) STATEMENT OF PRIME PURPOSE
Mover:	Lawrence O'Connor
Seconder:	Jennifer Henry

WHEREAS it is a value of the Métis people to respect and honour Mother Earth;

AND WHEREAS this value is contained the Statement of Prime Purpose as follows: *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 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;*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following text be added to the aims and objectives of the Métis Nation of Ontario: *to protect and preserve the lands and waters within our homelands for future generations.*

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-SPEC RES2015-004)

Questions and Discussion

- Youth Representative Case stated that the MNOYC also supported this resolution because they felt that with rights came responsibilities.

Chair Picotte stated that was the final special resolution, as one had not been accepted, as per Mr. Madden earlier explanation.

RECESS The Meeting recessed for a Health Break at 3:45 p.m. and resumed at 4:00 p.m.

11. FINANCIAL UPDATE

11.1 Treasurer's Update

Secretary-Treasurer Pile welcomed Senators, Elders, Métis leaders and citizens to Midland. He also referred delegates to the document being distributed entitled "Métis Nation of Ontario President's Statement" with attached financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2015. He stated that he was very pleased to report on the 2014-15 operating year noting that MNO had continued to stay on track with a good financial report. They have continued to significantly reduce their debt and increased their operating budget with additional service delivery activities. It was a difficult process of recovery and they had to thank the citizens for the support and patience. Of particular note, he mentioned, was the fact this audit showed that MNO had a surplus of \$561K and that meant that the value of what they owned exceeded what they owed to others. This was the first time they were "in the black". In conclusion, he stated that the MNO Finance Committee had reviewed the financial statements, it was accepted by the PCMNO and it was recommended the document for approval by Assembly.

11.2 Approval of the 2014-15 Audit (MNO Auditor)

Mr. Randy Tivy, Collins Barrow, reviewed the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2015.

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

That the 22nd Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario approved the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2015.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA15-04)

11.3 Appointment of the Auditor

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

That the 22nd Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario appoint the accounting firm of Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants as the MNO Auditors for the Year Ended March 31, 2016.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA15-05)

Secretary-Treasurer Pile stated that that he wanted to commend the work of the Regional Councilors for their assistance in gathering all the financial reports, the Finance Committee for their hard work and the MNO Director of Finance and her staff for all that they do.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNMENT

The 22nd Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 22 – 24, 2015 adjourned on Day 1 – August 22, 2015 at 4:32 p.m. and agreed to reconvene on Day 3 – August 23, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

DAY 2 – SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2015
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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

The 22nd Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 22-24, 2015 reconvened on Day 2 – August 23, 2015 at 8:51 a.m.

12. OPENING REMARKS

Chair Picotte and Vice-Chair McBride provided an overview of the previous day's activities and deliberations. Of special mention was the awarding of the Volunteer of the Year award the previous evening to Ernie Gatien.

13. MOVING THE METIS RIGHTS NATIONAL AGENDA FORWARD

Mr. Madden noted that he had a PowerPoint presentation but additional information could be found in the meeting kit. He would begin with a broader view and then focus on the province of Ontario. He explained that they looked at advancing the Métis rights agenda like a chessboard with several pieces, as it was a long process and they could not always see how the different pieces fit together. There were legal pieces but there was also a need for strong leadership and a unified approach from all the communities. There were legal wins but these needed to be consolidated by the citizens and the communities; the law set out the broad principles but these needed to come alive in the community. MNO was seen as a leader in this regard and he said that a key to their success had been their unified approach, even if they did not always agree. He described the three keys to advancing their agenda: pre-existing Métis rights (Powley);

outstanding Métis claims (MMF); and, Jurisdiction (Daniels). It was hoped that this would lead to reconciliation with the Métis in form of a land claim agreement or a treaty. Powley was not just about hunting, it was about recognition.

He said that it was good to go over the Powley case regularly, as it was important they all knew the details and sometimes there was a change over of local leadership or new people coming in. They had to keep educating people. They were all part of the Métis Nation and due to geography and other factors, ethnogenesis occurred and distinct communities arose. Canada was established and they settled in this country, they negotiated treaties with the First Nations while the Métis were dealt with at a policy level or on an ad hoc basis. But their rights had always co-existed with the First Nations.

The Cunningham case was about the Métis settlements and it set out what section 35 meant for the Métis. The Métis were seen as a distinct rights holding group, not a derivative of the First Nations. It was hard for the Métis to be seen as a community because they were not a collective on a certain land base but they were a collective and they have to be dealt with accordingly. The Powley case had made three important points – the Métis were not just mixed blood, they were a distinct people living in ongoing communities and those communities were here before Canada became Canada. There were certain geographic areas where the Métis arose and those were the fur trade routes in Ontario. The government of Canada could more easily see a First Nation community, a dot on a map, but the Métis were not subject to anything like the Indian Act. They referred to regional communities that included a number of locations.

He presented that harvesting agreement map; he explained it showed the areas that could similarly meet the Powley test but they needed an evidence-based discussion with Ontario to come to an agreement on a lot of these areas. MNO has always been about the credibility of their rights assertions; if the research did show a historical community, maybe it was not there. He stated that the harvesting agreement was not a rights assertion document but they wanted to turn it into one.

In terms of other regions, Mr. Madden showed a map of the harvesting area of the Métis in Manitoba and the MMF wanted to see this expanded. In Saskatchewan, there had been several cases and they had established a rights base assertion but the issue was negotiating with the province. In Alberta, the Hersikorn case was a mobility case and they had claimed that they had followed the buffalo across the homeland but the court did not agree that this was all one community and Cypress Hills was not a historical community because it was not a dot on a map. The province did not dispute that there were Métis rights bearing communities in the north but the challenge was southern Alberta. In the NWT, they have their harvesting rights recognized through an agreement and in a modern claim. In the east, all fourteen cases that have gone to court have been unsuccessful but the most recent case received an advance cost order, meaning that they got funding from the court to make their case. However, the research found that they could not support the existence of a historical community.

The MMF case was an outstanding land claim as outlined in section 31 of the Manitoba Act. The Métis ended up not getting any of these lands that were promised. There was a process for First Nations to deal with these types of broken promises and this was the specific claims, additions to reserves and the treaty land entitlement processes. And where there was no treaty, it could be dealt with in the comprehensive claims process. There were a number of outstanding

Métis claims that Canada had to deal with; north of 60, they have treaties with the Métis. In terms of the MMF case, they have waited thirty years for the decision and now they have to work on how that decision will be implemented.

13.1 Ontario

Mr. Madden stated that the MMF case was a similar issue that the MNO dealt with in Powley. There were a number of claims that have not been dealt with in Ontario as well including the Treaty #3 adhesion. The map of that adhesion included part of Couchiching First Nation. During the Robinson-Huron treaty negotiation, a promise was made to the Métis in the Sault Ste Marie area but when the land speculation started, the Métis never received those lands. They needed to identify where there were other outstanding claims in Ontario. There was some concern that the situation on NWT would become a precedent where Canada felt that the First Nation's permission was required in a Métis claims process.

13.2 Daniels Case

Mr. Madden noted that there was a summary in the meeting kit as well as the factum as presented by the MNC. The case addresses the issue of if the federal government has a responsibility for the Métis in the same way they do with the First Nations and the Inuit. This is where the term "Aboriginal" defines the three groups now, in the past the word was "Indian". He explained that it was not just about access to programs and services; they were looking at negotiating a new relationship with Canada through a modern land claim agreement. Winning a positive Daniels decision meant a new relationship.

13.3 International

Mr. Madden mentioned that support could be found with the United Nations special rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples. Also in the Eyford Report, where the Mr. Eyford was looking at the First Nations but he added that the Métis had to be dealt with as well. Mr. Tom Isaac was appointed the Ministerial Special Representative on Métis rights and his report was expected in early 2016 but he was expected to call on Canada to negotiate with the Métis on outstanding claims.

In July, the MNO signed a consultation framework agreement with Canada and he commended the work of the MNO in building a solid consultation system.

RECESS The Meeting recessed for a Health Break at 9:53 a.m. and resumed at 10:05 a.m.

13.4 Update on Provincial Initiatives

With regards to the MNO-MNR harvesting agreement, Mr. Madden explained that the 1250 cap would likely be in place a while longer by they have done more research and this will change. He explained that what was supposed to be an interim measure had been in place for The audit had always been the reason that the cap stayed in place because it was felt that the files needed to be verified and that was what they have been working on. He mentioned that the MNO and Ontario Working Group had reviewed the historic research and they needed lawyers in that process because the Powley test was a legal one. In some communities, this research existed while in others it had to be done. All the research that was done was available online. When they looked the facts in these areas, they did meet the Powley test and there were able to come to a common understanding in many areas.

He provided an overview of the areas they had looked at and the outcome of their discussions. He mentioned that when they looked at Abitibi Temiskaming there was significant movement and there were no Métis in the Moose Factory area anymore. South of French, they arrived late in this area but they were fighting for their country. There is a Métis population here and that was not questioned but the issue was effective control and they found that this was 1840-50. It did meet the Powley test but there was additional research needed to Parry Sound.

It saved money and time to come to a negotiated agreement with Ontario. Additional research was needed for Mattawa Nipissing and the MNO, Ontario and Canada worked together on that report and it was released in December 2015. He explained that unquestionably there was a community there and the history was focused on the Ottawa River. In the report, it showed the family connected to each other and they were not First Nations. This would support the fact that there was a distinct Métis community there and they were finalizing the assessments now. The Algonquins were not in agreement with these findings. In the past, they were never able to give harvesters cards for this area, but now they could.

They have come to an understanding in most areas now but, in terms of what was still outstanding, the north shore of Lake Huron and they were looking at the research now. They needed to still review the research for west of Lake Nipissing and additional research was needed in the Owen Sound area. They have begun discussions with the ADM Working Group on how the information was going to be released. They were looking at developing brochures for each region to tell the narrative along with providing maps.

There was a common understanding on those communities and if people were ancestrally connected to those, there would be no way to deny them their constitutional rights. He explained that they had to cancel some cards by now they were back up to 1250 with completed files. He said that he knew how difficult it was to get those files completed. He stated that they did not want to cap a constitutional right and a resolution would be presented at this AGA to deal with that situation. He was optimistic, he said, that they can come to a solution with Ontario; hard decisions had to be made in the past and now they could move forward with a credible system. He acknowledged the hard work of the Registry staff.

13.5 Ontario's Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Awareness Strategy

Mr. Madden said that information on the treaty strategy could be found in the meeting kits under tab#8. They did not have a treaty yet but this needed to include them. Minister Zimmer stated that it would. MNO had been collecting feedback about what kinds of activities they could undertake. He added that there was a map of First Nations there but the Métis were not on that map so they needed their own. It was suggested that they might hear in the next few months about some projects with the MNO.

13.6 Métis Nation of Ontario Act

A/COO Froh provided an overview of her PowerPoint presentation on the proposed MNO Act. She explained that when the MNO came together, they made the decision to form a Nation of people, not individual communities. This was the starting point of all the work that they were doing and they were continually referencing the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose. They have used the legal tools available to organize themselves keeping the vision of the collective, the Nation. The Corporations Act in Ontario was problematic; it was an obstacle to their system of

governance and their processes. They were 29 community councils but they were one Nation. Several resolutions have come up in the past speaking to the need for special legislation recognizing their governance system.

There has been a lot of work happening on this for staff and leadership and now they had the news from Minister Zimmer, Ontario was working on this. It was proposed that this legislative solution was to create their own processes and structures and their Community Councils could be legally recognized at subsidiaries of the MNO. This was a major step forward for the MNO and this type of legislation was very rare and it tied in nicely with their Métis rights agenda. Until they had a treaty or a self-government agreement, this was a useful half measure to move forward with. She explained that they would not have role in drafting the legislation, as there were strict parliamentary protocols and it was confidential at this point.

Questions and Comments

- There was question raised on what the significance was of legislation as opposed to a memorandum or understanding or a framework agreement. A/COO Froh stated that this would move this from the policy realm into law. The government was committed to making this happen and the other parties would support it.
- There was a question for Mr. Madden regarding the Mattawa Nipissing report and if they had looked at the areas in the northwest. Mr. Madden mentioned that when they had started this, they had assumed that these areas were together but in fact there were two narratives; a Great Lakes narrative involving the upper north Huron and the east-west narrative around the Ottawa River. The research showed more of tie between the east side of Lake Nipissing and the Killarney area. He said that based on existing research, there was a gap there.
- With regards to the Treaty Strategy, it was felt that the Veterans activities should be part of this. President Lipinski explained that this process was attempting to build awareness around treaties in the province and it was noted that they encouraged Ontario to make the Métis part of that process. The MNO had put forth a list of activities that could be undertaken. Mr. Madden mentioned that this list of activities was preliminary and not an exhaustive list and he recommended that anyone who wanted to add to this list of tasks should contact Joanne Meyer.
- There was a question raised to A/COO Froh if there were funds to have community consultations on the proposed legislation, as this should not be part of the NRF. A/COO Froh stated that they had not addressed that at this point and Mr. Madden added that they were building a framework to begin that discussion. The implementation of the legislation will be key and it will take some time to set up a pathway for that.
- In terms of harvesting, a question was raised if Mr. Madden was referring to this September in his presentation and if they were going ahead without the third party audit. Mr. Madden stated that they had gone through and cancelled the cards where files were not complete and now Ontario agreed which were rights bearing communities, their view was they could proceed.
- It was suggested that they need to work on ensuring that the structures in the Ontario government were aware of their plans for the legislation so the conversation could be framed around their own principles and consultation processes. Mr. Madden noted that a resolution would be brought forward the following day asking the Community Councils to confirm this plan and maybe other groups would claim to represent the Métis and the First

Nations might not agree but the MNO could not do too much right now before the legislation was written.

- There was an explanation provided on the NWT Métis land claim and how the First Nations were trying to stop it. A question was raised on if this issue would be alleviated by the proposed legislation and Mr. Madden stated that this proposed legislation would not deal with that issue; it would be helpful in supporting their governance working in order to deal with these issues when they come up.
- There was a question raised on how these advances would affect the mobility of their rights and Mr. Madden noted that he thought it would but they could not change the lines on their map right now. He added that it was not just about the harvesting cards; they needed to sit down and negotiate a permanent harvesting agreement.

14. UPDATES

14.1 MNO Senators

Executive Senator Reta Gordon mentioned that she had the privilege of meeting with the Senators of their Nation. She provided an update on how many senators there were and which Councils did not have a Senator at the moment. She said that she was humbled to be in their presence and she noted that when they took stock of what has happened in the last year and last 22 years, it was the Senators that kept them on track. They had to remain flexible as they moved forward and chose their battles carefully. She was happy to be part of the successes that have been accomplished and she applauded the Senators for their work. She said that they had six new Senators and three of them were at this AGA; Senators were the keepers of the traditional knowledge. They were busy with activities. She encouraged everyone to talk with them and through that they could pass on their knowledge.

14.2 MNO Veterans Council

President Joe Paquette wished the delegates a good morning and asked the Veterans Council members to stand and be acknowledged. He mentioned that that he was excited to mention that the book that the Veterans had wanted to develop was now a reality. They launched the book the previous day and the focus of the book was those veterans who came before and those who never came home. He thanked the Council and the people who provided information, stories and pictures. He also acknowledged that some veterans were not able to contribute, as they still did not talk about their experiences. He thanked the sponsors of the book including Ontario Power Generation, Nuclear Waste Management Organization and Hydro One. He also thanked the MNO Communications branch for their assistance and Hank Rowlinson for his support and guidance.

He said that the Veterans Council members attend a number of events throughout the year and he mentioned that they were working on fundraising to go to Vimy Ridge in 2017.

14.3 Women's Secretariat of the MNO

Vice-Chair McBride mentioned that they had lost one of their members this year, Barbaranne Wright, and they were struggling with that and thinking about how they could commemorate her life. She was very supportive of the Veterans and the Youth and maybe they could do something around that for her commemoration.

She mentioned that she was honoured to chair one of their meetings, which included an election process, out west. This meeting had many women and youth and she thought it was important to make those links with the younger women. She attended the 4th Aboriginal Women's Summit in Cape Breton, where they discussed important topics like violence against women.

A comment from the floor was that they needed to find a way to remember those who have passed since the last AGA and it was suggested that they could have a moment of silence. Chair Picotte suggested they could do that the following morning before the closing of the AGA.

14.4 MNO Youth Council

Youth Representative Mitch Case thanked the Chair and the Assembly for this time to report on the activities of the MNOYC and the Community Council youth representatives. Members of the MNOYC speak at different events throughout the year and it was important that their voices are heard at the community event. He provided a brief overview of the Infinite Reach program stating that, since 2011, there have been 85 Infinite Reach facilitators in 27 schools.

Several MNOYC members have provided cultural competency training in different municipalities and they have also been involved in the 4R Movement, which grew out of the TRC process. There would be a resolution on that at this AGA. Vice-Chair McBride had mentioned that some young women from the MNOYC had attended the session out west and it was a good experience for them. Members have also been involved in the Walking with Our Sisters activities and the bundle would arrive in Ottawa the following day. Several youth were also travelling to Serpent River First Nation to participate in activities organized by Kristi Belcourt with regards to their historical relationship with the First Nations. The youth in Toronto have received a grant for youth and elders to work together in that community.

He reminded the delegates to check out the Trade Show as the youth had a table there where they were selling their crafts to raise money. When they had the idea, they had many youth come forward to participate in that and they had a sponsor to pay for the table.

He also said that this was the last Assembly before the election and he encouraged the young people to get involved. He thanked the Assembly for always showing support and encouraging the youth.

Alex Young wanted to express his appreciation to Youth Representative Case for his hard work and his humility. He also mentioned that he was still looking for an update on the youth communications resolution from last year. Associate Chief Operating Officer Margaret Froh responded that the MNO had been working on a strategy to advantage of the communication opportunities on social media and they had to look into security and privacy concerns. The MNOET has used social media to some degree for reaching out to youth and they were actively working to address that. She welcomed a follow up conversation with him, if required.

Chair Picotte mentioned that in terms of remembering those they have lost over the last year, Vice-Chair McBride would put together a list and she asked that the names were provided to her. The following morning they would read out their names followed by a moment of silence.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNMENT

The 22nd Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 22 – 24, 2015 adjourned on Day 2 – August 23, 2015 at 11:48 a.m. and agreed to reconvene on Day 3 – August 24, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

DAY 3 – MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2015
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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

The 22nd Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 22-24, 2015 reconvened on Day 3 – August 24, 2015 at 8:37 a.m. The colours were retired by the Veterans.

15. OPENING REMARKS

Chair Picotte and Vice-Chair McBride provided an overview of the previous day's activities and deliberations. They read out the names of the people from the Nation that passed on and a moment of silence was given. The song "Amazing Grace" was sung led by Senator Porter-Brunelle.

16. BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR MÉTIS PROSPERITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Mr. Madden presented an overview of his PowerPoint presentation entitled "Building a Foundation for Metis Prosperity and Self Sufficiency". He explained that MNO had a process where they met a challenge, developed a plan and worked that plan in a strategic way and he gave the process for duty to consult as an example. Economic development was a challenge for the MNO, based on past action and not having a cohesive strategy in place. A strategy document was developed and approved by the Assembly and they were in the process of putting the MNO's financial house in order. They had to stabilize the MNO financially with addressing government audits, putting a debt repayment plan in place and dealing with cash flow issues, if they expected anyone to do business with them.

In 2011, that negative financial situation started to turn around with the decision on the MVDF, which became operational in 2012, which was a key tool in their role as a government. It took a while to incubate the MVDF but they were able to support the small business of their citizens in a flexible way operating at arms-length from the MNO. Now, in three years, the MVDF has provided \$7.2M in loans to 23 Metis businesses operating in different areas of the province. They have also assisted businesses in leveraging another \$8M, \$1M in grants to assist Metis business in developing business plans or to promote their business and they have create d 81 full time jobs. Now, they have added another \$2.5M from Ontario and it was not limited to the resource sector.

An evaluation of MVDF was undertaken by Goss Gilroy and it is reported that the MDVF is well managed and operated. Due to their effectiveness, Goss Gilroy recommended that their mandate should be expanded to include all business sectors. There are discussions going on now to work on that. They were also lobbying the federal government to match the provincial funds, as they have done in other regions of Canada. That was the first step and the next was the development of the MNO's business arm.

There was new approach to pursue community based economic development opportunities and partnerships were identified. Previously they had tried development corporations, which was

not successful and could be liability. He provided an overview of how other governments set this up, separating the business side from the government. This separation was a key to success. In 2013, the MNO Prosperity and Self Sufficiency Law was passed and it set out the structure of the MNO 's business arm. Mr. Patles Richardson was hired and normally he would be given some money to work with but the MNO did not have the funds yet. An independent board was set up in 2015 and their existing business interests, such as their solar projects, would be moving under Infinity. Currently they were working on some new initiatives such as the large renewable projects call for proposals.

In May 2015, Infinity won its first contract that was partnership with a company to construct temporary buildings for New Gold's Rainy River Mine Project. Communities could bring additional ideas for Infinity to assess. He clarified that individually owned business were not affected by this, this was referencing community-based businesses. They still need to deal with how funding would be allocated to those communities who bring in ideas that work out but the law stated that funds should be allocated to those communities in geographic proximity. The PCMNO was dealing with the details of this now and it will have to be ratified at an upcoming AGA. He said that he hoped to report on more successes at upcoming AGAs.

17. NON- SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2015-006
Title:	MNO HARVESTER CARDS
Mover:	Nelson Montreuil
Seconder:	Kim Powley

WHEREAS the advancement of Métis rights is the utmost priority for the MNO;

AND WHEREAS the 2004 MNO-MNR Harvesting Agreement always contemplated the MNO and Ontario working together to increase the 1250 cap on Harvester Card allowable under the interim arrangement and for the eventual negotiation of a longer term, rights-recognition agreement;

AND WHEREAS through the MNO-ADM Working Group process the MNO and Ontario have reached common understandings with respect to historic Métis communities in all of the harvesting areas that the MNO now issues Harvester Cards in;

AND WHEREAS MNO has now undergone an internal assessment of all Harvester Cards that has cancelled all incomplete Harvester Card files;

AND WHEREAS the MNO is now close to issuing its 1250th Harvesters Card;

AND WHEREAS constitutionally-protected Métis rights cannot be capped;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the MNO's leadership be directed to commence immediate negotiations with the MNR to have the number of MNO Harvester Cards under the MNO-MNR agreement increased and to move quickly on completing the independent review contemplated in the MNO-MNR agreement so there will be no future cap on MNO Harvester Cards;

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2. If a negotiated arrangement with the MNR cannot be reached by the end of September 2015 that the MNO be directed to begin issuing Harvester Cards over the allowable 1250 number for valid Harvester Cards holders and the MNO will defend these harvesters in court if they are charged by MNR;
 3. The MNO leadership be directed to attempt to secure a formal negotiations process with the MNR in order to arrive at a longer-term, rights recognition agreement.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2015-006)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2015-007
Title:	PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION RECOGNIZING THE MNO
Mover:	Mitch Case
Seconder:	Jo Anne Young

WHEREAS past MNO AGAs have called for the MNO's leadership to work with the Ontario Government to secure legislation that recognizes and respects the MNO's unique governance structure;

AND WHEREAS the MNO's leadership and legal counsel have presented the MNO AGA on the progress that has been made on this issue as well as the proposals being considered;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the 2015 MNO AGA fully endorses the MNO moving forward on securing provincial legislation that recognizes and respects the MNO's unique governance structure;
2. That, when it is strategic, all of the MNO's governance structures at the local, regional and provincial levels will provide letters of support to the provincial government and opposition parties in an attempt to secure unanimous support within the legislature for this historic legislation.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2015-007)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2015-008
Title:	PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND RAILWAY SAFETY
Mover:	Thomas A. Thompson
Seconder:	Brady Hupet

WHEREAS the protection of the environment is an obligation the MNO owes to future generations;

AND WHEREAS many railways carry hazardous or dangerous materials if spilt and are in close proximity to Métis communities that rely on their territories for food as well as spiritual and cultural well-being;

AND WHEREAS the MNO is increasingly concerned that there are insufficient environmental and safety protections in place in relation to railway transportation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the MNO's leadership be directed to write to other levels of government to raise these concerns;
2. That the MNO's Land, Resources and Consultation branch be directed to look at this issue with a view to identifying opportunities on how the MNO can influence railway transportation policies and regulation as well as play an increased role on these issues.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2015-008)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2015-009
Title:	MÉTIS LAND CLAIMS
Mover:	Gary Lipinski
Seconders:	Kim Powley

WHEREAS the advancement of Métis rights is the upmost priority for the MNO;

AND WHEREAS the MNO has repeatedly called on the federal government to establish a Métis claims policies or include the Métis in the existing federal claims policies;

AND WHEREAS the Akaicho First Nations in the Northwest Territories have challenged the federal government's ability to enter into a modern day land claim with the Northwest Territories Métis Nation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the MNO AGA renew its call for the federal government to finally begin dealing with outstanding Métis claims in Ontario through the negotiation of modern day land claims or treaties;
2. That the MNO's legal counsel be directed to investigate the ongoing litigation in the Northwest Territories for potential negative implications for Ontario Métis and the rest of the Métis Nation and report to the PCMNO on options to protect and advance Métis rights.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2015-009)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2015-010
Title:	HYDRO ONE SALE
Mover:	Marcel Lafrance
Seconders:	Kim Powley

WHEREAS energy development in Ontario has a legacy of damage to the rights, territories and way of life of Ontario Métis;

AND WHEREAS, through the innovative and progressive policies of the Ontario government over the last decade, new relationships and partnerships has begun to be developed between Hydro One and Métis communities;

AND WHEREAS there remains a legacy of outstanding Métis claims that have not been addressed by Hydro One in relation to past transmission development;

AND WHEREAS through the sale of Hydro One the MNO is concerned that the Ontario government will divest itself of the ability to effectively address these outstanding claims as well as to ensure that Hydro One continues to be mandated and available to advance partnerships with Aboriginal communities that advance reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS the MNO asserts that these factors trigger the Ontario government's duty to consult the MNO on the sale of Hydro One;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the MNO President be directed to write to the Ontario government on this issue with a view to establishing a consultation and potentially a negotiations process with the province to ensure that the rights, interests and claims of Ontario Métis communities are protected and addressed in any sale of Hydro One.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2015-010)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2015-011
Title:	FRENCH LANGUAGE
Mover:	Brianne Gosselin
Seconded:	Verna Porter-Brunelle

WHEREAS all resources and the MNO Website must be translated in both French and English as they are important material and have great content for MNO citizens as well as raise Métis awareness in the general public;

AND WHEREAS the French language is an important part of our Métis heritage and identity for our citizens.

AND WHEREAS the MNO is effectively excluding entire francophone community by providing its material only in English.

AND WHEREAS the MNO appears to be devaluing francophone culture and heritage by not actively including francophone communities.

AND WHEREAS by not actively including francophone communities MNO is implicitly promoting the loss of the French language for our future generations of Ontario Métis.

AND WHEREAS not having access to French resources is a form of oppression for the non-English speakers.

AND WHEREAS the MNO should treat both languages equally and respect their citizen's mother tongue as stated in the Statement of Prime Purpose aims and objective to promote languages of the Métis Nation and to create an awareness of our proud heritage.

AND WHEREAS the MNO receives funding for publications that does not state that materials that produced must be exclusively in English.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO should develop a strategy on this issue to be brought back to the next MNO AGA for a policy on publication of MNO materials in French.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2015-011)

It was noted that there was a great need for resources in French and there was some discussion on simultaneous translation. Chair Picotte stated that the resolution (AGA-RES2015-011) called for the development a strategy and there were a number of factors to consider. There will be an ongoing discussion before a decision was made on how they would proceed.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2015-012
Title:	MNO RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL RECONCILIATION STRATEGY
Mover:	Mitch Case
Seconded:	Kelly Duquette

WHEREAS the Residential school system represents an attempt by Canada to erase indigenous people from existence as distinct peoples;

AND WHEREAS although the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and the Truth and Reconciliation mandate largely excluded Métis from the TRC process, the legacy of Residential Schools has impacted and affected the Métis Nation and continues to affect our people;

AND WHEREAS the process of reconciliation is going to take multiple generations for Indigenous peoples and Canada to reach a place of respect;

AND WHEREAS, by and large, Métis Youth understand the need for reconciliation, and it will be Métis Youth who will do the “heavy lifting” of reconciliation moving forward;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO AGA 2015 direct the PCMNO and MNO administration to work with Ontario in order to ensure that Métis are included in any initiatives that Ontario undertakes as a result of the renewed effort to move towards reconciliation as a result of the recent release of the TRC summary report; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MNO actively engage youth via the MNOYC in any reconciliation related programs or partnerships.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2015-012)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2015-013
Title:	SUPPORT THE 4RS YOUTH MOVEMENT
Mover:	Mitch Case
Seconded:	Brianne Gosselin

WHEREAS the goals of reconciliation between indigenous and non Indigenous communities in the land that is now known as Canada is the most pressing social issue of our time.

AND WHEREAS as the reconciliation process moves forward it will take all people to come together to achieve the goals of reconciliation.

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation is often forgotten in the larger scheme of “aboriginal programs” and by participating in these things we can do something about that....

AND WHEREAS the Goals of reconciliation are not only about understanding our collective past, but also preparing for a better, more productive and respectful future it is important that young people be prepared to and allowed to take on leadership roles in the reconciliation journey.

AND WHEREAS youth from the MNOYC have participated in 4Rs events in the past and seen the benefits of this initiative.

AND WHEREAS the National youth serving organizations and the 5 national aboriginal organizations have come together to establish a framework for allowing Indigenous and non Indigenous youth to come together and work towards reconciliation, this structure is known as the 4Rs Youth Movement.

AND WHEREAS the Métis National Council Via the Métis Nation - British Columbia represents the Métis Nation on this important initiative.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2015 MNO AGA endorse the 4Rs Youth Movement as a vehicle for advancing the goal of Reconciliation.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MNOYC President send a letter of commendation to 4Rs steering committee and board of directors expressing the appreciation of the MNO for the work they are doing to create an environment of reconciliation that is truly inclusive of and respectful to Métis people and our unique history and culture.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2015-013)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2015-014
Title:	COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON MNO ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE CHART
Mover:	Anita Tucker
Seconder:	Jennifer Parkinson

WHEREAS the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose states that its guiding principles are to:

- Establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government;
- Encourage the full participation of all Métis in the Métis Nation;
- To promote and foster community development;

AND WHEREAS Section 1 of the MNO Secretariat Bylaws states ‘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 Captain of the Hunt, the Veterans Council, the Women’s Secretariat of the MNO and the Youth Council.’;

AND WHEREAS an organizational chart is the most common visual depiction of how an organization is structured and outlines the roles, responsibilities and relationships between individuals and structures within an organization;

AND WHEREAS Community Council operate in accordance with MNO Charter Agreements, which give councils the mandate to govern, while ensuring accountability, transparency, and consistency within the MNO;

AND WHEREAS MNO citizens are represented at the local level through MNO Chartered Community Councils;

AND WHEREAS Community Councils are the cornerstone of a strong foundation for the MNO in its push towards its inherent right to self-government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the MNO put Chartered Community Councils on the Métis Nation of Ontario Organizational Structure Chart.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2015-014)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2015-015
Title:	FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING IN ONTARIO AND ITS EFFECT ON THE CITIZENS OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
Mover:	Ernie Gatien
Seconder:	Peter Rivers

WHEREAS the integrity of the Lands and Waters are of ultimate importance to the Métis Nation of Ontario Citizens and for their future generations;

AND WHEREAS the Forest Management Planning process, as practiced by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, has jurisdiction over All Crown lands in the Province of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS many community Councils and citizens have witnessed impacts to their way of life and proper forest management is necessary for the protection of not only our forests, but our way of life;

AND WHEREAS there are literally thousands of roads and water crossings each year are being constructed throughout the homeland without the Métis Nation of Ontario’s input or consultation;

AND WHEREAS it has been made evident by virtue of many Métis Nation of Ontario Chartered Community Councils that have made registered motions to support Lands Resources and Consultation in moving forward with the Forestry agenda and move the forestry priority to top or near top of its priorities;

AND WHEREAS we realize that the forestry agenda does not generate any significant monetary return to the Métis Nation of Ontario but that is not the driving force of our Métis culture;

AND WHEREAS the continued integrity and maintenance of the Land and Waters for future generations of the Métis people is being disregarded as forest harvesting proceeds;

AND WHEREAS Forest Management Planning is and has been proceeding in most cases on all of these lands in Ontario without the participation of the Métis Nation of Ontario and its citizens' rights and interests in mind;

AND WHEREAS there has not been any True consultation has taken place in these Forest Management Plans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Ontario by means of its Lands and Resources Branch have the appropriate numbers of staffing put in place (where funds are available) to deal effectively with these outstanding issues before the next General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario in 2016.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2015-015)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2015-016
Title:	TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION IMPLEMENTATION
Mover:	Mitch Case
Seconder:	Kenneth Smale

WHEREAS after 6 years the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has concluded their comprehensive study of Canada's genocidal experiment known as the Residential School System.

AND WHEREAS the Summary report has been released and the full report is due to be released later this year.

AND WHEREAS the summary report contained 94 recommendations for Canada, the Provinces, Municipalities, Industry and Media on how to reconcile between Indigenous and settler communities.

AND WHEREAS although the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and the Truth and Reconciliation mandate largely excluded Métis from the TRC process, the legacy of Residential Schools has impacted and affected the Métis Nation and continues to affect our people.

AND WHEREAS the process of reconciliation is going to take multiple generations for Indigenous peoples and Canada to reach a place of respect.

AND WHEREAS by and large, Métis Youth understand the need for reconciliation, and it will be Métis Youth who will do the "heavy lifting" of reconciliation moving forward.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO AGA 2015 call on all levels of Government in Ontario and Canada to act to implement the 94 recommendations of the TRC;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MNO President write a letter to The Premier of Ontario and the Prime Minister (after the fall election) to demand that any steps toward implementation include Métis Individuals, families and communities;

AND FINALLY BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED MNO actively engage youth via the MNOYC in any reconciliation related programs or partnerships.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2015-016)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2015-017
Title:	COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL
Mover:	Anita Tucker
Seconded:	Jennifer Parkinson

WHEREAS the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose states that its guiding principles are to:

- Encourage the full participation of all Métis in the Métis Nation;
- Promote and foster community development;
- Provide care and support necessary to meet the fundamental needs of citizens of the Métis Nation; and
- Establish means of communication for the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS MNO citizens are represented at the local level through MNO Chartered Community Councils;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the MNO develop a “Community Relations Communication Protocol” using the LRC – Community Relations team as the liaison between the MNO branches, MNO staff, MNO Regional Councilors, MNO Community Councils, MNO Veterans, MNO Senators, MNO Captains of the Hunt, MNO Women Secretariat and the MNO Youth Council to ensure advanced communication regarding engagements, consultations, gatherings, MNO branch events, etc. happening in their regions and communities to ensure full representation and participation from MNO citizens.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2015-017)

A friendly amendment was suggested to include the Captains of the Hunt in this resolution (AGA-RES2015-017) and this was accepted by the mover and the seconder.

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2015-018
Title:	SUPPORT A MÉTIS YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
Mover:	Mitch Case
Seconder:	Kelly Duquette

WHEREAS the MNO has always put youth as a top priority.

AND WHEREAS the future of the Métis Nation depends on a strong and healthy youth population who are engaged and involved in the nation and have the necessary skills to carry on the legacy of the Métis Nation.

AND WHEREAS most if not all other provincial aboriginal organizations already have an annual provincial youth conference.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MNO seek funding to support a Métis youth leadership conference;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MNOYC be engaged in and direct the process of planning the content of the conference;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the conference be geared towards building leadership capacity, culture, skills development;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the conference should be aimed at being an annual event; and,

AND FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the community councils be called upon to sponsor youth where possible.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2015-018)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2015-019
Title:	ETHICAL INVESTMENT
Mover:	Mitch Case
Seconder:	Ernie Gatien

WHEREAS the Métis Nation was born from the land on which we now call he homeland

AND WHEREAS as Indigenous people we have a special relationship with the land

AND WHEREAS: our land has always provided for our people, even in the darkest times of colonization and loss of land.

AND WHEREAS we as Métis people have rights which stem from our indigenous connection to land and our prior use of and connection to land prior to “effective control.” While these rights are enshrined in Canadian law, our customary law of the Métis Nation emphasize not only our rights, but our responsibilities, to land.

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario has established Infinity Investments to facilitate the MNO to benefit from our rights and land.

AND WHEREAS climate change, caused by human activity and carbon emissions is the biggest threat humanity has ever faced, and

AND WHEREAS to deny the science behind Climate Change is unethical and is becoming a more well known issue for humanity to deal with.

AND WHEREAS many Canadian universities and other organizations and institutions are divesting themselves of heavy carbon emitting investments.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2015 MNO AGA direct the PCMNO to work with MNO legal counsel to develop a policy to direct Métis Infinity Investments on what types of investments we find to be socially and environmentally responsible. This is not intended to bind Infinity from doing their job or generating profit but it is intended to create guidelines of the types of industry that simply do not fit with our Métis Worldview. For Greater certainty, the goal of this resolution is limit MNO investments from investing in heavy carbon emitting industries.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2015-019)

Resolution #:	AGA-RES2015-020
Title:	COMMUNITY MÉTIS SPORT AND GAME INITIATIVE
Mover:	Anita Tucker
Seconded:	Jennifer Henry-Nicholson

WHEREAS the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose states that its guiding principles are to:

- To promote the history, values, culture, languages and traditions of the Métis Nation and to create an awareness of our proud heritage;
- Promote and foster community development; and
- To promote the improved health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community;

AND WHEREAS sport has been shown to play a primarily positive role in youth development, including improved academic achievement, greater confidence and self-esteem, stronger peer relationships and family attachment, fewer behavioural problems, better psychosocial development and greater involvement in volunteer work;

AND WHEREAS the playing of sports has repeatedly been shown to improve critical components of positive youth development such as competence, confidence, connections, character, and caring;

AND WHEREAS sports provide lifelong skills for those that play, such as the discipline of training, learning teamwork, following the leadership of coaches and captains, and learning to lose;

AND WHEREAS the MNO is committed to improving the health of all its citizens by encouraging healthy weights, active living and culturally appropriate interventions to achieve these goals;

AND WHEREAS a growing body of research points to community sport's fundamental role as a primary generator of social capital within communities including improved social inclusion, crime prevention, fostering economic development and environmental sustainability;

AND WHEREAS sport and traditional Métis Voyageur games have always been a significant community activity for the Métis people;

AND WHEREAS MNO citizens are represented at the local level through MNO Chartered Community Councils;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO develop a strategy to foster, develop and initiated both organized and traditional sport at the community and regional levels within the province of Ontario.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA-RES2015-020)

Chair Picotte stated that this was the end of the non-special business resolutions and she thanked Pauline Richardson and the entire Resolutions Committee.

18. CLOSING REMARKS

President Lipinski thanked that Chair and the Vice-Chair for their hard work and reminded the delegates the following the closing of this AGA, they would on continue on with the AGAs for the MNOCC and MNODC. He stated that this was a great AGA and he felt proud when he listened to the resolutions put forward. The quality of those resolutions and the focus on forward thinking and nation building was excellent. They were in a very good place and they were building their own revenue streams to support the work they wanted to do. They had to focus on their business and in the near future they would see the results of their hard work. They would be able to focus on governance and the needs of their people when they had their own funds to support that.

The MNO had strategically started to collect their own historical research and traditional knowledge studies and they were moving ahead with the plans. There were big steps to be taken and they would do it in a way that was respectful of First Nations and the treaties but Métis rights needed to be respected too. Those discussions were happening now and they have started building those nation-to-nation agreements with First Nations and they were looking at addressing the 1250 cap. He had good discussions with the Council Presidents on the Métis culture possibilities with the funding from NWMO. Sharing that culture and building that up in their youth, their future looked bright. It was important that they supported and encouraged each other to meet their goals.

They have built and are building a strong foundation, a strong position to advance their positions and the funds they would raise were a tool to be used to achieve their objectives. He thanked Region #7 and the Councils for putting hosting a great event in their friendly and beautiful community. Next year, they will go to North Bay. He expressed thanks to all their families, without them, the leaders could not work they way they needed to. He expressed particular thanks to his wife, Diane, for always supporting him. It was a great AGA and working together there was nothing that they could not achieve. They would aim high and with their support, their children and youth could achieve all their goals. He wished them safe travels.

ADJOURNMENT

The 22nd Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 22 – 24, 2015 concluded on Day 3 – August 24, 2015 at 10:36 a.m. Executive Senator Reta Gordon closed the AGA with a prayer.