

Minutes of the 24th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 19 – 21, 2017, at the Kenora Recreation Centre, 18 Mike Richards Way, Kenora, Ontario, prepared by Carol Lee, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

The order of the Agenda was varied throughout the 24th Annual General Assembly. Items are presented in these Minutes in the order in which they were considered and are numbered sequentially.

DAY ONE – AUGUST 19, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

A/Chair Sharon Cadeau called the 24th Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to order at 8:45 a.m.

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

The 24th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario commenced with the Flag Party, Grand Entry and Procession of Métis Veterans; Senators; members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), MNO Women's Council (MNOWC) and MNO Youth Council (MNOYC); and dignitaries.

Kenora Métis Council Senator Karen Cedarwall offered an Opening Prayer.

A/Chair Cadeau welcomed all to Kenora and introduced A/Vice-Chair Joseph Poitras.

A/Vice-Chair Poitras introduced the members of the PCMNO and MNO senior staff.

Kelly Duquette, the artist who created the artwork that will be presented as gifts during the 2017 AGA, provided commentary on the process and symbolism of the process utilized to create the print.

2. OPENING REMARKS

Reference Material:

- *Greetings from President Margaret Froh*
- *Greetings from MNO Chair France Picotte*
- *Greetings from MNO Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau.*

A/President France Picotte introduced Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund, who has worked tirelessly in organizing the 2017 AGA.

Region 1 Councillor Stenlund welcomed all delegates to Kenora and expressed the honour of the Region 1 Council in hosting the 2017 AGA. The 2017 AGA delegates recognized the four Presidents of the Community Councils, Captain of the Hunt and Métis Youth Representative of Region 1.

Kenora Métis Council President Joel Henley and Captain of the Hunt Sandy Triskle welcomed the 2017 AGA delegates to Kenora and urged the delegates to explore the area during their stay. Mr. Henley thanked the volunteers who contributed to the organization of the 2017 AGA.

3. WELCOMING REMARKS FROM DIGNITARIES AND GUESTS

3.1 Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Minister Zimmer expressed gratitude for being invited to participate in the 2017 AGA.

Minister Zimmer commented that the willingness of Premier Kathleen Wynne to join the Canoe Expedition demonstrates the sincere efforts of the Province to build a solid relationship with the MNO. Ontario will be a partner to the MNO as it works toward building a renewed relationship with Canada.

Minister Zimmer introduced a video greeting from Premier Wynne congratulating the youth upon completing the Canoe Expedition from Ottawa to Kenora. She noted that her participation in the Canoe Expedition provided an opportunity for her to learn more about Métis history, culture and life.

Premier Wynne committed to working with the MNO to advance reconciliation and to improve the lives of Métis and all Indigenous peoples.

3.2 Honourable Robert Nault, Member of Parliament (MP) (Kenora)

MP Nault noted his Métis roots and expressed his honour at being invited to participate in the 2017 AGA. MP Nault commented on the federal and local participation in the 2017 AGA.

MP Nault remarked upon his excitement at witnessing the arrival of the canoes at Anicinabe Park the previous evening. MP Nault commended Premier Wynne for taking four full days from her busy schedule to participate in the Canoe Expedition and to engage with Métis youth during that time.

MP Nault noted the sincere commitment of the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), to Indigenous peoples.

On behalf of the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, MP Nault announced funding of \$2.2 million to the MNO from the Skills and Partnership Fund for up to 72 Métis citizens to obtain critical skills and experience leading to employment in the energy sector.

3.3 Patrick Brown, Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP), Leader of the Conservative Party, Ontario

Region 7 Councilor Pauline Richardson read aloud a letter from MPP Brown.

3.4 Michael Gravelle, MPP (Thunder Bay—Superior North)

Region 2 Councilor Cameron Burgess read aloud a letter from MPP Gravelle.

3.5 Andrew Scheer, MP, Federal Leader of the Conservative Party, Leader of the Opposition

Region 9 Councilor Peter Rivers read aloud a letter from MP Scheer,

3.6 Clément Chartier, President, Métis National Council (MNC)

MNC President Chartier noted the events that led to the founding of the MNO in 1993 and the tremendous progress in the ability of the MNO to provide programs and services to its people.

MNC President Chartier commented on the positive improvements in the relationships with the governments of Canada and Ontario and potential to improve the lives of the Métis people. The Prime Minister has expressed and demonstrated his commitment to work with Indigenous peoples on a nation-to-nation basis.

The inherent Indigenous governments have insisted that recognition and nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationships between the Crown and the Métis Nation, First Nations and Inuit be a founding principle of the intergovernmental process. In accordance with this principle, the Métis Nation as represented by the MNC, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (IKT) elected not to participate in the July 17, 2017 meeting with the Premiers, as Aboriginal organizations were also invited participants. MNC President Chartier emphasized that the MNC and the Governing Members are governments, not organizations, and the Métis Nation should be clear and consistent in their insistence that they be treated as such.

The Prime Minister announced a Permanent Bilateral Mechanism with the three Indigenous governments in December 2016. The first Métis Nation – Crown Summit was held on April 13, 2017 and will occur on an annual basis in the future. In addition, there will be regular meetings between MNC and Federal Government officials to work on the priority areas identified in the Canada – Métis Nation Accord (Accord) that was signed at the first Métis Nation – Crown Summit. The expectation is that the Supreme Court of Canada *Daniels* decision will be implemented through the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism.

The first meeting of the Ministers responsible for the priority areas identified in the Accord will be held at the end of September 2017, at which time, it is hoped that a commitment will be received for Métis-specific funding in Budget 2018. It was disappointing that Budget 2016 and 2017 provided little in the way of Métis-specific funding, beyond that provided to strengthen the governance mechanisms of the Métis Nation.

MNC President Chartier reported that the Métis Nation has called upon Canada to recognize Métis Veterans who served in World War II and to settle with the survivors of the Métis residential schools in order to achieve true reconciliation between Canada and the Métis Nation.

4. YEAR IN REVIEW

The AGA viewed a video of MNO highlights from the previous year.

5. STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

A/President Picotte welcomed all delegates to the 24th AGA and sent best wishes to President Margaret Froh for a speedy recovery. A/President Picotte acknowledged the efforts of: MNOWC; MNOYC; Senators; PCMNO; Captains of the Hunt; and Regional and Community Councils. A/President Picotte expressed appreciation to the dignitaries and the MNO citizens for their participation in the 2017 AGA.

A/President Picotte echoed the words of President Froh about the stars aligning for the Métis Nation, including:

- Supreme Court of Canada's *Daniels* decision
- Release of Special Ministerial Representative (MSR) Thomas Isaac's report regarding Métis Section 35, *Act, 1982* (s.35) rights
- Recognition of the Métis Nation by the Federal Government
- Implementation of the Permanent Bilateral Process between Canada and the Métis Nation
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for exploratory discussions with Canada to negotiate a framework agreement for self-government, rights and claims in Ontario.

These events are the culmination of collective efforts of the entire Métis Nation over generations. There is increasing attention being paid to the MNO from industry and governments at all levels. The Métis Nation must now seize upon the opportunities to better the lives of the Métis people.

The MNO is thriving with strong communities across Ontario, strong governance and the enhancement of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat with the appointments of new senior staff. A/Chair Picotte acknowledged the efforts of Wenda Watteyne, who assumed the responsibility of A/Chief Operating Officer (COO) upon the retirement of former COO, Doug Wilson. A/Chair Picotte introduced the newly appointed COO, Joanne Meyer, and Chief Strategy Officer (CSO), Jennifer St. Germain.

A/Chair Picotte commented on the extensive community consultations that occurred during the year, including the launch of the Commission on Métis Rights and Self Government (Commission). It is expected that the Commission's report will be released in the fall 2017. AGA delegates were reminded to complete the Métis household survey to gather information to develop MNO and Métis Nation programs, services and strategies.

Information was shared on the services and programs overseen by:

- Education and Training Branch
- Healing and Wellness Branch
- Registry
- Central Service Branch.

The MNO Registry undertook extensive work to prepare for the independent review of the Harvester Card system.

In conclusion, A/President Picotte encouraged the MNO citizens to stay focused on the future and advancing Métis rights and announced that the 2018 AGA, at which the 25th anniversary of the MNO will be celebrated, will be held in Peterborough, Ontario.

A/Chair Picotte introduced the youth who completed the 2,000 kilometre Canoe Expedition over the past three months. The 2017 AGA delegates recognized the Canoe Expedition participants.

6. RECOGNITION OF SPONSORS

Reference material: 2017 AGA Sponsors Page.

A/Vice-Chair Poitras acknowledged the Platinum Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors of the 2017 AGA.

7. APPOINTMENT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

A/Vice-Chair Poitras nominating the following individuals to the 2017 AGA Resolutions Committee:

- Ray Bergie
- Alexandra Dusome
- Pauline Richardson.

It was MOVED (Joe Poitras) and SECONDED (Cecile Wagar)

That the Resolutions Committee for the 2017 Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario be comprised of Ray Bergie, Alexandra Dusome and Pauline Richardson.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-01)

Recess

The 2017 AGA recessed at 11:20 a.m. and reconvened at 1:03 p.m.

Resolutions Committee Announcement

Resolutions Committee Chair Pauline Richardson advised that Ordinary Resolutions would be accepted until 10:00 a.m. on August 20, 2017. The names, citizen numbers and mobile numbers of the Mover and Secunder must be submitted along with each Ordinary Resolution.

8. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Reference material: Draft Agenda of the 2017 Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario, scheduled August 19 – 21, 2017.

It was MOVED (Dale Xilon) and SECONDED (Giselle Legiehn)

That the Agenda for the 24th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario, scheduled August 19 – 21, 2017, be adopted as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-02)

9. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUORUM

A/Vice-Chair Poitras reported that there were 310 registered delegates at the 2017 AGA, of which 226 are citizens. Therefore, quorum is set at 112. The number of affirmative votes required to carry a Special Resolution is 149.

10. ADOPTION OF DRAFT 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Reference material:

- *Draft Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario, held August 27 – 29, 2016*

- *Draft Record of Resolutions of the 2016 Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario, held August 27 – 29, 2016.*

Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile led a review of the draft Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Assembly (2016 AGA), held August 27 – 29, 2016, and highlighted the Special and Ordinary Resolution considered during the 2016 AGA.

The following amendments to the draft Minutes were noted:

- Page 12, Resolution AGA16-01: Correct the spelling of the name of the Mover to “Garry Laframboise”
- Page 12, Resolution AGA16-02: Insert “Joanne Young” as the Seconder
- Page 12, Resolution AGA16-02: Delete “and, Kelly Duquette” from the end of the resolution
- Item 14 – 2016 Special Business Resolutions: Insert the Special Business Resolution that was moved, seconded. and defeated regarding Harvester Rights and the associated discussion
- Item 14 – 2016 Special Business Resolutions: Insert the Special Business Resolution that was moved, seconded and defeated regarding Robert’s Rules of Order and the associated discussion.

It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Yvonne Jensen)

That the Minutes of the 23rd Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario, held August 27 – 29, 2016, be approved, as amended.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-03)

11. BUSINESS ARISING FROM 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Reference material:

- *MNO AGA 2016 Resolutions Action Sheet*
- *MNO AGA 2015 Resolutions Action Sheet*
- *MNO AGA 2014 Resolutions Action Sheet*
- *MNO AGA 2013 Resolutions Action Sheet*
- *MNO AGA 2012 Resolutions Action Sheet*
- *MNO AGA 2011 Resolutions Action Sheet.*

There was no business arising from the Minutes of the 2016 AGA.

12. FINANCE UPDATE

10.1 Treasurer’s Update/Finance Report

Secretary-Treasurer Pile noted that he has served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the MNO for the past 14 years. Recently, the MNO has experienced rapid growth and a very aggressive mandate in the negotiation of self-government with the Federal and Provincial Governments. This has led to some issues and growing pains that are being addressed.

Secretary-Treasurer Pile recognized the efforts of former A/COO Watteyne and welcomed new COO Meyer and CSO St. Germaine.

Secretary-Treasurer Pile highlighted significant initiatives:

- Complete review and update of MNO Policy and Procedures

- More robust internal forensic auditing of selected MNO programs
- Search for new Head Office space to accommodate the growth in the staff complement
- Simplification of Council year-end financial reporting
- Provision of specific financial training for the 29 Community Councils and the PCMNO
- Expansion of health and wellness programs to all 29 MNO Community Councils.

Secretary-Treasurer Pile highlighted the MNO's financial performance in the 2016/17 fiscal year:

- Surplus of \$1.4 million in the 2016/17 fiscal year
- Fulfillment of the 2005 AGA resolution to allocate harvesting fee revenues to the Métis Rights Advancement Fund
- Continued reduction of the debt owed to government agencies:
 - Recommendation to PCMNO to repay the remainder of the debt in November 2017
- Current operating budget of approximately \$34 million.

Secretary-Treasurer Pile acknowledged the efforts of the PCMNO Finance/Audit Committee and the MNO Finance Branch.

10.2 Approval of 2016/17 Audited Financial Statements

Reference material: Financial Statements of the Métis Nation of Ontario for the year ended March 31, 2017.

Secretary-Treasurer Pile reported that the PCMNO has reviewed the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2017 and recommended that they be approved by the 2017 AGA.

Mr. Randy Tivy, Collins Barrow Ottawa LLP Chartered Professional Accountants, provided a detailed overview of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2017, and highlighted:

- Independent Auditor's Report
- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Changes in Net Assets
- Statement of Operations
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
- Notes to Financial Statements.

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

That the Métis Nation of Ontario Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2017, be approved, as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-04)

10.3 Appointment of the Auditor

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

That Collins Barrow Chartered Professional Accountants be appointed as the Métis Nation of Ontario's auditors for the 2017/18 fiscal year.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-05)

13. MÉTIS WAY OF LIFE

Katelyn Stenlund, Region 1 Youth Representative, highlighted the youth cultural activities that were organized as part of the 2017 AGA.

ADJOURNMENT

The 24th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 19 – 21, 2017 adjourned on Day One – August 19, 2017, at 2:40 p.m. after setting the time to reconvene on Day Two – August 20, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

DAY TWO – AUGUST 20, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

A/Chair Sharon Cadeau reconvened the 24th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario on Day Two – August 20, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

14. OPENING REMARKS

Region 1 Councilor Stenlund introduced the draft version of a video created in the past week by Know History, regarding Treaty No. 3 Adhesion.

Resolutions Committee Announcement

Resolutions Committee Chair Richardson reported that the Resolutions Committee, along with Ms. Duquette and legal counsel, Anita Landry and Steven Pickard, have met and reviewed the Special Resolutions submitted to the 2017 AGA. The Resolutions Committee has determined that the following Special Resolutions cannot be brought forward to the 2017 AGA, as the Mover is not present:

Changes to MNO Citizenship Definition:

WHEREAS the Métis – as a distinct Indigenous people – have the inherent right to self-determination, which includes the right to determine its own citizenship;

WHEREAS the MNO – as a Métis government for its citizens and communities – has exercised this right through the 2004 MNO AGA – as the highest governing authority within the MNO – unanimously adopting a definition for citizenship within the MNO as set out in section 4(a) of the MNO Bylaws;

WHEREAS the MNO maintains a centralized Registry of citizens and all new applicants for citizenship must meet the requirements of the MNO Registry Policy, which was adopted by PCMNO as an interim policy in 2009 and ultimately approved by the 2014 MNO AGA;

WHEREAS over 10,000 individuals have met the requirements of the MNO Registry Policy since 2009 and have been granted MNO citizenship with thousands more applying and being processed each year;

WHEREAS the MNO's rights-based agenda and legitimacy as a Métis government is tied to the credibility of its centralized registry to identify Métis citizens who are rights-holders as the descendants of historic Métis communities throughout Ontario as well as citizens of the Métis Nation as explained in the MNO Registry Policy;

WHEREAS in the past election, some candidate promised to unilaterally change the MNO citizenship definition to allow anyone with some mixed Aboriginal ancestry to be granted citizenship, rather than individual having to ancestrally connect to a Métis ancestor as required by the MNO Registry Policy;

WHEREAS each year the MNO AGA is held in a different location across the province, which does not always allow for a fair representation from all citizens and communities across the province; and

WHEREAS the MNO's right-based agenda and legitimacy as a Métis government is tied to the credibility of its centralized registry to identify Métis citizens who are rights-holders as the descendants of historic Métis communities throughout Ontario as well as citizens of the Métis Nation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following section be added to the MNO Bylaws:

“4(b) The definition of Métis in section 4(a) shall only be changed after two consecutive General Assemblies have passed special resolutions agreeing to said changes. For greater certainty, a resolution of the PCMNO cannot alter the definition of Métis in section 4(a).”

Changes to MNO Registry Policy

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descendants of historic Métis communities throughout Ontario as well as citizens of the Métis Nation as explained in the MNO Registry Policy;

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WHEREAS the MNO's right-based agenda and legitimacy as a Métis government is tied to the credibility of its centralized registry to identify Métis citizens who are rights-holders as the descendants of historic Métis communities throughout Ontario as well as citizens of the Métis Nation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following proposed changes be made to the MNO Bylaws:

- Adding “as set out in the MNO Registry Policy, as may be amended from time to time, by way of special resolution of a General Assembly” at the end of section 5(a) of the MNO Bylaws;
- Removing the word “through the Registry process of the MNO and adding “as set out in the MNO Registry Policy, as may be amended from time to time, by ways of special resolution of a General Assembly” to section 5(c) of the MNO Bylaws.

For ease of reference and review, the new section 5 of the MNO Bylaws would read as follows:

- “5. A person is entitled to be registered as a citizen of MNO who:
- a) provides sufficient documentation that he or she is Métis within the meaning of 4(a) as set out in the MNO Registry Policy, as may be amended from time to time, by way of special resolution of a General Assembly;
 - b) is not enrolled on any other Aboriginal registry; and
 - c) applied for admission as a citizen and has been approved based on meeting the requirements of the MNO Registry Policy, as may be amended from time to time, by way of special resolution of a General Assembly.”

Additionally, the Resolutions Committee has determined that the following Special Resolution cannot be brought forward to the 2017 AGA, as the Secunder is not present.

MNO Employee Relationship Advisory Circle

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario's Statement of Prime Purpose declares that “...*The strength of our society is based on democracy, freedom, fairness, equality, generosity, justice...*”, and that we desire, “...*to bind our people together to collectively promote...our economic well-being*”, and “...*to develop prosperity and economic self-sufficiency within the Métis Nation*”;

WHEREAS the MNO has strived to be recognized as our own self-governing body with experienced and skilled staff and representatives who can work Nation to Nation with other Nations;

WHEREAS we, the MNO, benefit from being perceived as an attractive destination organization for new staff with suitable and advantageous education and training, including our Métis youth;

WHEREAS we, the MNO, benefit when we can retain a pool of staff with valuable corporate and cultural knowledge and experience;

WHEREAS MNO staff turnover is substantial and problematic each year with costs relating to lost corporate and cultural knowledge, administrative functions related to separation, pre-employment administrative functions and communications, job applicant screening, training, and the low initial productivity of new hires while they become familiar with their job duties;

WHEREAS we, the MNO, have reached a critical time in our history where knowledgeable, educated, experience and dedicated staff are necessary to push our MNO agenda forward while there is a window of opportunity provincially and federally;

WHEREAS the MNO has developed a Policies and Procedures Manual, which among other things, contains employment standards, procedures and codes of conduct intended to reflect the voices and values of the Métis peoples, as embodied in our MNO Statement of Prime Purpose;

WHEREAS we, the MNO, believe that it would be advantageous for all concerned that the employees of the MNO have input into the Policies and Procedures Manual in order to ensure that the employment standards, procedures and codes of conduct reflect the aforesaid principles of democracy, freedom, fairness, equality, generosity and justice; and

WHEREAS the Policies and Procedures Manual does not currently afford collaborative input from the employees of the MNO.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO Policies and Procedures Manual be amended by adding the following new Section 8 at the end thereof:

“SECTION 8: EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

POLICY NO. 8.010 – MNO EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIP ADVISORY CIRCLE

POLICY:

The MNO is committed to ensuring that its relationship with its employees is governed by its founding principles of democracy, freedom, fairness, equality, generosity and justice, while also recognizing that certain employment standards and procedures are mandated by law. To this end, the MNO will establish an Employee Relationship Advisory Circle with the primary goals of improving the relationship between the MNO and its employees and facilitating and enhancing employee input on human resource matters and policies. The Employee Relationship Advisory Circle will establish its own terms of reference, provided that such terms of reference will be governed by the following principles:

1. The Advisory Circle will be comprised of an equal number of members from each of the employee group and the management group. The employee group representatives will be appointed by the MNO employees and the management representatives will be appointed by the MNO Secretariat.
2. The Advisory Circle will meet at least quarterly to discuss and make recommendations regarding human resources policies and matters, and ways to improve and maintain a positive relationship between the MNO and its employees.
3. The Advisory Circle may make recommendations regarding the MNO Policies and Procedures Manual, provided that any such specific recommendations shall be consistent with all legal and regulatory standards and requirements applicable to the MNO and its employees.
4. The Advisory Circle will make recommendations to the MNO only. No recommendation shall be binding on the MNO.”

In conclusion, the Resolutions Committee has determined that no Special Resolutions will be considered at the 2017 AGA.

15. MOVING THE MÉTIS RIGHTS AGENDA FORWARD

15.1 Métis Rights Update for 2016/17

Jason Madden, Pape Salter Teillet LLP, led the review of a presentation titled “Update on Métis Rights Issues” and highlighted:

- Series of Supreme Court of Canada decisions have provided the foundation of Métis law as it currently exists:
 - *Powley* (2003)
 - Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) (2013)
 - *Daniels* (2016)
- The Métis Nation is moving from the courtroom, to negotiation, to reconciliation
- The principle upon which Métis rights are founded is that Métis communities were born of the land prior to Canada becoming Canada in the Northwest, with existing rights and its own distinct identity, language, cultures and traditions
- Need to recognize the colonial biases embedded in the “educational” maps and that the Indigenous perspective is often missing
- MNO Statement of Prime Purpose
- Facts and evidence that contributed to the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision on the *Powley* case
- MNO Métis rights will be based on:
 - Identification of historic Métis communities
 - Determination of those individuals who have Métis rights under s.35
- Independent Review of Harvester Card system:
 - 2004 MNO – Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Harvesting Agreement using *Powley* as a test case
 - An independent review of the Harvester Card system was a condition of eliminating the maximum of 1,250 Harvester Cards issued per year
 - Steps and timeline of the Independent Review
- Identification of Historic Métis Communities:
 - Examples of facts and evidence of historic Métis communities
 - Six newly identified Historic Métis Communities will be announced by the MNO and Province of Ontario on August 21, 2017, which will eliminate the need to

- bring a legal action similar to that which was required to recognize Sault Ste. Marie as an Historic Métis Community:
 - Rainy River/Lake of the Woods/Treaty 3 Historic Métis Community
 - Northern Lake Superior Historic Métis Community
 - Killarney and Environs Historic Métis Community
 - Georgian Bay and Environs Historic Métis Community
 - Abitibi Inland Historic Métis Community
 - Mattawa/Ottawa River and Environs Historic Métis Community
- Ontario has committed to adding or expanding historic Métis communities as future research is completed
- Identification of root ancestors for the Independent Review of Harvester Card System (*Powley* test):
 - Will simplify the requirement for genealogical evidence to establish MNO citizenship
 - Kinship connections between root ancestor families
 - Identification of over 400 Métis Root Ancestors and over 5,000 Root Ancestor Descendants
 - 100 Verified Métis Family Line Packages will be released in Phase 1 to support the Independent Review of the Harvester Card System
 - MNO Registry will continue to produce more Verified Métis Family Line Packages using the template that has been created.

Discussion

Following the presentation, the following questions/comments (Q/C) were raised and responses (R) were provided, where appropriate:

Q/C: There will be overlap of Métis and First Nations communities as more research is done on historic Métis communities. How should the Métis respond to the potential negative reaction from First Nations with respect to Métis claims?

R: Métis and First Nation rights can “co-exist” and this is a better term than “overlap”. Education on the credibility of the Métis claims will alleviate some of the negative comments. Discussion between the Métis Nation and First Nations, as well as between the Métis Nation and the Crown, is an important part of reconciliation.

Q/C: The MNO is leading the way. How do we encourage the rest of the Métis Nation Governing Members to do the same kind of research that the MNO has done?

R: This is a political, rather a legal, question. The MNO has been required to undertake this research because the scrip records that are available in the Prairie Provinces are not available in Ontario.

Q/C: Where do we send information that we have to update the charts on kinship connections and family members?

R: Additional information can be sent to the MNO Registry to populate the database.

- Q/C: There are overlapping surnames of Métis and First Nation families. How will this be resolved?
- R: Some parts of the family trees may have become a part of First Nations or been registered in the Indian Registry. This is a reality, but it does not negate the history of the family. From the MNO's perspective, an individual must self-identify as Métis and demonstrate ancestral and community connection to claim Métis s.35 rights.

Recess

The 2017 AGA recessed at 9:55 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

15.2 Federal and Provincial Rights Initiatives

Mr. Madden led the review of a presentation titled "Exploring Discussion on Advancing Reconciliation" and highlighted:

- Historic context:
 - Treaties 1 through 11 negotiated between Canada and Indigenous peoples to expand Canada to the Northwest
 - Scrip to "extinguish" Métis title to land in the Prairie Provinces
 - The Métis are included in some of the modern treaties
 - Modern treaties are still under negotiation and the modern map of Canada is being redrawn to include Indigenous boundaries
 - *Constitution Act, 1982*, provided the right for the Métis Nation to launch constitutional challenges, rather than the commencement of negotiations as was expected
- Foundation for the right to negotiate Métis s.35 rights:
 - Harvester rights (*Powley*)
 - Métis claims against the Crown (MMF):
 - MMF has set out a framework that other Métis Nation Governing Members can utilize as a template for negotiations
 - S.35 rights recognition (*Daniels*)
- Recommendation 9 in MSR Isaac's report titled "A Matter of National and Constitutional Import: Report of the Minister's Special Representative on Reconciliation with Métis: Section 35 Métis Rights and the Manitoba Métis Federation Decision" that Canada specifically address Métis s.35 rights
- MNO – Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Advancing Reconciliation for exploratory discussions was negotiated in February 2017:
 - Optimism that a Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation (Framework Agreement) will be reached by the end of September 2017
 - Expectation that the Province of Ontario will be part of the Framework Agreement
- MNO goal to be recognized as a government:
 - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Article 4 regarding self-government
 - Need for MNO to develop a Constitution to replace the current bylaws of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat, which are appropriate for corporations, but not for governments.

Discussion

Following the presentation, the following questions/comments (Q/C) were raised and responses (R) were provided, where appropriate:

Q/C: Request for Framework Agreement negotiation charts.

R: The Framework Agreement is still under negotiation and will be made public once it is finalized.

Q/C: How will the issue of mobility be addressed?

R: This is a key issue for many Métis citizens. This will need to be addressed when the recognition of the historic and modern day Métis communities has been established. The family lines identified through the Root Ancestors research have the right to apply for multiple harvester territories, as the research has shown that the Métis were mobile.

Q/C: We appreciate the value that you bring to the MNO.

Q/C: There is also an issue of mobility with respect to obtaining citizenship between Métis Nation Governing Members. Citizenship cards should be issued to those who were born in Ontario and who have moved to a different province.

R: Residency should not be a requirement of citizenship and I do not understand the rationale. The MMF recently removed the residency requirements from their bylaws and the MNO should consider a similar amendment to its bylaws.

MNO should begin a discussion with the Métis Nation and its Governing Members because they are accustomed to utilizing scrip records to demonstrate genealogy. There is a bias embedded because scrip was not issued in Ontario. The Root Ancestry research will help to address this issue and provide acceptable records for registration as a citizen.

Q/C: Kenora Métis who were born in Manitoba should be able to register as MNO citizens.

R: The mobility issue between the Kenora Métis and the MMF must be dealt with in the future. The provincial boundary is irrelevant to how Métis lived historically and live today.

Q/C: When we met in Sudbury in the spring 2017, one MNR representative expressed support for issuing a Harvester Card to a resident from another area.

R: Mobility between communities is acceptable in the First Nations realm and should also be in the Métis realm. The MNO needs to update its policies regarding community acceptance.

Q/C: The issue of mobility is important to Métis veterans.

R: The current MNO bylaws have a residency requirement. The MNO should consider removing this requirement.

Q/C: Do you expect that some of the MNO citizenship issues will require resolution as part of the negotiation with the Federal Government?

R: It is premature to have those discussions. The MNO will need to deal with citizenship issues at it moves from a not-for-profit to a self-government world. The documentation to support citizenship applications will become easier as the research is continued.

Q/C: Will there be a time where I will have to demonstrate connection with an Historic Métis Community to retain citizenship in the MNO.

R: No, this is mainly to provide documentation for those Ontario Métis citizens who cannot provide scrip records.

Q/C: Would I be able to apply for a Harvester Card in the area in which I currently reside?

R: This is possible, depending upon the individual family line and the connection to Ancestral Root families.

Q/C: With self-government comes self-regulation. The MNO will need to develop regulations on the harvesting of moose as they are being depleted.

R: The tradition of the Métis ancestors is the protection of the land, water and resources. The MNO will need to govern on this issue and determine how to enforce regulations. The mobility of harvesting rights should require the approval of the community.

Q/C: Can the designated area on my Harvester Card be changed to another?

R: The current MNO approach is that one area can be exchanged for another but a citizen can only have one harvesting area at a time. This will have to be reviewed as shared harvesting territories are established through future research.

16. UPDATES

16.1 MNO Veterans Council (MNOVC)

MNOVC President Joseph Paquette highlighted activities of the past year:

- MNO delegation attended the Vimy Ridge commemoration in Ottawa
- A book on the Vimy Ridge commemoration event will be published and Métis Veterans are invited to identify themselves for inclusion in the publication
- Change in membership of the MNOVC.

Discussion

Following the presentation, the following questions/comments (Q/C) were raised and responses (R) were provided, where appropriate:

Q/C: Will only MNO Veterans be included in the Vimy Ridge commemoration publication or are veterans from other Métis jurisdictions welcomed?

R: We welcome Veterans from across Canada to identify themselves to us to be included in the Vimy Ridge publication.

The MNOVC acknowledged the sponsors who provided the financial support to allow an MNO delegation to attend the Vimy Ridge commemoration ceremony in Ottawa.

16.2 MNO Women's Council (MNOWC)

MNOWC Representative Suzanne Jackson highlighted activities and achievements of the past year:

- First facilitated strategic planning session was held in 2016, where the Enhancing Women's Leadership Roles for the Métis Nation Women initiative was approved
- Grant application for funding of \$330,000 over 36 months to train and educate women representatives was approved in March 2017
- Strategy developed to prevent human trafficking in Ontario and violence against women
- First education and training session for women representatives and MNOWC Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in association with the 2017 AGA
- Significant decisions at the AGM:
 - Change of name from Women's Secretariat of the MNO to MNOWC
 - Increase in the number of elected representatives to nine, one for each region.

Discussion

Following the presentation, the following questions/comments (Q/C) were raised and responses (R) were provided, where appropriate:

Q/C: What is the process for identifying the new regional positions on the MNOWC?

R: A call will be made to Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 for representatives to fill the interim vacancies until the next PCMNO elections are held in 2020.

Q/C: Will they be elected positions in the future?

R: Yes, and MNOWC members will be permitted to hold two elected positions concurrently because the MNOWC is excluded from the Electoral Code.

ADJOURNMENT

The 24th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 19 – 21, 2017 adjourned on Day Two – August 20, 2017, at 11:58 a.m. after setting the time to reconvene on Day Three – August 21, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

DAY THREE – AUGUST 21, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

A/Chair Sharon Cadeau reconvened the 24th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario on Day Three – August 21, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

17. OPENING REMARKS

A/Vice-Chair Poitras expressed appreciation to Region 1 for hosting the 2017 AGA and to MNO staff who organized the Métis Games and Cultural Celebration on Day Two.

On behalf of all 2017 AGA delegates, A/Vice-Chair Poitras expressed gratitude to the sponsors.

A/Vice-Chair Poitras commended A/Chair Cadeau for the smooth functioning of the 2017 AGA.

16. UPDATES (Continued)

16.3 MNO Senators

A/Executive Senator Ray Bergie asked all Senators present to stand and be recognized. On behalf of the Métis citizens of the MNO, A/Executive Senator Bergie expressed appreciation for the duties that the Senators perform at Community Councils.

A/Executive Senator Bergie acknowledged the MNOVC for one of its members winning the Volunteer of the Year Award for the second consecutive year.

A/Executive Senator Bergie congratulated the MNOWC on their first AGM and the MNOYC for their hard work over the previous year.

Executive Senator Joseph Poitras commended A/Executive Senator Bergie for his efforts and noted that a planning meeting of Senators will be scheduled in the near future.

16.4 MNO Youth Council (MNOYC)

Youth Council Representative Mitchell Case provided an update on the activities of the MNOYC:

- Hosted the first annual Youth Leadership Conference
- Creation of a working group to develop and launch the new MNO mental health and wellness app
- Approval of a grant application for \$100,000 to organize and host an anti-racism forum to support Métis youth in communities
- Participation in numerous consultation events
- Establishment of a physical presence for youth at the 2017 and all future AGAs
- Hosted the inaugural bead work competition that garnered 63 entries
- Vendor table at the 2017 AGA where arts created by Métis youth artists are sold
- Agreement to utilize fundraising initiatives for a youth micro-grant program:
 - The application process and dollar amounts will be announced in the fall 2017.

18. ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

A/Vice-Chair Poitras confirmed that quorum was present.

18.1 Financial Support for MNO Women's, Veterans' and Youth Councils

The Mover, Joseph Paquette, read aloud the resolution.

It was MOVED (Joseph Paquette) and SECONDED (Mitchell Case)

WHEREAS the MNO Veterans' Council (MNOVC), MNO Women's Council (MNOWC) and MNO Youth Council (MNOYC) do incredible work for their constituents and for the entire provincial Métis community, yet currently receive no funding from the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat;

WHEREAS the MNOVC, MNOWC and MNOYC are provincial in scope and mandate; and

WHEREAS the MNOVC, MNOWC and MNOYC play a vital role in promoting Métis community, culture and values—including the Statement of Prime Purpose—and support many of our community members in their personal journeys as Métis people.

THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) hold a preliminary meeting, at the soonest possible date, with representatives from the MNOVC, MNOWC and MNOYC to review annual budgets and determine a base funding for the MNOYC, MNOWC and MNOVC, pending the attainment of necessary funding and resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNO seek to secure funding and resources for both the preliminary meeting as well as the budgets and work plans developed thereat.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-06)

18.2 Canoe Expedition

The Mover, Alexander Young, read aloud the Resolution.

Discussion ensued on:

- Confirmation that the MNO has sufficient funding to expand the Canoe Expedition program
- Opportunity for the MNO to become the leader in operating voyageur trips in Ontario, educate non-Métis people and operate canoe expeditions as a profit centre
- Suggestion that consideration be given at the 2018 AGA to include a representative of the MNOWC and MNOVC and a Senator to participate in canoe expeditions
- Suggestion that a canoe expedition be organized for 2018, the 25th anniversary of the MNO.

It was MOVED (Alexander Young) and SECONDED (Courtney Vaughan)

WHEREAS the 2017 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Canoe Expedition has officially come to a close at the MNO Annual General Assembly in Kenora;

WHEREAS the MNO Canoe Expedition has in recent years become a semi-annual tradition for Métis citizens and communities across Ontario;

WHEREAS the Canoe Expedition serves as an incredible way to connect our Métis communities across Ontario and educate both Métis and non-Métis individuals about the rich traditions, culture and historical significance of the Métis in Ontario and Canada;

WHEREAS the Canoe Expedition additionally provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Métis youth to reconnect with their culture and history and retrace the footsteps and paddle strokes of their ancestors;

WHEREAS the alignment of the 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition with the celebration of Canada 150 and Ontario 150 allowed the MNO to purchase a large amount of Expedition equipment, including but not limited to: two voyageur canoes, a canoe trailer, a number of tents, outdoor stoves and cooking appliances, sleeping bags, paddles, boat safety equipment and technology, dry bags and storage equipment and a cargo trailer for storage;

WHEREAS this equipment can be better utilized by the MNO each year, in order to provide the cultural experience facilitated by the Canoe Expedition to a greater number of Métis youth; and

WHEREAS each recent Canoe Expedition run by the MNO has had issues in communicating with Community Councils, planning the logistics surrounding Community Arrivals and communicating between the Expedition staff, Head Office and the MNO Executive.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO:

1. Seeks funding to run and implement a Canoe Expedition in 2020, affording Métis youth in Ontario a new opportunity to retrace the historic route of their ancestors; and
2. Pursues additional funding to implement a program similar in form, function and length to the Infinite Reach March Break Camp (termed the Canoe Expedition Summer Camp from here on). This summer camp will make use of the large stock of equipment the MNO currently has, allow young Métis secondary school students to gain traditional knowledge and practical outdoor and leadership experience and prepare youth for longer and more intense Expeditions run on a triennial basis.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-07)

18.3 Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario Minutes

The Mover, Yvonne Jensen, read aloud the Resolution.

It was MOVED (Yvonne Jensen) and SECONDED (Kim Powley)

WHEREAS Community Councils have requested for some time to have access to Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) minutes; and

WHEREAS it is not feasible to expect everyone to be able to travel to Ottawa to view the minutes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the PCMNO consider the manner in which the minutes are maintained, distributed and made available to Community Councils.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS/ (AGA17-08)

18.4 Métis Nation of Ontario License Plates

The Mover, Mitchell Case, read aloud the Resolution.

It was MOVED (Mitchell Case) and SECONDED (Dalton Latondress)

WHEREAS car owners in Ontario, through the Ministry of Transportation, have the ability to personalize their license plates;

WHEREAS there are currently over 60 graphics available, including service clubs, sports teams, charities and other Indigenous Governments;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has always worked to promote Métis in Ontario; and

WHEREAS the license plate graphic program is seen by millions of Ontarians everyday and the program is open to create new graphics through an application process.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2017 Annual General Assembly mandate the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and Senior Administration to consider completing the application process and create a “Métis Nation”, “Métis Nation of Ontario” and/or “Métis Veterans” license plate graphic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this work be completed before the 25th Annual General Assembly of the MNO.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-09)

18.5 Mental Health for Métis Youth

The Mover, Katelyn LaCroix, read aloud the Resolution.

Discussion ensued on:

- Need to train youth to recognize mental illness symptoms to support their youth and direct their peers to the available supports
- Suggestion to include support to two-spirited Métis youth due to the high prevalence of two-spirited youth in the Métis population
- Need for caution regarding those eligible in participating in the training as it places a burden on the youth, a responsibility that all youth may not be prepared to undertake, to support their peers in a crisis
- Need to establish criteria for the age range of youth that would receive mental health training
- Suggestion that the youth focus initially on first aid training
- Suggestion that the youth mental health training be provided access to the MNO Health and Wellness Branch staff and programs
- Importance of the mental health program to support the mental health of Métis youth.

It was MOVED (Katelyn LaCroix) and SECONDED (Mitchell Case)

WHEREAS it is vital that we give our youth the tools they need in order to be successful;

WHEREAS holistic wellness, including mental, physical, spiritual and emotional health, is central to our identity as Indigenous people;

WHEREAS we are currently experiencing a mental health crisis among Indigenous youth today; and

WHEREAS the youth involved in programs such as Infinite Reach, Summer Youth Council Program (SYCP), as well as our youth representatives from our community and provincial councils are our greatest resource for connecting to our youth.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) be directed to seek funding to train our Métis youth in mental health first aid and/or other mental health programs and two-spirited awareness such as Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) or SafeTalk, in order to end stigma and ensure the health and safety of our growing youth population.

RESOLVED (AGA17-10)

(149 in favour, 1 opposed; 1 abstention)

18.6 Louis Riel Day Ceremonies and Monument

The Mover, Benny Michaud, read aloud the Resolution.

Discussion ensued on:

- Many Métis people in Ontario have family members who were involved in the first and second resistance movements
- Need to recognize those who were involved in the struggles during the single day of each year that is dedicated to the Métis people
- Need for the Provincial Government to establish a new monument at Queen's Park that acknowledges the history, culture and future of the Métis people
- The embarrassment of laying wreathes annually at a monument honouring those who killed Métis people
- The importance placed by Métis Veterans upon also recognizing Gabriel Dumont
- The Métis people should no longer accept the disrespect of the Federal and Provincial Governments
- Need to reframe the story of the Métis people in Canada
- Suggestion that the design of the monument be accurate to include the recognition of Gabriel Dumont, all those who fought and all Métis people in Ontario
- Whether the Federal Government would be the appropriate body to which a request should be made to place a monument in Ottawa
- Recommendation that the MNO be responsible for developing and establishing the monuments
- Suggestion that the removal of monuments would be seen as an attempt to rewrite history:
 - There are many ways in which monuments can be corrected or repurposed without being removed

- Concern regarding the issues that may be identified by non-Métis people if existing monuments are removed
- Other monuments in Ontario have been removed as they recognized inappropriate historic policies.

It was MOVED (Benny Michaud) and SECONDED (Iain Best)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) currently organizes and participates in Louis Riel Day ceremonies at a memorial to soldiers of the Wolseley Expedition;

WHEREAS soldiers of the Wolseley Expedition had the express intent of enforcing the removal of Métis from our traditional territories and homesteads;

WHEREAS the removal of Métis from our traditional territories has led to the fracturing of Métis families and communities;

WHEREAS the result of this was that Métis people across the Homeland were labeled as traitors and for generations felt the need to hide their Métis culture and heritage;

WHEREAS our ancestors fought and died to preserve and maintain our distinct Métis culture, traditions and way of life;

WHEREAS the Statement of Prime Purpose reads that, “we are inspired by the values and traditions of our ancestors”;

WHEREAS by celebrating Louis Riel Day at a monument to the Canadian soldiers who fought against the Métis and which explicitly ignores the struggle of our Métis ancestors, is disrespectful of their legacy; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has made repeated commitments to establish a monument in recognition of Louis Riel.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT future Louis Riel Day ceremonies no longer be held at the Northwest Rebellion monument at Queen’s Park or any monuments commemorating those who were committed to oppressing Métis communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNO continue to press the Federal and Provincial Governments for the establishment of monuments in Ontario which recognizes the legacy of Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont and all those who fought, as well as the contributions of all Métis people in Ontario, in both Queen’s Park in Toronto and Ottawa; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO continue to press the Provincial Government to correct, repurpose, or remove the Northwest Rebellion monument at Queen’s Park.

RESOLVED (AGA17-11)
(151 in favour, 3 opposed)

Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party (NDP), acknowledged the concerns of the 2017 AGA and expressed her willingness to act upon the concerns upon her return to Queen's Park.

Ms. Horwath noted the significant progress made by the MNO since its formation, including the current negotiation of the Framework Agreement. Ms. Horwath stated that in this 150th year of Canada's Confederation, it is crucial to recognize the injustices done to Indigenous communities since colonialism. The strength and resilience of the Métis people has been celebrated and demonstrated during the 2017 AGA. Ms. Horwath further noted that the NDP will commit to working with Métis and all Indigenous peoples in Ontario to build a better future for their citizens.

18.7 Review MNO Youth-Focused Programming

The Mover, Paul Robitaille, read aloud the Resolution.

Discussion ensued on:

- Youth-led, youth-driven programming is vital to retaining the relevancy of the MNO youth-focused programs
- Examples of youth involvement in other organizations
- The inclusion of the review of Métis Family Wellbeing Program is allowable as the implementation of the policy will be at the discretion of the MNO.

It was MOVED (Paul Robitaille) and SECONDED (Katelyn LaCroix)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) currently develops and administers many programs and initiatives that are specifically directed toward Métis youth, including Infinite Reach, Summer Youth Cultural Program, Canoe Expeditions and Métis Family Wellbeing Program;

WHEREAS these programs often represent the initial avenue of exposure to the MNO for many Métis youth and shape their perception of the MNO, the Métis Nation and their personal identity as Métis people;

WHEREAS these programs must remain responsive to the diverse and evolving needs of youth, including their need to feel safe and supported on their journeys toward discovering their Métis identity, heritage and culture; and

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) is the democratically elected representative of youth within Ontario.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO seek out funding and resources to conduct a review of the MNO's youth focused programs and initiatives, including Infinite Reach, Summer Youth Cultural Program, Canoe Expeditions and Métis Family Wellbeing Program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNOYC be meaningfully involved within the planning and implementation of that program review;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNOYC play an ongoing role within the planning and implementation of youth-focused programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNO Secretariat provides a status update on this resolution to the MNOYC by December 31, 2017.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-12)

18.8 Social Media Policy

The Mover, Alexander Young, read aloud the Resolution.

Discussion ensued on:

- Commendation of the MNO and President Froh for the enhanced online presence
- Need for administrative support from the MNO to establish a holistic social media policy
- Benefit of a social media policy to encourage relationships between youth and with all Métis citizens
- Suggestion that Community Councils be trained on the use of social media as it is free and has a far wider reach than traditional media.

It was MOVED (Alexander Young) and SECONDED (Mitchell Case)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose encourages the full participation of all Métis in the Métis Nation and aims to establish effective means of communication for the Métis Nation;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has been using both Facebook and Twitter actively and effectively over the past year;

WHEREAS the past six months has seen a significant online Métis community formed in Ontario through the creation of the MNOYC Instagram account, the MNO Instagram account, the #beadworkrevolution hashtag and the MNO Canoe Expedition 2017;

WHEREAS this online community and effective use of social media has been noticed nationwide and emulated by other groups including the Métis Nation of Alberta on Instagram; and

WHEREAS the MNO continues to take positive steps in order to better engage and communicate with Métis youth and Community Councils.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO:

1. Works towards the creation and implementation of a comprehensive social media strategy and policy within the next six months;
2. Ensures this policy is informed by organizational standards across Canada, including the tactics and social media platforms used by similar Métis, First Nations and Inuit government bodies;
3. Ensures this strategy builds off of the current social media platforms utilized by the MNO and it's governing bodies; and

4. Ensures this policy includes comprehensive guidelines for MNO Community Councils in order to work towards consistent, professional and effective communication at all levels of the MNO.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-13)

18.9 Establishment of a Métis Nation Educational Institute in Ontario

The Mover, Mitchell Case, read aloud the Resolution.

Discussion ensued on:

- The Province of Ontario has recently expressed support for the development of Indigenous educational institutions
- Need for an educational institution to support Métis people and to ensure the accuracy of educational material and resource content regarding the history of Métis people in Ontario.

It was MOVED (Mitchell Case) and SECONDED (Katelyn LaCroix)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has, since its creation, always worked to advocate for and meet the educational needs of Métis people in Ontario;

WHEREAS there is a lack of Ontario based, Métis educational materials available to Ontario Schools; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Métis Nation of Alberta already have educational institutions of their own.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2017 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) mandates the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and MNO Senior Administration, to explore the possibility of creating a Métis controlled, educational and publishing institute, with goals including, but not limited to; renewal and development of Métis culture through research; materials development and distribution; and the design, development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services in French, English and Michif, potentially including the development of a Métis post-secondary institute and professional development for teachers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the PCMNO and administration be mandated to seek out funds to support the exploration of this concept and that a report on this work be presented to the 2018 MNO AGA; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT when the educational and publishing institute is created, it is named the “Powley Institute”.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-14)

18.10 Provision of Financial Support to Métis Graduate, Post-Graduate and Professional Students

The Mover, Katelyn LaCroix, read aloud the Resolution.

Discussion ensued on:

- Suggestion that the financial support not be restricted to youth

- Suggestion that regular reporting be provided to the PCMNO.

It was MOVED (Katelyn LaCroix) and SECONDED (Paul Robitaille)

WHEREAS the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) has very narrow funding criteria that exclude many—if not all—graduate, post-graduate and professional school students;

WHEREAS graduate, post-graduate and professional studies are often inaccessible to Métis students who already carry substantial debt accrued during their undergraduate studies;

WHEREAS many career paths require graduate, post-graduate, or professional designations; and

WHEREAS many Métis students seek to find ways to give back to the Nation through their future careers.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) be directed to investigate funding opportunities for graduate, post-graduate and professional students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNO be directed to engage with potential funding agencies to formally express the MNO's need for graduate, post-graduate and professional funding opportunities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT update reports on this Resolution be provided to the PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative on a quarterly basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNO provide an update on progress related to this Resolution to the 2018 Annual General Assembly.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-15)

19. CLOSING REMARKS

A/Vice-Chair Poitras noted the need to consider the number of votes stipulated in the MNO Bylaws required to approve Special Resolutions.

Region 1 Councilor Stenlund expressed appreciation to the 2017 AGA delegates for coming to Kenora and making it a success.

A/Chair Cadeau acknowledged the efforts of the Region 1 members in organizing the 2017 AGA.

A/President Picotte thanked all 2017 AGA delegates for their participation and Region 1 members for the organization of the Assembly. A/President Picotte acknowledged the efforts of A/Chair Cadeau and A/Vice-Chair Poitras.

Recess

The 2017 AGA recessed to the Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission Annual General Assembly at 11:30 a.m. and resumed at 11:36 a.m.

CONCLUSION

Atikokan Métis Council Senator Brian Gouliquer offered a Closing Prayer.

The 24th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 19 – 21, 2017, concluded on Day 3 – August 21, 2017 at 11:41 a.m.

* * * *

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the 24th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held August 19-21, 2017 and incorporates any and all amendments made at the time of adoption.

Tim Pile, Secretary-Treasurer

Sharon Cadeau, A/Chair

ADOPTED

LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

The following additional information items were provided at the meeting:

- Map of AGA Locations
- Statement of Prime Purpose of the Métis Nation of Ontario
- MNO Secretariat Bylaws, approved August 28, 2016
- MNO Electoral Code, approved August 23, 2014
- MNO Secretariat Incorporation, dated February 25, 1994
- *Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act, 2015*
- Canada – Métis Nation of Ontario Memorandum of Understanding on Advancing Reconciliation, dated February 3, 2017
- MNO Memorandum of Understanding on Reconciliation Backgrounder and Frequently Asked Questions, dated February 3, 2017
- Canada – Métis Nation Accord, dated April 13, 2017
- Government of Ontario – Métis Nation of Ontario Framework Agreement, dated April 17, 2014
- MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law, dated August 25, 2013
- MNO Policy on Local or Regional Allocations from the MNO's Economic Development Structures, dated November 14, 2015
- Outline of a Joint Métis Nation of Ontario – Ontario Communications Plan for the Posting of a Request for Bids for an Independent Review of the MNO Harvester Card Registry, dated April 2017
- MNO Policy #2001-002 Process for Conducting Ordinary and Special Resolutions at a General Assembly
- Memorandum from France Picotte, MNO Chair re: 2017 Annual General Assembly – Special Business Resolution, dated July 17, 2017.



Tim Pile, Secretary-Treasurer



Sharon Cadeau, A/Chair